

The Fence between Clover and Annie

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How would you feel if you weren't allowed to play with your friend just because of your race? *The Other Side* by Jacqueline Woodson is about two girls named Clover and Annie. Their moms told them that neither of the girls can cross the fence because it's not safe, which made it hard for them to become friends. They still wanted to play with each other so they bent the rules by sitting on the fence instead of crossing it. In this essay, I will talk about some things that made it difficult for Annie and Clover to play, why I think Clover wanted to be Annie's friend, and if the fence was something that kept them apart or if it helped them become friends?

These are some reasons Clover and Annie couldn't become friends. First, Clover's friend, Sandra, didn't want to play with Annie. Sandra didn't even ask the rest of the friend group, so Annie felt left out. Another reason that made it hard for Clover and Annie to be friends is that their moms wouldn't let them play across the fence, so they had to find a different way to play. The first time they played, Clover went to the fence where Annie was, and they properly introduced themselves. Clover put her hand on the fence and Annie said, "A fence like this was made to be sat on." Annie and Clover both sat on the fence and talked, that's how they became friends.

I think Clover wanted to be Annie's friend because in the beginning Annie looked lonely. When Clover was playing with Sandra and some other friends, Sandra didn't allow Annie to play with them and when Sandra said that, Clover must've noticed that Annie was sad, so Clover went to talk to Annie on the fence.

The big fence made it hard for them to be friends because their moms didn't allow them across the fence, but the fence is also what led them to play together. One reason the fence led them together is that in the beginning, Clover saw Annie sitting on the fence. If the fence wasn't there, Clover would've never noticed Annie.

Something I wondered about the story is why Sandra didn't want to be Annie's friend. I think Sandra didn't want Annie to play with the group because Annie looked very different from them. "And my friend Sandra said no without even asking the rest of us," said Clover. This shows that Sandra definitely didn't want to play with Annie. In the end, Sandra also accepts Annie as her friend.

Although Clover and Annie came from different sides, they were still able to become friends. They had obstacles like the fence that was meant to keep them apart, but in the end it brought them together. Just like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend."