



We Had a Picnic This Sunday Past

Jacqueline Woodson , Diane Greenseid (Illustrator)

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Teeka's family had a picnic this Sunday past. Everyone was there, from mean old cousin Terrance who put fake flies on the sweet corn, to Bible-toting Reverend Luke to Auntie Kim (Teeka's all-time favorite). And they were all dreading the arrival of Cousin Martha and her pie, which was always a bit on the dry side (but you had to eat every bit so you didn't hurt her feelings). But this year, where was Cousin Martha? And where was that dried-out apple pie?

Jacqueline Woodson's warm, lyrical prose and Diane Greenseid's exuberant artwork bring to life the humor, love, and of course, the wonderful food of the quintessential family picnic.

We Had a Picnic This Sunday Past Details

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Author : Jacqueline Woodson , Diane Greenseid (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review We Had a Picnic This Sunday Past for online ebook

Kaitlyn says

This is such a fun book. Jacqueline Woodson wrote it to remind herself how fun picnics can be and too keep a promise to her niece about putting her in a book. My favorite character is Uncle Luther!

Jack says

You just want to be there with Teeka and her Grandmother for the great family picnic. Lots of food, fun, hugging and catching up.

Be prepared for questions from interested little ones interested in the family story.

"Where is Teeka's mom and dad? Why doesn't Auntie Kim want to marry?" and other family areas left to explore.

There is one illustration of where Uncle Luther is setting a loaf of cinnamon bread on the park table but the character in that illustration didn't match who I thought Uncle Luther was in the following illustrations.

That aside, I enjoyed the text and illustrations.

Illustrated in acrylics paint on paper. Text is set with felt tip.

Age Range: 5 - 9 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 4

Lexile Measure: AD710L, Adult Directed - to be read to a child.

Regina says

Teeka, the cherub-faced narrator of this summer tale, takes us through the list of family and friends who visit the family picnic. Along with her grandmother, Teeka has an uncanny ability to "size people up" by their recurring habits and features. As the story progresses, older readers begin to notice that Teeka's feelings about the family are probably spawned from listening to her grandmother (a little too) closely. LOL Even the way she speaks and her mannerisms mimic Grandma.

What I liked about this story, was how easy it was to feel a part of it. We can all relate to family gatherings and the dishes and personalities that are constants. As Teeka and the family wait, hoping that her aunt won't bring her usual pie, we get a hilarious look at the family. There is beauty in the pride Teeka feels for her family, and even very young children can identify with knowing aunts and uncles and cousins who they love to see.

As in her young adult books, Jacqueline Woodson does an amazing job of telling a lifetime, in a simple day and encounter. The beautiful and bubbly illustrations provided by Diane Greenesid are outstanding and they literally pull you into the story, making you wish you had been at the picnic yourself.

Beautifully Illustrated, Engaging characters, Age-Appropriate undertones(pride, happiness, respect), Well-rounded story

Jennifer says

Read this for Black History storytime - it was the shortest one for little kids.

Hannah Lockington says

The story follows Teeka's family who had a picnic last Sundays. It follows different, quirky family members like Cousin Terrance who put fake flies on the sweet corn, Reverend Luke, Auntie Kim (Teeka's favorite), and Cousin Martha who usually brings really dry pie. She's missing this year. Where is Cousin Martha? Where is her dry pie?

Tyne Mather says

This is a cute book about a big family who had a picnic. The granddaughter and the grandma were very close and they talked about all of the good food that was going to be brought; except cousin Martha's dry apple pie. The picnic table was full of food and everyone was happy to be together

Jason Brinley says

Jacqueline Woodson's *We Had a Picnic This Sunday Past* is a delightful children's picture book about a little African American girl and her grandmother who are going to a picnic. Woodson and Diane Greenesid, the illustrator, have brilliantly created a story that humorously captures the personalities and culture of a segment of the black community. Their illustrations and text are so one with each other that they make this book such an enjoyable read. The story is uniquely told through the eyes of a young girl, as well as her grandmother, with the light print representing the child speaking and the bold black print representing the elderly woman. Although the characters are depicted in cartoon fashion, the author authentically captures their ethnic style of speech, in addition to their upbeat and larger-than-life personalities. What makes this story so funny is the back and forth, busy-body talking about everybody and everything behind everyone's backs, which is exhibited in an amusing part when Cousin Trevor arrives "empty-handed." The grandmother remarks, "Pretty-boy, Trevor, walking into that park with a handful of nothing;" and to which the girl replies, "Can't eat air." Not only is the text fascinating and fun; but the illustrations are so colorful and complementary, especially the facial expressions and body postures. This book captures the fun and free-spirited nature found within black communities and in their churches.

