

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I hope you and your student are enjoying the conclusion to a productive year with the Braintree Public Schools. Throughout the year, students have many opportunities to read and listen to books read aloud during the school day. Your support for those same reading experiences at home will help your child continue to grow as a reader, writer, thinker, and learner.

As you plan for the summer, please consider the literacy experiences your child will have in these months away from the classroom. Faculty members at East and South Middle Schools have selected Jacqueline Woodson's *Brown Girl Dreaming* for all incoming eighth graders to read over the summer. When school begins in the fall, all eighth grade English classes will participate in learning activities related to the book. In addition to *Brown Girl Dreaming*, your son or daughter should read at least one other book. Any title you select together is a great choice!

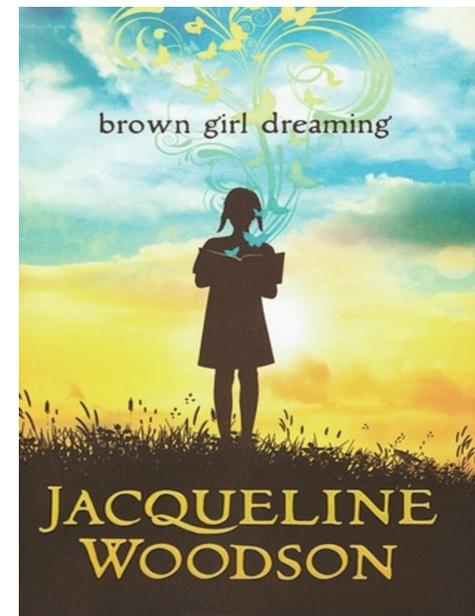
Brown Girl Dreaming is readily available locally or via online booksellers in hardcover or Kindle/Nook formats. In addition to local bookstores, the Thayer Public Library is a valuable (and free!) resource. If you need help in selecting more books, do not hesitate to ask the librarian!

For those of you planning travel this summer, consider going beyond the bookshelves and print pages to include audio books in your student's experience. While audio books are no replacement for reading, they are a wonderful supplement, especially when experienced with a copy of the actual book. These are available at the library on CD or on iTunes.

As you explore *Brown Girl Dreaming* and other books that interest your student, remember that summer reading is for pleasure! I hope you and your son or daughter find many enjoyable books and stories to be part of your summer. I look forward to working with you throughout your student's middle school experience.

Sincerely,
Rock Roberts
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Braintree Public Schools Summer Reading
for
students
entering
grade 8



All students entering grade 8 at East or South will read...

Brown Girl Dreaming

Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In this book, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s. Touching and powerful, each line provides a glimpse into a child's soul as she searches for her place in the world. Woodson's eloquent poetry also reflects the joy of finding her voice through writing stories, despite the fact that she struggled with reading as a child.

Students should also select a second book (with parent approval!) to read before the start of the year. The instructions for short written responses to each book are attached.

Steps to a complete summer reading assignment for students entering grade 8:

- Get your copy of *Brown Girl Dreaming*—from the library, a local bookseller, or an online store.
- Read it and answer the questions about *Brown Girl Dreaming* (at right) in your own handwriting on a separate sheet of paper. (Sheets available to fill in at www.braintreeschools.org/summer.)
- Select any other book (with parent approval).
- Read it and complete the Choice Book questions (attached) in your own handwriting. (Also available to print at www.braintreeschools.org/summer.)
- These assignments should be completed before your return to school and will be graded for effort and completeness.
- Turn in your written work to your English teacher in the fall.
- Participate in the summer reading class activity in your English class.
- Your passing or failing mark for summer reading will show via the Aspen X2 Student/Parent Portal.

As you read *BROWN GIRL DREAMING* by Jacqueline Woodson complete the written note-taking questions below on a separate piece of paper. Your work should be handwritten, not typed. This assignment should be completed before your return to school and will be graded for effort and completeness.

Questions for ALL students entering grade 8:

1. Jackie tells her story from the perspective of a child. Yet, despite the fact that she is a child, she experiences open racism. Find evidence of the racism that Jackie and her family face and explain how it affects her and/or her family.

Evidence of racism that Jackie and her family face (with page citation):	Explanation of how it affects her and/or her family:
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.

2. Jackie often feels inadequate and doubts her brilliance. She feels Dell is a better reader than her, and Hope has his chemistry set. Complete the chart below with three quotations revealing Jackie's talents and explain why she does not recognize her own brilliance.

