

Today, you will read a story titled “The Other Side” and a poem titled “A Sweet Smell of Roses.” As you read, think about the actions of the characters and the events of the stories. Answer the questions to help you write an essay.

Read the story titled “The Other Side” by Jacqueline Woodson. Then answer Questions 1 through 4.

The Other Side
by Jacqueline Woodson

1 That summer the fence that stretched through our town seemed bigger. We lived in a yellow house on one side of it. White people lived on the other. And Mama said, "Don't climb over that fence when you play." She said it wasn't safe.

2 That summer there was a girl who wore a pink sweater. Each morning she climbed up on the fence and stared over at our side. Sometimes I stared back. She never sat on that fence with anybody, that girl didn't.

3 Once, when we were jumping rope, she asked if she could play. And my friend Sandra said no without even asking the rest of us.

I don't know what I would have said. Maybe yes. Maybe no.

4 That summer everyone and everything on the other side of that fence seemed far away. When I asked my mama why, she said, "Because that's the way things have always been."

Sometimes when me and Mama went into town, I saw that girl with her mama. She looked sad sometimes, that girl did.

"Don't stare," my mama said. "It's not polite."

5 It rained a lot that summer. On rainy days that girl sat on the fence in a raincoat. She let herself get all wet and acted like she didn't even care. Sometimes I saw her dancing around in puddles, splashing and laughing.

6 Mama wouldn't let me go out in the rain. "That's why I bought you rainy-day toys," my mama said. "You stay inside here—where it's warm and safe and dry."

But every time it rained, I looked for that girl. And I always found her. Somewhere near the fence.

7 Somewhere in the middle of the summer, the rain stopped. When I walked outside, the grass was damp and the sun was already high up in the sky. And I stood there with my hands up in the air. I felt brave that day. I felt free.

8 I got close to the fence and that girl asked me my name. "Clover," I said. "My name's Annie," she said. "Annie Paul. I live over yonder," she said, "by where you see the laundry. That's my blouse hanging on the line."

She smiled then. She had a pretty smile.

9 And then I smiled. And we stood there looking at each other, smiling. "It's nice up on this fence," Annie said. "You can see all over." I ran my hand along the fence. I reached up and touched the top of it.

10 "A fence like this was made for sitting on," Annie said. She looked at me sideways.

"My mama says I shouldn't go on the other side," I said.

11 "My mama says the same thing. But she never said nothing about sitting on it."

"Neither did mine," I said.

12 That summer me and Annie sat together on that fence. And when Sandra and them looked at me funny, I just made believe I didn't care.

13 Some mornings my mama watched us. I waited for her to tell me to get down from that fence before I break my neck or something. But she never did.

"I see you made a new friend," she said one morning. And I nodded and Mama smiled.

That summer me and Annie sat on that fence and watched the whole wide world around us.

14 One day Sandra and them were jumping rope near the fence and we asked if we could play. "I don't care," Sandra said.

And when we jumped, Sandra and me were partners, the way we used to be.

15 When we were too tired to jump anymore, we sat up on the fence, all of us in a long time.

16 "Someday somebody's going to come along and knock this old fence down," Annie said.

And I nodded, "Yeah," I said. "Someday."

1. Part A

What does **yonder** mean in the Paragraph 8 of "The Other Side".

- a. In another neighborhood
- b. Over there
- c. Right next door
- d. Across the street

Part B

Which statement **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- a. "We lived in a yellow house on one side of it."
- b. "Each morning she climbed up on the fence and stared over at our side."
- c. "By where you see the laundry. That's my blouse hanging on the line."
- d. "'It's nice up on this fence,' Annie said. 'You can see all over.'"

2. Part A

In Paragraph 10, Annie said, "A fence like this was made for sitting on." What does tell us about her?

- a. She loves beautiful views.
- b. She wanted to sit outside while it wasn't raining.
- c. She doesn't listen to her mother.
- d. She is lonely and wants a new friend.

Part B

Which detail from “The Other Side” supports Part A?

- a. “Each morning she climbed on the fence and stared over at our side.”
- b. “It rained a lot that summer.”
- c. “My mama says the same thing. But she never said nothing about sitting on it.”
- d. “‘It’s nice up on this fence,’ Annie said. ‘You can see all over.’”

3. Part A

In Paragraph 11, Clover and Annie decide to sit on the fence together. Why is this important?

