

Title of book: *Coming On Home Soon*

Author: Jacqueline Woodson

Illustrator: E.B. Lewis

Publisher: C. Putnam's Sons

Copyright year: 2004

Reading level: 3rd or 4th grade

Genre: Historical Fiction

SYNOPSIS OF STORY: *Coming On Home soon* is a Caldecott Honor book. During the war, woman had to go work because the men were off fighting. Ada Ruth's mom left her and her grandma to look for a job in Chicago to make some money for them. While Ada waits with her grandma for a letter from her mom they find a little black kitten at their door. Ada and her grandma wait with the black kitten for her mom and she thinks about her mom working in the railroad as they listen to the radio. Do Ada and her grandma finally hear from her mom?

THEME: Women's role during World War II and waiting

ACTIVITY ONE:

- **Source:** <http://teacher.scholastic.com/lessonrepro/lessonplans/womww2.htm>
- **Objective:** As in introduction to reading *Coming on Home Soon*, the students will learn about women's role during World War II by interviewing a senior woman about their experiences during World War II.
- **Description of Activity:** In the story *Coming on Home Soon*, Ada's mother, like many other women of that time, went to Chicago to find a job during World War II. The students will be given a handout with questions to ask and interview someone who was around during World War II. With the assistance of their parents, students can interview family, school personnel, volunteers from nearby senior housing complexes, trusted neighbors, etc. Here are some example questions that might be on the handout of questions for students to ask:
 1. When war was declared by President Roosevelt, what were the first things to change? How did the war change your family? How did life for you as a female change? What did you do during World War II?
 2. Did you rite letters to anyone? Tell me about writing letters.
 3. In what ways did your town look different during the war?
 4. Tell me about the day the war ended.

ACTIVITY TWO:

- **Source:** Original
- **Objective:** The students will write a newspaper article to advertise women being needed for work.
- **Description of Activity:** Many women were asked to work at many different jobs while the men were at war during World War II. The newspapers were the biggest thing to let women know about the jobs that needed workers, what they were and where they were. The students are going to take the information from the story and from other sources and write a newspaper article about needed women for various jobs. The students can either work in pairs or do it individually and they need to have at least 5 job openings that they will talk about in the periodical. They needed to have a description of the job and where it is and it needs to be eye catching to attract readers.