

Name: _____

Date: _____

Exploring Symbolism

The Other Side

By Jacqueline Woodson

A **symbol** is an action, object, or event that has an underlying meaning. They express or represent hidden ideas.

Group Discussion Questions

Answer the questions below to better understand how objects and a character's actions can be symbols.

1. Discuss the importance of the setting to the story.
2. Why do you think the author chose to tell the story from the perspective of a young black girl?
3. What does the fence symbolize?
4. What does Mama really mean when she tells Clover that it isn't safe to climb over the fence?
5. What gives Clover the courage to speak to Annie?
6. How did sitting on the fence impact Annie's relationship with her friends?
7. How did Clover and Annie's simple act of resistance change her friends' attitudes toward Annie?
8. Why is sitting on the fence considered an act of resistance?
9. Reread the first page. From Clover's perspective, the fence seemed "bigger" this summer. What does Clover mean by this?
10. At the end, all the girls sit together on the fence. What message does this create?

Think About

On the lines below, explain how you can use friendship to overcome social injustices. In the space provided, draw a symbol that represents your ideas.
