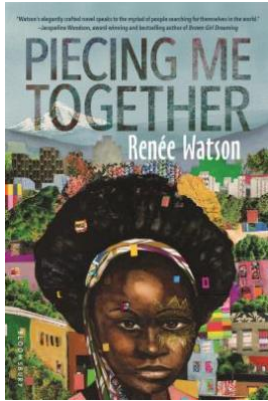


## Welcome SMA class of 2025!

Over the summer we would like you to read this novel by local Portland author Renée Watson. Please have a copy with you for the first couple of weeks in the fall. When we meet as a class, you will be sharing your observations about the author's choices and writing about your reactions to the story.

### English 9 Summer Assignment: *Piecing Me Together*, Renée Watson



**Summary:** 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. So Jade does: 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. Nevertheless, 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 Maxine is black and a graduate 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. ISBN: 978-1681191058

**Reading Directions:** Jade refers to herself as “shattered in a million pieces” and wonders “if there’s ever a way for a girl like [her] to feel whole.” This novel traces her journey piecing herself together, but others around her need to change and grow as well.

As you read *Piecing Me Together*, keep track of important, revealing moments when Jade and other characters struggle with growth or achieve growth. Write in pencil in the margins or use sticky notes with your writing to flag these passages.

**Writing Directions:** After you have finished these notes for the entire text, write down **FIVE** quotations with page numbers, in which Jade or another character

- struggles with growth
- or achieves growth

Optional reading: If you’d like to read an additional independent book this summer, you may choose one of the following texts as well. Similar to *Piecing Me Together*, each of these works addresses topics of identity and the intersection of race, class, and gender.

*Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* by Jamie Ford

*Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates

*Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson (Poetry)