

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 11/AP English Language and Composition (Students will read THREE books total)

Read and annotate **ALL THREE** texts in preparation for Harkness discussions on each. Please **ANNOTATE** extensively in these texts; these annotations will be part of your summer reading grades. This means we expect you to go well beyond simply highlighting and/or underlining passages. We would like you to summarize, respond to, and reflect on the texts as you read them. These annotations should include - but aren't limited to - your response to the development of characters, the plot, and emerging themes, as well identifying and reflecting on the writer's choices in structure, style, and language.

ANNOTATIONS WILL BE CHECKED AND EVALUATED ON THE FIRST DAY OF CLASSES.

1. EVERYONE WILL READ AND ANNOTATE THIS BOOK:

PLEASE PURCHASE A PRINT COPY* AS WE WILL BE USING THIS TEXT THROUGHOUT THE SEMESTER.

*If you are a student who learns more effectively using a digital version, please email Ms. Cardillo OR Ms. Franz to discuss this further. (scardillo@tampaprep.org) or (mfranz@tampaprep.org)

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*).

2. READ AND ANNOTATE ONE of the following four memoirs:

***The Line Becomes a River* by Francisco Cantu**

“For Francisco Cantú, the border is in the blood: his mother, a park ranger and daughter of a Mexican immigrant, raised him in the scrublands of the Southwest. Driven to understand the hard realities of the landscape he loves, Cantú joins the Border Patrol. He and his partners learn to track other humans under blistering sun and through frigid nights. They haul in the dead and deliver to detention those they find alive. Plagued by a growing awareness of his complicity in a dehumanizing enterprise, he abandons the Patrol for civilian life. But when an immigrant friend travels to Mexico to visit his dying mother and does not return, Cantú discovers that the border has migrated with him, and now he must know the full extent of the violence it wreaks, on both sides of the line” (*Amazon*).

***Hollywood Park* by Mikel Jollet**

“*We were never young. We were just too afraid of ourselves. No one told us who we were or what we were or where all our parents went. They would arrive like ghosts, visiting us for a morning, an afternoon. They would sit with us or walk around the grounds, to laugh or cry or toss us in the air while we screamed. Then they’d disappear again, for weeks, for months, for years, leaving us alone with our memories and dreams, our questions and confusion. ...*”

So begins *Hollywood Park*, Mikel Jollett’s remarkable memoir. His story opens in an experimental commune in California, which later morphed into the Church of Synanon, one of the country’s most infamous and dangerous cults. Per the leader’s mandate, all children, including Jollett and his older brother, were separated from their parents when they were six months old, and handed over to the cult’s “School.” After spending years in what was essentially an orphanage, Mikel escaped the cult one morning with his mother and older brother. But in many ways, life outside Synanon was even harder and more erratic” (*Amazon*).

***Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson**

“Bryan Stevenson was a young lawyer when he founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending those most desperate and in need: the poor, the wrongly condemned, and women and children trapped in the farthest reaches of our criminal justice system. One of his first cases was that of Walter McMillian, a young man who was sentenced to die for a notorious murder he insisted he didn’t commit. The case drew Bryan into a tangle of conspiracy, political machination, and legal brinkmanship—and transformed his understanding of mercy and justice forever.

Just Mercy is at once an unforgettable account of an idealistic, gifted young lawyer’s coming of age, a moving window into the lives of those he has defended, and an inspiring argument for compassion in the pursuit of true justice” (*Amazon*).

***Educated* by Tara Westover**

“Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, Tara Westover was seventeen the first time she set foot in a classroom. Her family was so isolated from mainstream society that there was no one to ensure the children received an education, and no one to intervene when one of Tara’s older brothers became violent. When another brother got himself into college, Tara decided to try a new kind of life. Her quest for knowledge transformed her, taking her over oceans and across continents, to Harvard and to

Cambridge University. Only then would she wonder if she'd traveled too far, if there was still a way home" (*Amazon*).

**3. READ AND ANNOTATE ONE of the following additional books:
PICK YOUR GENRE STUDY!**

Contemporary Fiction

***The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett**

"The Vignes twin sisters will always be identical. But after growing up together in a small, southern black community and running away at age sixteen, it's not just the shape of their daily lives that is different as adults, it's everything: their families, their communities, their racial identities. Many years later, one sister lives with her black daughter in the same southern town she once tried to escape. The other secretly passes for white, and her white husband knows nothing of her past. Still, even separated by so many miles and just as many lies, the fates of the twins remain intertwined. What will happen to the next generation, when their own daughters' storylines intersect?"

Weaving together multiple strands and generations of this family, from the Deep South to California, from the 1950s to the 1990s, Brit Bennett produces a story that is at once a riveting, emotional family story and a brilliant exploration of the American history of passing. Looking well beyond issues of race, *The Vanishing Half* considers the lasting influence of the past as it shapes a person's decisions, desires, and expectations, and explores some of the multiple reasons and realms in which people sometimes feel pulled to live as something other than their origins" (*Amazon*).

Poetry Collection

***My Mother Was a Freedom Fighter*, Aja Monet**

"*My Mother Was a Freedom Fighter* is poet Aja Monet's ode to mothers, daughters, and sisters—the tiny gods who fight to change the world.

Textured with the sights and sounds of growing up in East New York in the nineties, to school on the South Side of Chicago, all the way to the olive groves of Palestine, these stunning poems tackle racism, sexism, genocide, displacement, heartbreak, and grief, but also love, motherhood, spirituality, and Black joy" (*Amazon*)

Essay Collection

***The World Of Wonders* by Aimee Nezhukumatathil**

"As a child, Nezhukumatathil called many places home: the grounds of a Kansas mental institution, where her Filipina mother was a doctor; the open skies and tall mountains of Arizona, where she hiked with her Indian father; and the chillier climes of western New York and Ohio. But no matter where she was transplanted—no matter how awkward the fit or forbidding the landscape—she was able to turn to our world's fierce and funny creatures for guidance.

"What the peacock can do," she tells us, "is remind you of a home you will run away from and run back to all your life." The axolotl teaches us to smile, even in the face of unkindness; the touch-me-not plant shows us how to shake off unwanted advances; the narwhal demonstrates how to survive in hostile environments. Even in the strange and the unlovely, Nezhukumatathil finds beauty and kinship. For it is this way with wonder: it requires that we are curious enough to look past the distractions in order to fully

appreciate the world's gifts.

Warm, lyrical, and gorgeously illustrated by Fumi Nakamura, *World of Wonders* is a book of sustenance and joy" (*Amazon*).

Graphic Novel

***They Called Us Enemy* by George Takei**

"George Takei has captured hearts and minds worldwide with his captivating stage presence and outspoken commitment to equal rights. But long before he braved new frontiers in *Star Trek*, he woke up as a four-year-old boy to find his own birth country at war with his father's -- and their entire family forced from their home into an uncertain future.

In 1942, at the order of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, every person of Japanese descent on the west coast was rounded up and shipped to one of ten "relocation centers," hundreds or thousands of miles from home, where they would be held for years under armed guard.

They Called Us Enemy is Takei's firsthand account of those years behind barbed wire, the joys and terrors of growing up under legalized racism, his mother's hard choices, his father's faith in democracy, and the way those experiences planted the seeds for his astonishing future" (*Amazon*).