**World War II and 1935-1945**

Coming on Home Soon, by Jacqueline Woodson, G.P. Putnam’s Sons, New York, 2004.

(Fictional characters in fictional situations, but in the context of a real historical period.)

A girl named Ada Ruth wanting her mom to come home during World War II narrates this story in first person. Ada Ruth has some company like her Grandma and the kitten. Her Grandma and Ada Ruth live on the countryside of Chicago.

At the beginning of the story, Mama had to go work in Chicago while the opportunities (job offers) were still available. She needed to earn money for her family. To do that, she needed to wash railroad cars. Ada Ruth was a young girl and of course, Ada Ruth missed her mom so she wrote letters to her. Mama did not reply. One day Ada Ruth finds a kitten. Her grandma was the one taking care of Ada Ruth and grandma had some doubts about her keeping the kitten because how can you take care of a pet if they barely have enough money to take care of themselves. Keeping the kitten gave Ada Ruth some company while her mom was gone. Will Mama come home?

At the beginning of the story, Ada Ruth was very impatient for her letter and for her mom to come home. By the end of the story, she starts to get more patient and understanding. Part of her becoming more patient and understanding is because she has her kitten to comfort her.

Ada Ruth’s character traits are that she is eager, impatient, caring, and hopeful. Ada Ruth is eager and impatient because she wants Mama to come home or at least write her a letter. She does not have the patients to wait. She is caring because she cares for the kitten that comforts her. The kitten is what gives Ada Ruth the patients that she needs to wait for her mom. She is hopeful because if she was not she would just give up or give up hope. If she lost hope, she would stop writing to Mama. She also would not have hope that her mom would come back. The theme is that patients pays off. As time goes by, she is not as eager as before, so her patients helped her wait for Mama.

If the story were told by Ada Ruth’s mom, it would be in a different setting (in Chicago at the train tracks). Also it would be about Mama’s feelings being away from her family. Mama went to work because her family needed money and the men were off fighting in the war. Her job was to clean of wash train cars. She would describe how she wanted to be with her family but she knew she must go, to earn money.

The characters interactions helped the reader understand World War II. The story shows how a lot of family’s were separated just like Ada Ruth’s family. Also, a lot of people were poor and didn’t have money for their families because of the war. That is why people had to go work while there are opportunities. People had to travel long distances to find their job. Like Mama had to do.

**The following are historical facts we believe are part of history:**

1. They communicated by letter because they didn’t have any electricity or phones to text and call.
2. Most people didn’t have enough money for food, so that is why the Grandma didn’t want Ada Ruth to have the kitten they found because you have to take care of it and they barely had enough food for themselves.

**Historical Facts from authors note:**

1. During the war women had opportunities to work. Opportunities were available because the men were off fighting in the war.
2. To let the women know what jobs were available and where they were, the newspapers’ would give them the information that they needed.