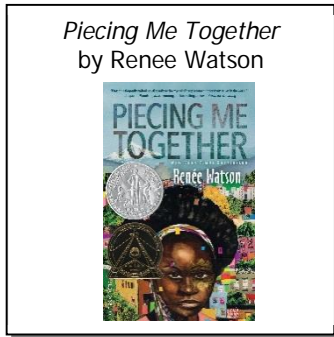


Dear Incoming Freshman,

The English Department welcomes you to Assumption! We believe that reading over the summer is an effective way to maintain your reading and thinking skills so that you are well prepared for the upcoming school year. In addition, we hope that our summer reading program fosters a desire to read, develops your reading comprehension and vocabulary, and promotes intellectual growth through exposure to other cultures and perspectives.

We have selected the following book for next year's freshmen to read before the beginning of school in August:



***Piecing Me Together* by Renee Watson**

Jade believes she must get out of her poor neighborhood if she's ever going to succeed. Her mother tells her to take advantage of every opportunity that comes her way. And Jade has: every day she rides the bus away from her friends and to the private school where she feels like an outsider, but where she has plenty of opportunities. But some *opportunities* she doesn't really welcome, like an invitation to join Women to Women, a mentorship program for "at-risk" girls. Just because her mentor is black and graduated from the same high school doesn't mean she understands where Jade is coming from. She's tired of being singled out as someone who needs help, someone people want to fix. Jade wants to speak, to create, to express her joys and sorrows, her pain and her hope. Maybe there are some things she could show other women about understanding the world and finding ways to be real, to make a difference..- Amazon.com

You will need to have your own copy of the book so that you may fully participate in class discussions. When you come to school in the fall, your teacher will incorporate your summer reading novel into your freshman class through a **reading quiz/test, class discussion, and a creative response**. We encourage you to read the book near the end of the summer, so it is fresh in your memory.

**Active Reading Helpful Tips:**

**All students are encouraged to take notes on the book.** Taking notes not only will help you interact more closely with the text, but it will allow you to remember the novel when we discuss it in August. **It will be helpful if you have some notes to look back on to help you prepare.**

Your notes could include the following:

1. **Summarize:** The chapters of the novel are shorter, so consider summarizing every 20 or so pages to help you remember what happened.
2. **Character notes:** *As you read*, you might underline/highlight any descriptions or details that provide information about characters to help you remember important details about them.
3. **Questions:** *As you read*, write any questions you have in the margins.
4. **Reader Response:** After you've read, consider these questions about the novel and connecting it to your life.
  - Have you ever felt like you didn't belong? How did your experience mirror Jade's?
  - Jade uses art as her outlet. How do you express yourself? What is your outlet?
  - Imagine a student with a different background from your own. How can you reach out to a classmate and help her feel included?
  - How can a 14 year old student help to change systems that feel unjust?

We hope you have a great summer, and we look forward to meeting you in August!

Sincerely,

The Freshman English Teachers