Teachers can use this book to discuss with children similarities and differences regarding cultures. This book can be used as a creative arts lesson where students can draw a picture of a family picnic, or a picnic with friends, and show the comical ways that their relatives sometimes act and dress and talk. Children will love reading this book because it is so much fun from beginning to end. *We Had a Picnic This Sunday Past* would be a good read aloud for grades two through six.

Emily Johnson says

We Had a Picnic This Past Sunday is a children's picture book that details the events of a families picnic. Everyone in the family absolutely hates aunt Martha's pie, it is way too dry! Aunt Martha always brings that homemade pie of hers and everyone in the family pretends to love it. As people begin to show up for the picnic, everyone keeps an eye out for Martha and her pie. When Martha finally does show up everyone is surprised to see that she ran out of time to bake and had to buy a store made pie this time! Although everyone is ecstatic that they don't have to eat her pie, they pretend to be disappointed in front of Martha. Although the story is cute, overall, I was not too impressed with this book. I felt that the characters were very stereotypical and in a way it encouraged lying. I do not think that I would choose to place this book in my classroom for these reasons.

Charles says

The trials, tribulations and successes of family picnics

Regular midsummer family reunions disguised as a picnic are always events filled with history. There are the relatives whose creations are to die for and then there are those you fear will make you die. This delightful tale for children is about one such gathering. Everyone fears Martha's apple pie, which is dry and difficult to eat. However, everyone is polite and all eat every crumb and proclaim its' goodness.

Some people arrive bearing great quantities of food and others come with nothing but a smile and what charm they have. No one openly objects of course, as the object of the gathering is to renew and strengthen family ties. Despite the presence of a few slackers, everyone manages to have plenty to eat and has a good time.

The text of this book is at the right level for the young child and the illustrations are very colorful and will catch and keep their attention. Since all of the characters are black, this book can also be used in diversity programs.

This book was received for free for review purposes and this review also appears on Amazon

Lyla Muhlenkamp says

We Had a Picnic This Sunday Past is a great reminder to never take things for granted. A family has a picnic every Sunday and dreads the dried apple pie that their cousin Martha brings. However, Martha isn't showing up! Where is she? And will they find her? This book is great and would love to have in my future classroom someday.

Stacy Boyd says

We Had a Picnic This Sunday Past by Jacqueline Woodson was about an African American family who had

a Sunday picnic. Typically Cousin Martha showed up with dried up pie but since we wasn't there they went through and introduced everyone in the family or who was involved with the family and let us know there personalities. Eventually Martha showed up, but not with dry pie but with store bought cake which was different. Everybody eats and then goes home until next time. The theme of this book is family. Family is depicted by all the people who show up to eat together and be around each other. I love this book because it shows the reader the way big dinners look in African American families and how the language (lingo) used is different. I would recommend this book to spread the knowledge of a different culture.

Katie Tracy says

"We Had a Picnic This Sunday Past" is a book about Jacqueline's Woodson's family and friends having a picnic in the park. She goes into depth of what food was brought and how it tasted. She also tells us about her family members and about her grandma. This book is fun and you learn a little more about the author.

I would totally recommend this book. It is not my favorite Jacqueline Woodson book, but it will make you smile.

Erinn says

This multicultural picturebook is about an annual family picnic. The author vividly describes the family members and the food that each brings to the gathering.

This is a good companion book to go with Cynthia Rylant's book, *The Relatives Came* to teach text-to-text connections.

Annette Ruane says

I think that the illustrations were my favorite part of this book. The pictures flowed like they were dancing. I think that the use of color was done just right, not too boring and not too overwhelming. I enjoyed the change up for fonts in this book and how some paragraphs were bolded and some were not to show what words went with what person. I also like the message of this book. It is all about bring family together and having a good time. Each family member had something special about them and each family member brought something to the table. I would like to know what the inspiration was for this story and how the book came to be published, are the characters in it from the author's family or are they made up characters. Over all this was a good book with an important message. Family is important.

Crosby Maierle says

Funny book. Family goes on a picnic after church and the grandma and granddaughter share some laughs with one another. Colorful pictures. Cute story!

