

Harbor Me

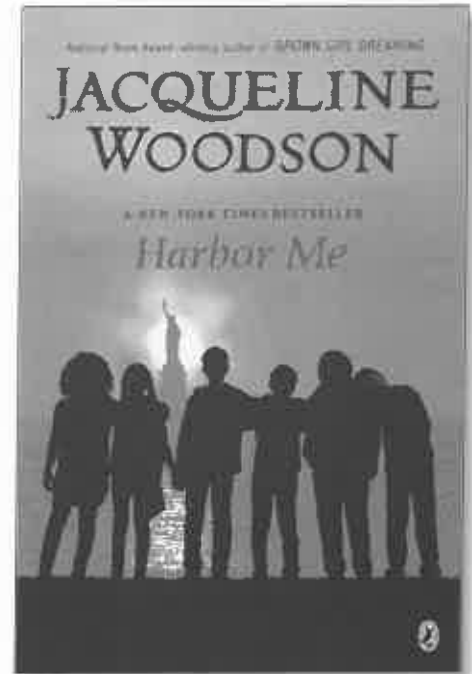
Written by Jacqueline Woodson

Puffin Books

978-0-525-51514-2 | Trade Paperback
192 pages | \$8.99 | Lexile 630L



Lesson Plan *for* Marvelous Middle Grade Reads



LESSON FOCUS

Author's craft: use of italics

OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

Jacqueline Woodson uses italics in multiple ways throughout her book *Harbor Me*. In this lesson, students will have the opportunity to read multiple passages from the book and determine how the italics impact the author's writing.

LEARNING TARGETS

1. Students will recognize italics in text.
2. Students will determine the purpose of the italics in a piece of text.

MATERIALS NEEDED

1. Chapter 1 from *Harbor Me* by Jacqueline Woodson
2. Italics Chart worksheet

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

- Step 1:** Introduce *Harbor Me* by Jacqueline Woodson
- Step 2:** Introduce italics. Ultimately, the goal is to get students to be critical readers. It's all in the details.

SUMMARY

Six kids have to meet for a weekly chat — by themselves, with no adults to listen in. There, they discover it's safe to talk about **what's** bothering them — everything from Esteban's father's deportation and Haley's father's incarceration to Amari's fears of racial profiling and Ashton's adjustment to his changing family fortunes. When the six are together, they can express the feelings and fears they have to hide from the rest of the world. And together, they can grow braver and more ready for the rest of their lives.

- Step 3:** Have students read chapter one independently or read the chapter aloud and have students highlight ALL the italics found in the chapter. This should include everything on the Italics Chart worksheet.
- Notice the repetition used by the author: “We think they took my papi.” This is mentioned three times in chapter one. (Remind students of the power of three: 3 bears, 3 stooges, 3 wishes, etc.)
 - The author uses italics to show dialogue.
 - The author uses italics for the title of a book.
 - The author uses italics for emphasis.
 - The author uses italics for character inner thoughts.
- Step 4:** Determine the purpose of the italics.
- Students should complete the Italics Chart worksheet
 - Students should team up and compare their interpretation of the italics.
 - Discuss as a class the impact that italics have on a piece of writing.

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

Directions: Jacqueline Woodson uses italics in multiple ways throughout her book *Harbor Me*. Read chapter one and highlight all the italics in the text. Once you have completed this task, determine the purpose of the italics.

Italics	Purpose for the Italics
“We think they took my papi” (Woodson 1).	
“Maybe her..” “And him.” “And her” (Woodson 1)	
“Nobody knows where he’s at” (Woodson 2)	
“A Tree Grows in Brooklyn” (Woodson 2).	
“And that was the <i>metaphor</i> : that even when things got really hard for everyone in the story – even when the dad died and the mom had to scrub more and more floors to make money, even when the kids didn’t have anything to eat for days and the apartment was freezing – the tree kept growing” (Woodson 2).	
“This is a <i>beginning</i> . He says. <i>Now you’ll have two houses to go to. He says, You’re twelve now, Haley. You’re ready</i> ” (Woodson 2)	
“And I’ll be back every single Sunday to spend time with my most favorite person in the world” (Woodson 4).	



Penguin Random House Education
1745 Broadway, New York, NY 10019
penguinrandomhouseeducation.com

Queries: K12education@edu.penguinrandomhouse.com