- a. They found a way to be friends without disobeying their parents.
- b. They wanted to play.
- c. They didn’t care what others thought.
- d. They were brave. And wanted more freedom.

Part B

Which detail from the story best supports the answer from part A?

- a. “‘I see you made a new friend,’ she said one morning.”
- b. “...she never said nothing about sitting on it.”
- c. “I waited for her to tell me to get down from the fence or something, but she never did.”
- d. “‘My mama says I should not go on the other side,’ I said.”

4. Part A

Fill in the table.

- a. "Don't climb over the fence when you play."
- b. "When I asked my mama why, she said, 'Because that's the way things have always been.'"
- c. "I felt brave that day. I felt free."
- d. "Someday, somebody's going to come along and knock this old fence down."

<u>Lines from the text</u>	<u>What the line makes the reader think</u>
	I was ready for a change.
	I am not allowed to play on the other side.
	Annie is hopeful that the situation will change.
	People haven't treated equally in the past.

Read the poem, “A Sweet Smell of Roses” by Angela Johnson. Then answer Questions 5-9.

a sweet smell of roses
Angela Johnson

- 1 After a night of soft rain
there is a sweet smell of roses
as my sister, Minnie, and I slip
past Mama's door and out of the house
down Charlotte street
- 2 Past the early-morning milkman, over the cobbled bridge,
and through the curb market...
- 3 ...to where everybody waits to march.
- 4 Minnie and I are only waist high to most of them.
Waist high, Minnie and me,
waist high,
holding hands
and waiting to march.
- 5 There is a sweet smell of roses
as everyone waits for Dr. King to speak.
And the colors...
bright light from the sun on the flowers
beside the road
as we listen to Dr. King on
the megaphone say,
- 6 **"We are right.
We march for equality
and freedom."**
- 7 Then we start to march,
Minnie and me.
We look ahead and walk faster like him.
- 8 Clapping in time with our feet.
Looking ahead,
just like him.
- 9 There is a sweet smell of roses
even as we march past the
people who scream, shout, and say,
- 10 **"You are not right.
Equality can't be yours."**
- 11 Then we look farther down the road and keep holding hands,
feeling a part of it all.
Walking our way toward freedom.
- 12 There is a sweet smell of roses as more people start marching with us,
pouring out of the side streets, clapping and singing.
- 13 **"Freedom!"
"Freedom!"**

5. Part A

What does the poet show about the idea of freedom in the poem?

- a. Everyone is free and equal.
- b. Kids like to be in marches.
- c. People are marching to express their ideas.
- d. The kids in the march are hopeful that everyone will soon be free and equal.

Part B

Which detail from the poem best supports the answer to Part A?

- a. "Waist high, holding hands and go march."
- b. "Then we look further down the road and keep holding hands, feeling part of it all, walking our way toward freedom."
- c. "There is a sweet smell of roses as everyone waits for Dr. King to speak."
- d. "Then we start to march, Minnie and me."

6. Part A

What literary device does the poet use?

- a. metaphor
- b. rhythm
- c. simile
- d. alliteration

Part B

- a. "sweet smell of roses"
- b. "Walking our way toward freedom."
- c. "...pouring out of the side streets, clapping and singing."
- d. "After a night of soft rain...."

7. Part A

The narrator seems eager to march. Why?

- a. To be part of a group
- b. To express their feelings about equality and freedom
- c. To support adults' feelings
- d. To be grown-up

8. Part B

Which statement **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- a. "Then we look farther down the road and keep holding hands, feeling a part of it all."
- b. "We are right. We march for equality and freedom."
- c. "Minnie and I are only waist high to most of them."
- d. "There is a sweet smell of roses as everyone waits for Dr. King to speak."

9. Part A

Fill in the table.

- a. Descriptive language
- b. Stanza
- c. Metaphor
- d. Bold quotes

<u>Line from Poem</u>	<u>Literary Device</u>
Sweet smell of roses	
We start to march, Minnie and me. We look ahead and walk fast like him.	
“You are not right. Equality can’t be yours. “	
Past the early-dash morning milkman, over the cobbled bridge, and through the curb market...	

Refer to the story “The Other Side.” Then answer Question 10.

10. In Paragraph 16 in “The Other Side”, Annie says “Someday, somebody’s going to come along and know this old fence down.”

Write an essay about what do you think the fence stands for and how it affects the characters’ friendship.

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