

Tampa Preparatory School

Summer Reading - 2020

Summer reading books may be read in either ebook OR print form, as students prefer. The following list offers choices among literary works that are contemporary or classic, but all are relevant to students' lives. While the focus remains on the traditional canon during the school year, these summer reading choices were selected in the hope that they would resonate with students and nurture their love of reading.

In addition to the grade level reading, students are responsible for participating in the school-wide summer reading program: ASPIRE. ASPIRE stands for "A Summer Program in Reading Enrichment" and was developed to inspire pleasure reading with students. Faculty, administration, and staff have chosen a book- fiction or non-fiction- to sponsor, **one of which students will sign up to read over the summer and then meet for a discussion in the fall.**

If you have forgotten what book you signed up for, or if you are a new enrollee to Prep and have yet to sign up for an ASPIRE book, please email aspire@tampaprep.org by **July 27, 2020.**

ENGLISH 11 American Literature and Composition **(Students will read THREE books total)**

1. REQUIRED: Your assigned ASPIRE book: Check your email for your ASPIRE title. You should have gotten a confirmation email when signing up. Send an email to aspire@tampaprep.org if you cannot find that confirmation email.

2. REQUIRED:

STAMPED: Racism, Anti-Racism, and You
by Jason Reynolds & Ibram X. Kendi

"The construct of race has always been used to gain and keep power, to create dynamics that separate and silence. This remarkable reimagining of Dr. Ibram X. Kendi's National Book Award-winning *Stamped from the Beginning* reveals the history of racist ideas in America, and inspires hope for an antiracist future. It takes you on a race journey from then to now, shows you why we feel how we feel, and why the poison of racism lingers. It also proves that while racist ideas have always been easy to fabricate and distribute, they can also be discredited.

Through a gripping, fast-paced, and energizing narrative written by beloved award-winner Jason Reynolds, this book shines a light on the many insidious forms of racist ideas - and on ways listeners can identify and stamp out racist thoughts in their daily lives." --Amazon

3. Choose ONE of the following three options:

***These selections were carefully chosen because they parallel important themes that will be studied in class. Although the publishers have marketed them as appropriate for this age group, some of these choices contain some mature content. If you have any reservations, please do some further reading to ascertain their suitability for your child.**

The English Department is happy to suggest alternate readings as requested.

***Gun Love* by Jennifer Clement**

Pearl's mother took her away from her family just weeks after she was born, and drove off to central Florida determined to begin a new life for herself and her daughter—in the parking lot next to a trailer park. Pearl grew up in the front seat of their '94 Mercury, while her mother lived in the back. Despite their hardships, mother and daughter both adjusted to life, making friends with the residents of the trailers and creating a deep connection to each other. All around them, Florida is populated with gun owners—those hunting alligators for sport, those who want to protect their families, and those who create a sense of danger.

Written in a gorgeous lyric all its own, *Gun Love* is the story of a tough but optimistic young woman growing up in contemporary America, in the midst of its harrowing love affair with firearms. -Amazon

***Winter Loon* - Susan Bernhard**

Abandoned by his father after his mother drowns in a frozen Minnesota lake, fifteen-year-old Wes Ballot is stranded with coldhearted grandparents and holed up in his mother's old bedroom, surrounded by her remnants and memories. As the wait for his father stretches unforgivably into months, a local girl, whose own mother died a brutal death, captures his heart and imagination, giving Wes fresh air to breathe in the suffocating small town.

When buried truths come to light in the spring thaw, wounds are exposed and violence erupts, forcing Wes to embark on a search for his missing father, the truth about his mother, and a future he must claim for himself—a quest that begins back at that frozen lake.

A powerful, page-turning coming-of-age story, *Winter Loon* captures the resilience of a boy determined to become a worthy man by confronting family demons, clawing his way out of the darkness, and forging a life from the shambles of a broken past. -Amazon

***Trophy Son* - Douglas Brunt**

Private lessons. Professional coaches. Specialized camps for sports, math, music, and other fields. Today's children are pushed to achieve excellence—or else. But at what cost? *New York Times* bestselling author Douglas Brunt's third novel, *Trophy Son*, tells the story of a tennis prodigy, from young childhood to the finals of the US Open, Wimbledon, and other tournaments around the world.

Growing up in the wealthy suburbs of Philadelphia, Anton Stratis is groomed to be one thing only: the #1 tennis player in the world. Trained relentlessly by his obsessive father, a former athlete who plans every minute of his son's life, Anton both aspires to greatness and resents its all-consuming demands. Lonely and isolated—removed from school and socialization to focus on tennis—Anton explodes from nowhere onto the professional scene and soon becomes one of the top-ranked players in the world, with a coach, a trainer, and an entourage.

But as Anton struggles to find a balance between stardom and family, he begins to make compromises—first with himself, then with his health, and finally with the rules of tennis, a mix that will threaten to destroy everything he has worked for.

Trophy Son offers an inside look at the dangers of extraordinary pressure to achieve, whether in sports or any field, through the eyes of a young man defying his parents' ambitions as he seeks a life of his own.

