

# 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 All Middle School book, 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](mailto:aspire@tampaprep.org) by **July 27, 2020.**

### ENGLISH 8

(Students will read **TWO** books total)

**1. 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](mailto:aspire@tampaprep.org) if you cannot find that confirmation email.

**2. All Middle School book:** All grades 6-8 will read ***Ghost*** by Jason Reynolds. If you have already read *Ghost*, please choose another book in the *Track Series* (*Sunny*, *Patina*, *Lu*).

*Ghost*. *Lu*. *Patina*. *Sunny*. Four kids from wildly different backgrounds with personalities that are explosive when they clash. But they are also four kids chosen for an elite middle school track team—a team that could qualify them for the Junior Olympics if they can get their acts together. They all have a lot to lose, but they also have a lot to prove, not only to each other, but to themselves. (Simon and Schuster)

#### ***Ghost***

Running. That's all *Ghost* (real name Castle Cranshaw) has ever known. But *Ghost* has been running for the wrong reasons—it all started with running away from his father, who, when *Ghost* was a very little boy, chased him and his mother through their apartment, then down the street, with a loaded gun, aiming to kill. Since then, *Ghost* has been the one causing problems—and running away from them—until he meets Coach, an ex-Olympic Medalist who sees something in *Ghost*: crazy natural talent. If *Ghost* can stay on track, literally and figuratively, he could be the best sprinter in the city. Can *Ghost* harness his raw talent for speed, or will his past finally catch up to him? (Simon and Schuster)

#### ***Sunny***

*Sunny* is just that—sunny. Always ready with a goofy smile and something nice to say, *Sunny* is

the chilliest dude on the Defenders team. But his life hasn't always been sun beamy-bright. You see, Sunny is a murderer. Or at least he thinks of himself that way. His mother died giving birth to him, and based on how Sunny's dad treats him—ignoring him, making Sunny call him Darryl, never "Dad"—it's no wonder Sunny thinks he's to blame. It seems the only thing Sunny can do right in his dad's eyes is win first place ribbons running the mile, just like his mom did. But Sunny doesn't like running, never has. So he stops. Right in the middle of a race.

With his relationship with his dad now worse than ever, the last thing Sunny wants to do is leave the other newbies—his only friends—behind. But you can't be on a track team and *not run*. So Coach asks Sunny what he wants to do. Sunny's answer? Dance. Yes, dance. But you also can't be on a track team and *dance*. Then, in a stroke of genius only Jason Reynolds can conceive, Sunny discovers a track event that encompasses the hard beats of hip-hop, the precision of ballet, and the showmanship of dance as a whole: the discus throw. But as he practices for this new event, can he let go of everything that's been eating him up inside? (Simon and Schuster)

### ***Patina***

Patina, or Patty, runs like a flash. She runs for many reasons—to escape the taunts from the kids at the fancy-schmancy new school she's been sent to ever since she and her little sister had to stop living with their mom. She runs from the reason WHY she's not able to live with her "real" mom any more: her mom has The Sugar, and Patty is terrified that the disease that took her mom's legs will one day take her away forever. And so Patty's also running for her mom, who can't. But can you ever really run away from any of this? As the stress builds, it's building up a pretty bad attitude as well. Coach won't tolerate bad attitude. No day, no way. And now he wants Patty to run relay...where you have to depend on other people? How's she going to do THAT? (Simon and Schuster)

### ***Lu***

Lu was born to be cocaptain of the Defenders. Well, actually, he was born albino, but that's got nothing to do with being a track star. Lu has swagger, plus the talent to back it up, and with all that—not to mention the gold chains and diamond earrings—no one's gonna outshine him.

Lu knows he can lead Ghost, Patina, Sunny, and the team to victory at the championships, but it might not be as easy as it seems. Suddenly, there are hurdles in Lu's way—literally and not-so-literally—and Lu needs to figure out, fast, what winning the gold really means. (Simon and Schuster)