

Summer Reading for Students Entering Grade 8

Chapter Questions: *Piecing Me Together* by Renee Watson

Chapter 3

- What does Jade mean when she says “...I think about this as I ride to school. How I am someone’s answered prayer, but also someone’s deferred dream.” (11) If you do not know the definition of deferred, look it up!

Chapter 6

- What do you think about what Jade mentions about having “freedom but no real power.” (24) What is freedom without power?

Chapter 9

- Sabrina, the woman who runs the Woman-to-Woman Program mentioned a famous quote: “You can give a man a fish and feed him for a day. You can teach a man to fish and feed him for a lifetime.” (33) What does this saying mean?
- Jade admires her mom for always saying what is on her mind and she wishes she could be that way. What is a quality that you admire in someone close to you? Why?

Chapter 11

- At the end of this chapter Jade is speaking metaphorically, what does she mean when she says: “I am finding a way to know these answers right here, right now?” (49)

Chapter 12

- Sam feels guilty that she has access to opportunities that her brother didn’t. Do you think she should feel this way? Why or why not?

Chapter 13

- Do you agree with Jade’s mom’s reaction to Maxine taking Jade out for her birthday brunch. What do you think you would have done in this situation?

Chapter 21

- When does Jade feel best and safest? What is she coming to learn as she grows up? What does it mean to feel whole?

Chapter 22

- What happens at the end of this chapter? Why does Jade say she isn’t even sure she wants to go to lunch anymore? What do you think you would have done in this situation?

Chapter 23

- What does Jade mean at the end of the chapter when she says they “don’t understand our joy?” (91)
- What is the topic of conversation when they go out to lunch? Why are Jade and Sam upset? What do Kennedy and her two friends need to learn?

Chapter 24

- Jade is faced with a very difficult situation in this chapter. She handles herself with composure but wishes she could be more confident. What happens and do you think she handled it well?

Chapter 25

- Why does Jade turn to her art? What statement is she making in listing the names *he could have given her*?

Chapter 28

- On p. 109 the clouds are described as weeping. What kind of figurative language is this?
- What do you think Maxine can learn from Jade?

Chapter 34

- What do you think of the interaction between Jade and Sam at the end of this Chapter? What does Sam say in response to what Jade experienced?

Chapter 40

- What is the tension that Jade feels towards Sam? Why is she upset about what happened in the store?

Chapter 41

- What is the conversation Jade overhears between Maxine and her mother? What does Jade learn and how does it make her feel?

Chapter 44

- What does Lee lee suggest that Jade do? What does Jade mean when she responds saying: “Here I am, so focused on learning to speak another language, and barely use the words I already know.” (174)
- If you were in Jade’s position and were going to write a letter to the Woman-to-Woman program, what would you say?

Chapter 45

- What suggestions does Jade make to improve the Woman-to-Woman program? What does she want to learn more about?
- Maxine says: “I’ve got a lot of learning to do.” (177) Do you agree? If so, why?

Chapter 46

- Maxine tells Jade: “You’re not supposed to be giving me the advice.” (180) Can you think of a time in your life when you have given advice to an older person or supported them in some way? Explain.

Chapter 48

- What happens between Jade and Ms. Weber? Do you think Mrs. Parker listened to Jade fairly?

Chapter 49

- Why does Jade feel like she can’t relate to Sam? Why does Jade say Hannah didn’t get in trouble for talking back?

Chapter 51

- Why does Jade find herself thinking about York so often? What does she wonder about?

Chapter 54

- Why is this chapter called “A Primavera: Spring?” What is Jade learning about herself?

Chapter 58

- What were some of the confusing messages Maxine received as a child regarding her race? Why does sharing this information with Jade make Jade feel more connected to her?
- Maxine talks about her grandma and “bearing witness.” How can sharing stories be a form of healing?

Chapter 65

- How does Jade feel at the event? Why?
- What predictions do you have for what might happen to Jade in the future?

Chapter 67

- Jade uses her art as a way to “rewrite history.” (244) What do you think of this? How can visual art serve as a form of communication and power?

Chapter 70

- Jade has been told by Maxine that “she can’t give up so easily, especially on people.” (249) What does Sam’s grandpa tell Sam she needs to work on?

Chapter 74

- Jade has used her voice to have a strong impact on the Woman-to-Woman program. How has she used her voice to change and improve the program?

Chapter 75

- Select your favorite line from this poem. Why does it stand out to you?
- What message does this poem send readers?

Chapter 76

- Why do you think the author, Renee Watson chooses to end this story with York?
- What are the major ways in which Jade has grown throughout this story? What are the most important lessons she has learned?