

# Tampa Preparatory School

## Summer Reading - 2021

Summer reading books may be read in either ebook OR print form, as students prefer, *unless noted otherwise*.

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.

### ENGLISH 10 World Literature and Composition (Students will read TWO books and listen to podcast selections.)

#### 1. REQUIRED TEXT: *Heroes, Gods and Monsters of the Greek Myths* by Bernard Evslin

"The heroes, gods, and monsters of Greek mythology come alive in this exciting collection of retellings of the ancient myths that includes tales of Zeus, Hera, Apollo, Artemis, and many more. Written in simple, direct language, *Heroes, Gods and Monsters of the Greek Myths* is an accessible and entertaining guide to the Greek myths and their players, following fearless heroes as they battle epic beasts under the eyes of the mighty immortals who rule them. From mortal warriors like Perseus and his impossible task of slaying the monstrous Medusa, to Zeus, the king of the Gods whose thunderbolts can shake the earth, to the minotaur, a gruesome beast, half-man and half-bull, who destroys young victims that are sacrificed to his terrifying power, this world is one of magic and adventure" (*Amazon*).

#### 2. REQUIRED PODCAST: [Let's Talk About Myths, Baby! A Greek & Roman Mythology Podcast by Liv Albert](#)

You must listen to the following episodes:

- [Book 1 of the Odyssey](#)
- [Circe](#)
- [Poseidon](#)

#### 3. Choose ONE of the following three to read:

\*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.

#### *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* by Ishmael Beah

"This is how wars are fought now: by children, hopped-up on drugs and wielding AK-47s. Children have become soldiers of choice. In the more than fifty conflicts going on worldwide, it is estimated that there are some 300,000 child soldiers. Ishmael Beah used to be one of them. What is war like through the eyes of a child soldier? How does one become a killer? How does one stop? Child soldiers have been profiled by journalists, and novelists have struggled to imagine their lives. But until now, there has not been a first-person account from someone who came

through this hell and survived.

In *A Long Way Gone*, Beah, now twenty-five years old, tells a riveting story: how at the age of twelve, he fled attacking rebels and wandered a land rendered unrecognizable by violence. By thirteen, he'd been picked up by the government army, and Beah, at heart a gentle boy, found that he was capable of truly terrible acts.

This is a rare and mesmerizing account, told with real literary force and heartbreaking honesty” (*Amazon*).

### ***The Buried Giant* by Kazuo Ishiguro**

“From the winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature and author of the Booker Prize–winning novel *The Remains of the Day* comes a luminous meditation on the act of forgetting and the power of memory.

In post-Arthurian Britain, the wars that once raged between the Saxons and the Britons have finally ceased. Axl and Beatrice, an elderly British couple, set off to visit their son, whom they haven't seen in years. And, because a strange mist has caused mass amnesia throughout the land, they can scarcely remember anything about him. As they are joined on their journey by a Saxon warrior, his orphan charge, and an illustrious knight, Axl and Beatrice slowly begin to remember the dark and troubled past they all share. By turns savage, suspenseful, and intensely moving, *The Buried Giant* is a luminous meditation on the act of forgetting and the power of memory” (*Amazon*).

### ***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon**

“A bestselling modern classic—both poignant and funny—about a boy with autism who sets out to solve the murder of a neighbor's dog and discovers unexpected truths about himself and the world. Christopher John Francis Boone knows all the countries of the world and their capitals and every prime number up to 7,057. He relates well to animals but has no understanding of human emotions. He cannot stand to be touched. And he detests the color yellow. This improbable story of Christopher's quest to investigate the suspicious death of a neighborhood dog makes for one of the most captivating, unusual, and widely heralded novels in recent years” (*Amazon*).