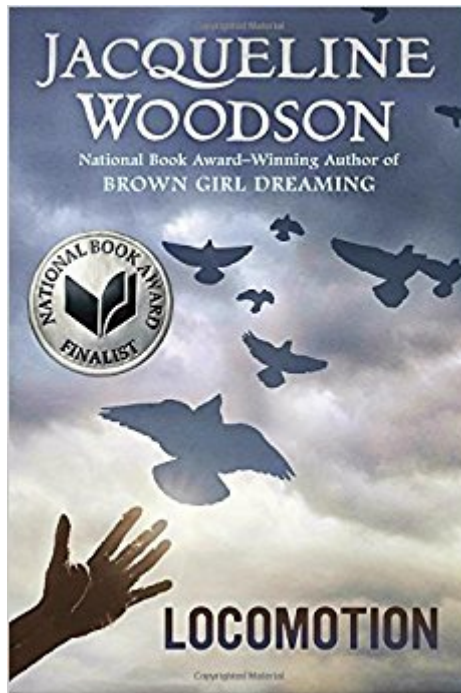




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Locomotion



Synopsis

Finalist for the National Book Award When Lonnie was seven years old, his parents died in a fire. Now he's eleven, and he still misses them terribly. And he misses his little sister, Lili, who was put into a different foster home because "not a lot of people want boys-not foster boys that ain't babies." But Lonnie hasn't given up. His foster mother, Miss Edna, is growing on him. She's already raised two sons and she seems to know what makes them tick. And his teacher, Ms. Marcus, is showing him ways to put his jumbled feelings on paper. Told entirely through Lonnie's poetry, we see his heartbreak over his lost family, his thoughtful perspective on the world around him, and most of all his love for Lili and his determination to one day put at least half of their family back together. Jacqueline Woodson's poignant story of love, loss, and hope is lyrically written and enormously accessible.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: NP (What's this?)

Paperback: 144 pages

Publisher: Speak; Reprint edition (January 7, 2010)

Language: English

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 60 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #18,746 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #49 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Orphans & Foster Homes](#) #53 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > African-American](#) #100 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Stories In Verse](#)

Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 and up

Customer Reviews

The kinetic energy of the aptly named *Locomotion* (the nickname of Lonnie Collins Motion) permeates the 60 poems that tell his sad yet hopeful story. Lonnie's first poem sets up a conflict familiar to anyone who has attempted creativity: despite the cheering of his teacher, Ms. Marcus ("Write it down before it leaves your brain," she says), as he begins to write, Lonnie hears the critical

voice of his foster mother ("It's Miss Edna's over and over/ Be quiet!"). As Lonnie explores poetry's various forms throughout this brief yet poignant and occasionally humorous volume, he also reveals Miss Edna's kindness toward him in the little things she says and does ("The last time Miss Edna came home and found me/ crying She said Think/ about all the stuff you love, Lonnie"). Gradually Lonnie reveals that at age seven, his parents died in a fire, leaving him and his younger sister, Lili, orphaned. Lili was adopted, yet Lonnie figures out a way to visit her regularly. The gradual unfolding of his life's events intermingle with his discoveries about poetry as a form, from haiku to sonnets ("Ms. Marcus says "sonnet" comes from "sonnetto"/ and that sonnetto means little song or sound/ It reminds me of that guy's name Gepetto/ the one who made Pinocchio from wood he found") to the epistle poems he writes to his father and to God. Woodson, through Lonnie, creates (much as Sharon Creech did with the boy narrator in *Love That Dog*) a contagious appreciation for poetry while using the genre as a cathartic means for expressing the young poet's own grief. Ages 10-up. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Gr 4-6-Lonnie Collins Motion (Lo-Co-Motion) has been grieving the accidental death of his parents for four years. Now 11, he works through his grief by writing poetry with encouragement from his teacher who understands the nature of his poetic gift and the cathartic necessity of getting him to express his feelings through it. Bit by bit, listeners learn about Lonnie: the deaths of his parents in an electrical fire at their home; the twist of fate that spared Lonnie and his sister; his hard-knock stint as a "throw-away boy" in a group home; the foster home he now lives in with loving caretaker, Miss Edna; and the longing he feels to be reconnected with his sister. In her novel (Penguin, 2003), Jacqueline Woodson uses various forms of poetry, such as haiku, sonnet, and free verse, to convey the boy's range of emotions. Dion Graham gives Lonnie's lyrical voice a gravelly and deep tone, perfectly conveying his feelings. A powerful, heartbreaking, but ultimately hopeful story.-Jennifer Verbrugge, Dakota County Library, Eagan, MN Â (c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Such a great read. In all honesty I read this as a course requirement for grad school (had to design a curriculum around it), so it wasn't of my free will. Usually this makes me a bit biased against a book, but this is seriously some great writing. I had my own children read it, and I will read it again.

I used this book as a read aloud with my seventh grade students. It is how engrossed they were in Lonnie's story. The format is very engaging since the book is written in verse. I recommend this book for middle level teachers because of the nature of some of the subject matter. Overall this is beautifully written and must for your shelf.

My students loved Locomotion! It will definitely become a staple in my fourth grade classes! Jacqueline Woodson does not disappoint with her excellent storytelling skills, yet effectively teaches the art of poetry and the tools of poetic devices.

excellent

Interesting POV. Helps students see that poetry doesn't have to be a chore but that while it may be a struggle in the beginning, anyone can write.

Wonderful book. Great starting point for discussion about difficult topics.

I bought this book for one of my college course on Teaching Literacy to Middle School Students and absolutely loved it! The kindle addition made it very convenient and this is definitely a book I will be using in my classroom in the future.

Great book. Good story - written in verse.

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