



My Family History

This is the Rope by Jacqueline Woodson

This Is the Rope follows the story of a young girl as she and her family move from South Carolina to New York City. The story takes place during the Great Migration, a time in our country's history when millions of African American families left the South in order to find better opportunities. As you listen to the story, think about objects that remind you of special family times. Then think about objects you would like to pass down to the next generation in your family.

1. In *This is the Rope*, we are asked to think about what a family takes with them on a journey to a new beginning. If you were preparing to move to a new home with your family, what would you take from your home to help you remember past experiences and embrace future possibilities? Think about why you would choose that object.

2. The family used grandmother's rope in many different ways. Can you remember the ways in which the family used the rope? It was used to jump rope, to tie things down on the roof of a car, to hang both flowers and diapers to dry, to use to pull a toy, to hold the car trunk down, to place around the family photos, to hold up a banner, and more. Now, think about a jump rope. What other ways do you think you might use a jump rope in addition to the ways it was used in the story?

3. Have you ever heard of the Jim Crow laws? The Jim Crow laws made racial segregation in all public places a requirement. In other words, the laws required that African Americans be separated from the white population in public places like schools, restaurants, means of transportation and much more. These laws existed in many states, and for many years. Those who refused to obey the Jim Crow laws often faced arrest, fines, jail sentences, violence, and even death. What drove many African American families like the family in the story out of the South were the Jim Crow laws.

Today we are still being asked to help fight inequality and injustice. Can you think of a way you might help in the effort to stop racial injustice and inequality? Be prepared to share.