Evidence of Jackie's talents (with page citation):	Explanation of why and how Jackie does not recognize her own talents and brilliance:
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.

3. *Brown Girl Dreaming* is a novel about growing up, but it is also a novel about family and love. Complete the chart below with three quotations revealing the love that Jackie's family feels for each other. Explain how this familial connection influences Jackie and her life.

Evidence of familial love in the text (with page citation):	Explanation of how familial connections influence Jackie and her life:
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.

Questions Continued

4. Students entering the Proficient cluster in grade 8 should **CHOOSE ONE** of the following options. Students entering the Advanced cluster in grade 8 should **COMPLETE BOTH**. A graphic organizer is provided on the right side of this page to help you plan and organize your paragraph response(s).

- A. Each chapter in *Brown Girl Dreaming* takes the form of a poem. Write a narrative (storytelling) poem about your life modeled after a chapter in the book. Possible topics include writing about your family history, a friend, an experience that affected you and the way you see the world, an aspiration or goal, or some other topic in *Brown Girl Dreaming* that inspired you. The poem should be at least fifteen lines long, include at least five literary techniques, and it should be work that you are proud of. If you need assistance or inspiration with this, please feel free to use the following “I am From” prompt from the following link: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tOMfY00dbhEr21rp6-9u7JWDRgmniqmleE8YGvsRSqQ/edit?usp=sharing>
- B. Choose a historical figure from pages 3-5 of *Brown Girl Dreaming*. Using a reputable, trustworthy internet resource, such as Biography.com or PBS.com, write a paragraph explaining who that historical figure was and his or her significance to American history.

Graphic Organizer for Students Answering 4B.

A full-sized copy of this organizer can be printed at www.braintreeschools.org/summer.

M —Main Idea/Topic Sentence: <hr/>
E —1. Example sentence 2. Quote introduction 3. Quote (Evidence) 4. Page number <hr/>
()
A —Analysis/Quotation Explanation: <hr/>
E —1. Example sentence 2. Quote introduction 3. Quote (Evidence) 4. Page number <hr/>
()
A —Analysis/Quotation Explanation: <hr/>
E —1. Example sentence 2. Quote introduction 3. Quote (Evidence) 4. Page number <hr/>
()
A —Analysis/Quotation Explanation: <hr/>
L —Link/Conclusion sentence linking next paragraph: <hr/>

Choice Book Questions for Students Entering Grade 7 or 8

In addition to your required reading book, you will also read a book of your choice. You may select either a work of fiction or a work of non-fiction, and your choice should be approved by your parent. As you read your book, complete the written note-taking questions below on a separate piece of paper. Your work should be handwritten, not typed. This assignment should be completed before your return to school and will be graded for effort and completeness.

If you are entering a **Proficient Cluster** class next year, please complete #1-5.

If you are entering an **Advanced Cluster** class next year, please complete #1-4 & #6-7.

All students should complete the following questions:

1. List at least five important events and give a brief explanation of why each is important to the book.
2. What is the central conflict or major problem that characters/people face in the book? How is it resolved?
3. Discuss one choice one of the main characters or people made in the book. How did this choice change that character/person? How did it affect the story as a whole?
4. Choose a character or person from the book, pick a quality that describes him/her, and write one brief paragraph that includes an example of an event from the book that illustrates this quality.

In addition to numbers 1 through 4 (the questions for all students), students entering the **PROFICIENT CLUSTER** should answer the following questions:

5. Write a brief paragraph describing something you learned from the book. In other words, how did the author make you think; what is one idea, theme, or issue that you considered? What is the moral of the story or what is the book trying to teach its readers?

In addition to numbers 1 through 4 (the questions for all students), students entering the **ADVANCED CLUSTER** should answer the following questions:

6. Write a well-developed paragraph describing three things you learned from the book. In other words, how did the author make you think; what ideas, themes, and issues did you consider? What is the moral of the story or what lessons is the book trying to teach its readers?

7. Copy this chart and complete it to demonstrate connections you've made using your choice reading book.

Text-to-Self Connections: How does a moment, character, or part of this book relate to your own life?	Text-to-Text Connections: How can you connect this book to another book you've read?	Text-to-World Connections: How does this book connect to something that happened or is happening in the real world?
1.	1.	1.
2.	2.	2.
3.	3.	3.