

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 9: Introduction to Genres of Literature and Modes of Writing
(Students will read TWO books and TWO short stories)

1. REQUIRED: Click [HERE](#) to access the two short stories.

2. REQUIRED: *Long Way Down: The Graphic Novel* by Jason Reynolds and illustrated by Danica Novgorodoff.

“Jason Reynolds’s Newbery Honor, Printz Honor, and Coretta Scott King Honor–winning, #1 *New York Times* bestselling novel *Long Way Down* is now a gripping, galvanizing graphic novel, with haunting artwork by Danica Novgorodoff.

Will’s older brother, Shawn, has been shot.

Dead.

Will feels a sadness so great, he can’t explain it. But in his neighborhood, there are THE RULES:

No. 1: Crying.

Don’t.

No matter what.

No. 2: Snitching

Don’t.

No matter what.

No. 3: Revenge

Do.

No matter what.

But bullets miss. You can get the wrong guy. And there’s always someone else who knows to follow the rules...”(simonandshuster.com)

3. REQUIRED: Choose ONE of the following four 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.

***The Poet X* by Elizabeth Acevedo and Quill Tree Books**

“Xiomara Batista feels unheard and unable to hide in her Harlem neighborhood. Ever since her body grew into curves, she has learned to let her fists and her fierceness do the talking.

But Xiomara has plenty she wants to say, and she pours all her frustration and passion onto the pages of a leather notebook, reciting the words to herself like prayers—especially after she catches feelings for a boy in her bio class named Aman, who her family can never know about.

With Mami’s determination to force her daughter to obey the laws of the church, Xiomara understands that her thoughts are best kept to herself. So when she is invited to join her school’s slam poetry club, she doesn’t know how she could ever attend without her mami finding out. But she still can’t stop thinking about performing her poems.

Because in the face of a world that may not want to hear her, Xiomara refuses to be silent” (Harper Collins Publishing).

***The Canyon’s Edge* by Dusti Bowling**

“One year after a random shooting changed their family forever, Nora and her father are exploring a slot canyon deep in the Arizona desert, hoping it will help them find peace. Nora longs for things to go back to normal, like they were when her mother was still alive, while her father keeps them isolated in fear of other people. But when they reach the bottom of the canyon, the unthinkable happens: A flash flood rips across their path, sweeping away Nora’s father and all of their supplies.

Suddenly, Nora finds herself lost and alone in the desert, facing dehydration, venomous scorpions, deadly snakes, and, worst of all, the Beast who has terrorized her dreams for the past year. If Nora is going to save herself and her father, she must conquer her fears, defeat the Beast, and find the courage to live her new life” (*Amazon*).

***Shift* by Jennifer Bradbury**

This coming of age story begins after best friends Chris and Win separate abruptly near the end of a cross-country bicycle adventure to celebrate their high school graduation. Chris has no idea where his friend is, and frankly, doesn’t care. However, the FBI cares, and their investigation, instigated by Win’s domineering father, forces Chris to examine their adventure together to try to pinpoint what went wrong, where Win is now and what, if anything, Chris can do to help his friend.

***The War That Saved My Life* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley**

“Enormously satisfying and fun to read, Bradley takes a work of historical fiction and gives the whole premise of WWII evacuees a kick in the pants. Ada is ten and as far as she can tell she’s never been outdoors. Never felt the sun on her face. Never seen grass. Born with a twisted foot her mother considers her an abomination and her own personal shame. So when the chance comes for Ada to join her fellow child evacuees, including her little brother Jamie, out of the city during WWII she leaps at the chance. Escaping to the English

countryside, the two are foisted upon a woman named Susan who declares herself to be "not nice" from the start. Under her care the siblings grow and change. Ada discovers Susan's pony and is determined from the get-go to ride it. And as the war progresses and things grow dire, she finds that the most dangerous thing isn't the bombs or the war itself. It's hope. And it's got her number" (E.R. Bird).