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*Loving to learn and learning to grow at... St. Mary's Catholic School*

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Dear Parents:

This summer, our middle school students will be doing something a bit different from the summer reading routine they may be used to. Each grade will be responsible for reading one book and preparing some work to go along with it, but rather than a second book, our rising 6th and 7th grade students will be practicing some math concepts on Prodigy Math, and our rising 8th grade students will be doing some standardized test preparation to ready themselves for the high school placement test, which takes place in December. We have some suggested timelines for completing both the test prep and the math practice so that students aren't overloading themselves just before school starts. There are also guidelines for the reading assignments as in years past.

Our hope is that our middle school students will be able to practice both their language arts and math skills over the summer to begin the year in stride. We have enjoyed our time with them in the classroom and look forward to meeting the upcoming members of the sixth grade. Have a great summer.

Sincerely,

St. Mary's Catholic School Middle School Team



Dear Parents,

The incoming sixth and seventh graders will be using an exciting educational game called Prodigy to practice their math skills. While we will be using the program during school hours, students are strongly encouraged to play with the same character at home during the summer to supplement their practice! We recommend 20 minutes a day Tuesday-Thursday during the month of July. When the students return to school in September, we will be checking to see that the students accomplished about 300 minutes over the summer. We will continue building on the skills they were working on over break throughout the school year.

### **How does my child play Prodigy at home?**

1. Go to [www.prodigygame.com](http://www.prodigygame.com) on almost any Internet enabled device.
2. Select 'Play Prodigy' in the top-right corner.
3. Once the game loads, enter your child's username and password and select 'LOGIN.'

Students should login with their Google accounts used at school. Students have the same login information throughout their duration at St. Mary's.

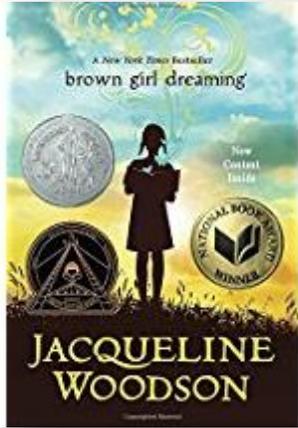
Sincerely,

St. Mary's Catholic School Middle School Team

## Grade 7

## Brown Girl Dreaming

by Jacqueline Woodson



"*Brown Girl Dreaming* tells the story of my childhood, in verse. Raised in South Carolina and New York, I always felt halfway home in each place. In these poems, I share what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and my growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement.

It also reflects the joy of finding my voice through writing stories, despite the fact that I struggled with reading as a child. My love of stories inspired and stayed with me, creating the first sparks of the writer I was to become." < Amazon.com >

**Why I like this book: OMG this book is a memoir, a book of verse (poetry), and a story about survival during the turbulent 1960's. Like today, problems of inequality and prejudice existed back then, but they didn't stop Jacqueline Woodson from pursuing her dreams. You'll read how a struggling reader eventually fell in love with the written word to become a writer, a researcher, and a poet.**

### Assignment

While growing up, Jacqueline lived in the American North and South at different seasons in her life. How were her relationships, her experiences, and her sense of self shaped by differences in her locations?