

# 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 8

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

**1. All Middle School book:** All grades 6-8 will read the graphic novel *New Kid* by Jerry Craft. If you have already read *New Kid*, please choose its sequel *Class Act*.

#### ***New Kid*, Jerry Craft**

“Seventh grader Jordan Banks loves nothing more than drawing cartoons about his life. But instead of sending him to the art school of his dreams, his parents enroll him in a prestigious private school known for its academics, where Jordan is one of the few kids of color in his entire grade. As he makes the daily trip from his Washington Heights apartment to the upscale Riverdale Academy Day School, Jordan soon finds himself torn between two worlds—and not really fitting into either one. Can Jordan learn to navigate his new school culture while keeping his neighborhood friends and staying true to himself?” (jerrycraft.com)

#### ***Class Act* (sequel to *New Kid*), Jerry Craft**

“Eighth grader Drew Ellis is no stranger to the saying ‘You have to work twice as hard to be just as good.’ His grandmother has reminded him his entire life. But what if he works ten times as hard and still isn’t afforded the same opportunities that his privileged classmates at the Riverdale Academy Day School take for granted? To make matters worse, Drew begins to feel as if his good friend Liam might be one of those privileged kids. He wants to pretend like everything is fine, but it’s hard not to withdraw, and even their mutual friend Jordan doesn’t know how to keep the group together. As the pressures mount, will Drew find a way to bridge the divide so he and his friends can truly accept each other? And most important, will he finally be able to accept himself?” (jerrycraft.com)

**2. Choose ONE of the following novels to read:**

#### ***Scouts*, Shannon Greenland**

“Annie, Beans, Rocky, and Fynn are the Scouts—best friends who do *everything* together. It’s 1985, and the summer before the seventh grade is just beginning. The Scouts decide to secretly climb Old Man Basinger’s silo to watch a meteor shower, and when one meteor seems to crash nearby, the Scouts know they have to set

out on their next adventure and find it.

But their fun overnight jaunt through the woods soon takes a turn for the worst when they discover a series of disturbing clues about the meteor—and suddenly find themselves on the run from the wild, violent Mason clan. Bonds are tested when new kids join their adventure and the group's true feelings are revealed. Will the Scouts survive this journey together—or will their unbreakable friendships prove vulnerable after all?"

(shannongreenland.com)

### ***Ungifted, Gordon Korman***

"The word "gifted" has never been applied to Donovan Curtis. It's usually more like "don't try this at home." So when the troublemaker pulls a major prank at his middle school, he thinks he's finally gone too far. But thanks to a mix-up, instead of getting in trouble, Donovan is sent to the Academy for Scholastic Distinction, a special program for gifted and talented students.

It isn't exactly what Donovan had intended, but there couldn't be a more perfect hideout. That is, if he can fool his family, the teachers, the superintendent, and a school full of fellow students with IQs well above genius level." (gordonkorman.com)

### ***Kimchi and Calamari, Rose Kent***

"Kimchi and calamari is a quirky food fusion — and exactly how fourteen-year-old Joseph Calderaro feels about himself. Why wouldn't an adopted Korean drummer feel like a combo platter given

1. his face in the mirror and
2. his proud Italian family?

Now Joseph has to write an ancestry essay for school. But all he knows is that his birth family put his diapered butt on a plane to the USA.

What Joseph does leads to a catastrophe messier than a table of shattered dishes — and self-discovery that he never could have imagined." (rosekent.com)

### ***Flipped, Wendelin Van Draanen***

"When Bryce Loski moves into the neighborhood, Juli Baker flips. He's the cutest thing she's ever seen. As elementary school gives way to middle school, Juli's crush persists as does Bryce's avoidance of his annoying neighbor. And then they start to see each other for who they truly are. Told in alternating boy/girl chapters, this is a story about passion, perspective, and family, and getting to the heart of what matters."

(wendelinvand.com)