



Harbor Me

by Jacqueline Woodson

Harbor Me provides an excellent example of safe, trust-filled group discussion. None of the kids gossip about each other; they keep one another's stories safe. As you read, consider the importance of maintaining your own safe book club environment. Before you begin your time together, review (or create) guidelines for your group to allow for respectful sharing, listening, and safe harboring.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Haley says, "So much can change in a minute, an hour, a year." Do you agree? Why?
2. What does Ms. Laverne mean when she says that she wants each person to say, "I will harbor you"?
3. We learn a lot about Esteban's situation. He misses his Papi, who is being detained in Florida for possible deportation to the Dominican Republic. What else do we learn about Esteban, his Papi, and his family?
4. Which of the six main characters' stories most resonate with you? Why?
5. How does Tiago describe the difference between his mom inside their home and outside their home? Why does he say this is?
6. Ashton shares that he'd never thought about skin color until going to this school. What are the other kids' reactions? What would you say to the ARTT group about your experience with racial identity?
7. What did you learn from Tiago's story about Perrito?
8. Why does it take Haley so long to share about her dad? How do the other kids react when Haley shares her story?
9. Haley's uncle says to forgive and forget. Haley eventually decides she can forgive but not forget. Who do you agree with? What do you believe about forgiveness?
10. Haley and Holly talk about their dream superpowers. What powers do they want? What would you want?