

Summer Reading Assignment - Grade 8

All Grade 8 Students are required to purchase and read parts 1 and 2 of [*Brown Girl Dreaming*](#) by Jaqueline Woodson **before the start of Summer Phase on July 27, 2026.** (about 140 pages)

This is the story of a young girl in the 1960s who was born in Ohio and spends summers with her grandparents in South Carolina. After her parents divorce, she moves to SC permanently with her Mom and her siblings.

Set against the background of the Civil Rights Movement and the cultural differences between the North and South, the book explores the dynamics of the author's family and her childhood friendships and experiences.

The book is a series of short poems. Each one focuses on an event or person in Woodson's life.

Our course is going to focus on the theme of leadership.

As you read *Brown Girl Dreaming*, I want you to think about the ways that different characters function as leaders.

TASK: Print out the chart below, and keep it with your book. As you read, write down examples where you see the different characters acting as leaders. **You also must write down the page number for each example you write down.**

Bring this paper and your book with you to school on the first day. You will need them for our first writing assignment during the first week of school.

Name _____

Directions: Print this chart and keep it with you as you read *Brown Girl Dreaming*. As you read, list as many examples as you can find where the character functions as a leader or displays leadership traits. If you run out of room, you can add another sheet of paper.

Bring the completed chart and your book with you during the first week of school.

Character	Examples w. Page number
Woodson's Mother (Mary)	Makes sure that kids are connected to their family in the South by taking them every summer, often without her husband's help (pg 27)
Woodson's Father (Jack)	
Gunnar / Daddy	
Woodson's Grandmother (Georgiana)	