

All the Broken Pieces by Ann E. Burg

ISBN-10: 0545080932; ISBN-13: 978-0545080934

The English department is proposing use of the novel, *All the Broken Pieces*, as part of the 9th grade curriculum.

Summary:

Matt Pin would like to forget war torn Vietnam, bombs that fell like dead crows, and the terrible secret he left behind. But now that he is living with a caring adoptive family in the United States, he finds himself forced to confront his past. And that means choosing between silence and candor, blame and forgiveness, fear and freedom.

By turns harrowing, dreamlike, sad, and triumphant, this searing debut novel, written in lucid verse, reveals an unforgettable perspective on the lasting impact of war and the healing power of love.

Awards and Reviews:

Jefferson Cup Award Winner

Booklist Editors' Choice

ALA Best Book for Young Adults

IRA Notable Book for a Global Society

"...[a] stirring debut novel...will make readers want to rush to the end and then return to the beginning again to make connections between past, present, friends and enemies."--*Booklist*, starred review

"The verse form carries highly charged emotions and heavy content with elegiac simplicity."--*Kirkus*, starred review

"Using spare free verse, first-time novelist Burg beautifully evokes the emotions of a Vietnamese adoptee as he struggles to come to terms with his past."--*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

"...the story is a lovely, moving one."--*School Library Journal*

Classification:

Historical Fiction > United States > 20th Century > Vietnam War

Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Asia & Asian American

Social & Family Issues > Adoption

Prejudice and Discrimination > Immigration and Assimilation Experiences

Rationale:

This free verse novel provides exposure to an alternate novel format before delving into epic poems. Students will be able to answer close reading/text-dependent comprehension questions and analyze passages based on the use of characterization techniques, figurative language, point-of view, and inferences. Students will also be able to make connections to prominent themes in the novel, which include forgiveness, overcoming fear, and reconciling with feelings of

displacement. The novel offers multiple perspectives and implications of war: heroism, guilt, resentment, and racism.

PA Core Standards for English Language Arts:

1.3 Reading Literature

Students read and respond to works of literature—with an emphasis on comprehension, vocabulary acquisition, and making connections among ideas and between texts with a focus on textual evidence.

- CC.1.3.9–10.A Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze in detail its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.
- CC.1.3.9–10.B Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly, as well as inferences and conclusions based on an author’s explicit assumptions and beliefs about a subject.
- CC.1.3.9–10.C Analyze how complex characters develop over the course of a text, interact with other characters, and advance the plot or develop the theme.
- CC.1.3.9–10.D Determine the point of view of the text and analyze the impact the point of view has on the meaning of the text.
- CC.1.3.9–10.E Analyze how an author’s choices concerning how to structure a text, order events within it, and manipulate time create an effect.
- CC.1.3.9–10.F Analyze how words and phrases shape meaning and tone in texts.

Information obtained from Scholastic, SuperSummary, and Amazon.