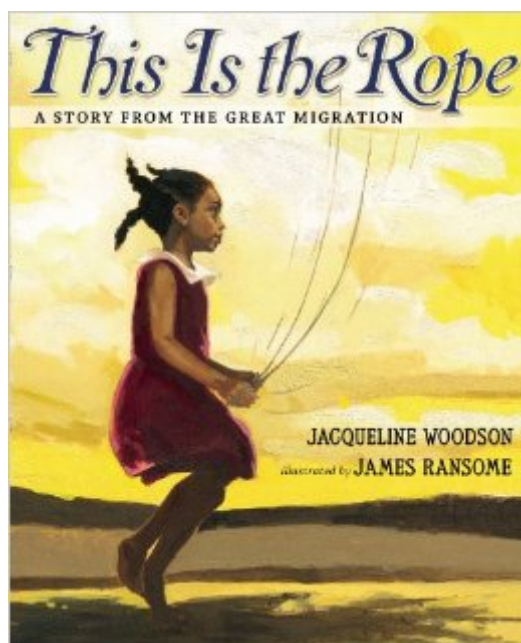


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# This Is The Rope: A Story From The Great Migration



## Synopsis

The story of one family's journey north during the Great Migration starts with a little girl in South Carolina who finds a rope under a tree one summer. She has no idea the rope will become part of her family's history. But for three generations, that rope is passed down, used for everything from jump rope games to tying suitcases onto a car for the big move north to New York City, and even for a family reunion where that first little girl is now a grandmother. Newbery Honor-winning author Jacqueline Woodson and Coretta Scott King Award-winning illustrator James Ransome use the rope to frame a thoughtful and moving story as readers follow the little girl's journey. During the time of the Great Migration, millions of African American families relocated from the South, seeking better opportunities. With grace and poignancy, Woodson's lilted storytelling and Ransome's masterful oil paintings of country and city life tell a rich story of a family adapting to change as they hold on to the past and embrace the future.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD1090L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Nancy Paulsen Books (August 29, 2013)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 9.3 x 0.4 x 11.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars See all reviews (21 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #4,726 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #13 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > African-American #18 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Multigenerational #20 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Fiction

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## Customer Reviews

Beyond James Ransome's wonderful illustrations, Woodson tells a story of a family as it grows and moves from North Carolina to Brooklyn. The common 'thread' tying the generations together is actually a rope - one grandmother skips with, father ties luggage to the car roof, mother hangs

clothes on the line, etc.. It's a title young students can relate to, about things that connect us to our families, and ends appropriately with a family reunion. It also shows the tenor of the times, when African-Americans moved in droves from the South to Northern communities where opportunities were more plentiful. A great read-aloud, and use for teaching concepts and themes about families and generational ties.

This is a beautiful story of one African -American family's migration from the south to a northern city. The rhythm of the language & the illustrations combine to make poetry out of a history lesson. My 5 year old asked me to read this to him every night for a whole week!

This is a very nicely done story using a simple rope to tie together multiple generations and gently teach history. The rope is initially found under a tree, which brings up horrific thoughts in the reader's mind, but there is absolutely no recognition of this by the child in the story, or the listening child. The illustrations are beautifully done, making the book worth having for the pictures alone!

This is another one of Woodson's insightful stories with many themes. My 5th grade class will preview it next week. They love all her other books and are excited about the newest book. The storyline and illustrations are beautiful. Woodson is a masterful storyteller with simple, poignant themes about families. You will not be disappointed.

I've read quite a few of Woodson's books, and this just doesn't stand up to her average high quality. While this may be received more positively by families who have taken on this same northward migration, the story is specialized enough to not interest many others. Ransome's artwork is fantastic, which does help with my general opinion of the book. It feels actually warm, as if I can imagine the hot streets of the city and the stuffy back of the car. That could also be that it's summer here, of course....I think this is going to be a very subjective read. Again, if your family has a similar history, this may be just right. But unless you're entranced by the idea on its own, this book is probably best experienced as a library copy.

Our 7-year-old twins love this story. It is beautifully written and the illustrations are works of art. They have a Ben Shahn quality to them. Well worth the purchase.

Such a sweet story about something as simple as a rope that held many uses and memories of

three generations. That rope had journeys. Written by Jacqueline Woodson, illustrated by James Ransome and published as a Nancy Paulsen Book, an imprint of Penguin Group. #family #generations #PB #sweet

Using a passed-down family rope to tie together the times of her grandmother, parent, and herself is a creative tool, but it's only a tool. If the stories that are weaved through time are just as unique an approach, then this autobiographical-sounding historical fiction would be impressive. But the memory stories are flat. In the preface the author reveals that the physical "rope" actually represents hope (that binds the generations of the family and fosters belief in each one's future). As presented in this story, though, "hope" is too abstract an idea. The stories have no drama, and there is no climax to speak of.

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