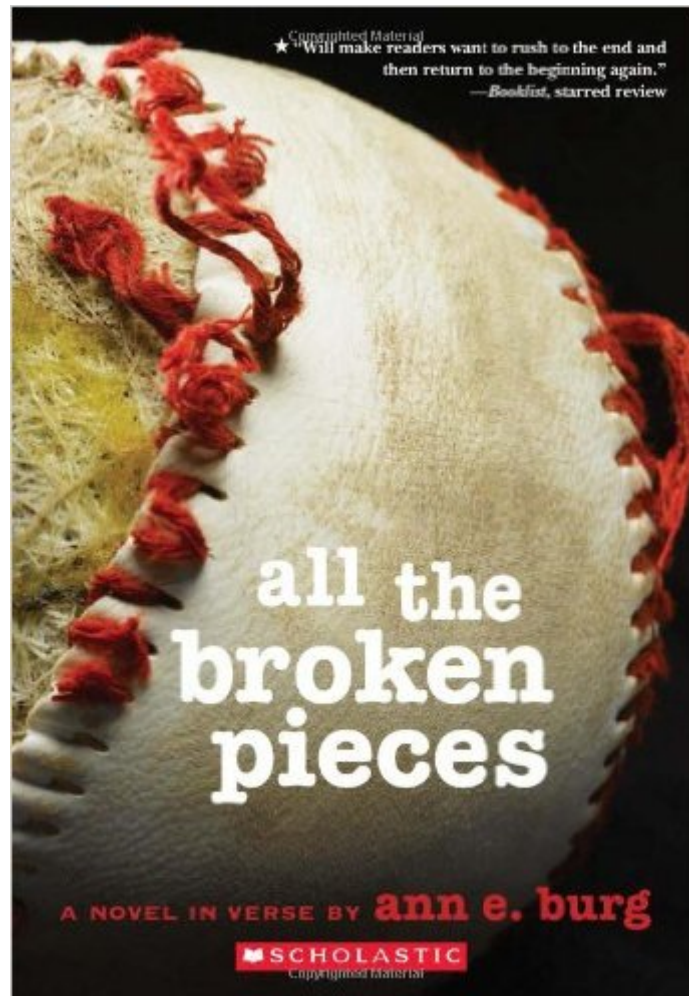




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# All The Broken Pieces



## Synopsis

An award-winning debut novel from a stellar new voice in middle grade fiction. 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.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 680 (What's this?)

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: Scholastic Paperbacks; Reprint edition (March 1, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0545080932

ISBN-13: 978-0545080934

Product Dimensions: 1 x 5.2 x 7.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 32 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #22,459 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #3 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family > Adoption](#) #12 in [Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > United States > 20th Century](#) #13 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Adoption](#)

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Grade 6-8  
In 1977, 12-year-old Matt Pin lives a fractured life. He is the son of a Vietnamese woman and an American soldier and was airlifted to safety from the war zone. Adopted by a caring American couple, he has vivid and horrific memories of the war and worries about the fates of his mother and badly injured little brother. Matt's adoptive family adores him, and he is the star pitcher for his middle school baseball team, but there are those who see his face and blame him for the deaths of the young men they lost in the war. The fractured theme runs the course of this short novel in verse: Matt's family, the bodies and hearts of the Vietnam vets, the country that is

"only a pocketful of broken pieces" that Matt carries inside him. Ultimately, everything broken is revealed as nonetheless valuable. While most of the selections read less like poems and more like simple prose, the story is a lovely, moving one. Use this in a history class or paired with Katherine Applegate's *Home of the Brave* (Feiwel & Friends, 2007).  
--Heather M. Campbell, formerly at Philip S. Miller Library, Castle Rock, CO Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Preloaded Digital Audio Player edition.

**\*Starred Review\*** Airlifted from Vietnam at the end of the war and adopted by a loving American family, Matt Pin, 12, is haunted by what he left behind, even as he bonds with his new little brother and becomes a star pitcher on the school baseball team. In rapid, simple free verse, the first-person narrative gradually reveals his secrets: his memories of mines, flames, screams, helicopters, bombs, and guns, as well as what the war did to his little brother ("He followed me / everywhere, / he follows me still"). But this stirring debut novel is about much more than therapy and survivor guilt. When his parents take Matt to a veterans' meeting, he hears the soldiers' stories of injury and rejection and begins to understand why the school bully calls him "frogface" ("My brother died / Because of you"). There is occasional contrivance as Matt eavesdrops on adults. But the haunting metaphors are never forced, and the intensity of the simple words, on the baseball field and in the war zone, will make readers want to rush to the end and then return to the beginning again to make connections between past and present, friends and enemies. Add this to the Booklist read-alike column "Children at War." Grades 6-10. --Hazel Rochman --This text refers to the Preloaded Digital Audio Player edition.

My 12 year old son devoured this book. I read it after him and agree-what a good read. I liked reading a different perspective. A must read for any middle grade classroom!

My 8th grader had to read this book over the summer. Due to the author using poetry to tell the story, it was a little hard for him to understand all the important details. I read it so I could help him. I enjoyed the story as well as the method used by the author. So glad I decided to read it!

My son and I read this book together and we both didn't want to stop reading. The story is unique, interesting and pulls at the heart strings. Highly recommended.

Excellent reading material for preteen

The book reminds us that there is much potential to be explored in the verse novel. In this instance, the style serves the subject. I can easily imagine the young English language learner tripping along in free verse, especially since he has such a poignant story to convey. Burg's telling makes us mindful that pain spared no one in the American-Vietnamese conflict, whether generations or continents away, and somehow true reconciliation demands an empathy commensurate to the brokenness endured by all. A hallmark of intergenerational adolescent fiction that invites the reader to ponder the aesthetic possibilities of the novel in verse.

I loved this book! It was a requirement for my children's literature class and I thought it was a great mix of modern language with historical information. Told by a boy who came to the U.S. for a better life during the Vietnam War, it's amazing. Not only are there few decent books that explain this war (as the U.S. prefers to pretend it never happened), there are even fewer that describe how a Vietnamese felt in America. I loved the format (poetic free-verse) and I loved the message. The historical aspect was accurate to the time period and really engaging.

This was an assigned reading for a young adult literature class, but it is genuinely one of the best books I've read. It's beautifully written, thought and emotion provoking, and a quick read. It's a children's book, but I recommend it to adults as well. This will definitely be part of my classroom curriculum.

This was a fast pace book that displayed great character emotion. I give this book 5 stars because of how it is written and all the facts and emotions built inside it.

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