

Brown Girl Dreaming Summer Reading Guidelines

Welcome to Jesuit High School! Your English 1 teachers are looking forward to meeting you. We hope that you enjoy reading *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson, and we wanted to give you a few tools to support you in reading this book. *Brown Girl Dreaming* won the National Book Award for Young People's Literature in 2014.

Brown Girl Dreaming is a memoir of Jacqueline Woodson's childhood in the 1960s and 1970s. You will notice that Woodson tells stories of her childhood in verse (poetry). This is not an autobiography (Woodson does not describe all of the events of her life from birth through adulthood), but the events in the novel did occur in the author's life.

Before you read the book, please listen to this 4-minute interview with Jacqueline Woodson:

<https://www.npr.org/transcripts/348992638>

You will see that the memoir is divided into 5 sections (I. i am born, II. the stories of south carolina run like rivers, III. followed the sky's mirrored constellation to freedom, IV. deep in my heart, I do believe, V. ready to change the world). After you read each section, please choose your favorite poem from that section. Why is that poem your favorite or most meaningful to you? You should write your reflection on your favorite poems on the blank page that follows each section.

Please bring your book with your completed responses on the first day of class. You will use your reflections for a graded discussion.