

# 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 American Literature and Composition (Students will read TWO books total)

#### 1. REQUIRED TEXT: *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck

"There it lay, the great pearl, perfect as the moon."

"Like his father and grandfather before him, Kino is a poor diver, gathering pearls from the gulf beds that once brought great wealth to the Kings of Spain and now provide Kino, Juana, and their infant son with meager subsistence. Then, on a day like any other, Kino emerges from the sea with a pearl as large as a sea gull's egg, as 'perfect as the moon.' With the pearl comes hope, the promise of comfort and of security...."

A story of classic simplicity, based on a Mexican folk tale, *The Pearl* explores the secrets of man's nature, the darkest depths of evil, and the luminous possibilities of love" (*Amazon*).

#### 2. 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.**

#### *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston

"One of the most important and enduring books of the twentieth century, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* brings to life a Southern love story with the wit and pathos found only in the writing of Zora Neale Hurston. Out of print for almost thirty years—due largely to initial audiences' rejection of its strong black female protagonist — Hurston's classic has since its 1978 reissue become perhaps the most widely read and highly acclaimed novel in the canon of African-American literature" (*Amazon*).

***The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie**

“Bestselling author Sherman Alexie tells the story of Junior, a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Determined to take his future into his own hands, Junior leaves his troubled school on the rez to attend an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot. Heartbreaking, funny, and beautifully written, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, which is based on the author's own experiences, coupled with poignant drawings by Ellen Forney that reflect the character's art, chronicles the contemporary adolescence of one Native American boy as he attempts to break away from the life he was destined to live” (*Amazon*).

***American Born Chinese* by Gene Luen Yang**

“A tour-de-force by New York Times bestselling graphic novelist Gene Yang, *American Born Chinese* tells the story of three apparently unrelated characters: Jin Wang, who moves to a new neighborhood with his family only to discover that he's the only Chinese-American student at his new school; the powerful Monkey King, subject of one of the oldest and greatest Chinese fables; and Chin-Kee, a personification of the ultimate negative Chinese stereotype, who is ruining his cousin Danny's life with his yearly visits. Their lives and stories come together with an unexpected twist in this action-packed modern fable. *American Born Chinese* is an amazing ride, all the way up to the astonishing climax” (*Amazon*).