La Lumiere School: Summer Reading 2022

Our summer reading this year explores a protagonist on a journey to discover love and justice and one’s place in the community in chaotic times. As students read, they’ll engage with complicated, strong, poetic protagonists who, against sometimes insurmountable odds, make the world around them a bit better with their resilience and spirit. This year, each grade level will read one novel, split up as you see below.

For Grades 9 and 10: The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros

Esperanza Cordero, astute observer of life and one of the most interesting and interested teen narrators ever created, wants a house of her own. And a friend—one who won’t betray her friendship tomorrow to the highest bidder with a fancier bicycle. Esperanza, who wants someday to change her name to Zeze the X, lives in an interesting neighborhood in Chicago filled with interesting people, and in this now-classic novel, written as a series of short, pithy vignettes, Cisneros explores how Esperanza negotiates finding her place in a community of interesting people while holding onto that hopeful, incisive imagination that makes her stand out.

For Grades 11 and 12: Firekeeper’s Daughter by Angeline Boulley

Michael L. Printz Award Winner & #1 New York Times Bestseller
“One of this year’s most buzzed about young adult novels.”
—Good Morning America

From the book jacket: “Eighteen-year old Daunis Fontaine has never quite fit in, both in her hometown and on the nearby Ojibwe reservation. She dreams of a fresh start at college, but when family tragedy strikes, Daunis puts her future on hold to look after her fragile mother. The only bright spot is meeting Jamie, the charming new recruit on her brother Levi’s hockey team. Yet even as Daunis falls for Jamie, she senses the dashing hockey star is hiding something. Everything comes to light when Daunis witnesses a shocking murder, thrusting her into an FBI investigation of a new lethal drug.” Follow Daunis Fontaine’s investigation, fraught with danger around every turn, as she discovers that not all is what it seems, and that change and healing can happen when a community rallies together.

Content Warning: Violence/Drugs/Sexuality. An explanation by the author: “One all-too-real aspect of the story is the rampant violence against Native women. More than four in five (84%) Native women have experienced violence in their lifetime and more than half (56%) have experienced sexual violence. Nearly all (97%) of the Native women who have experienced violence had at least one non-Native perpetrator. Although it is a difficult and exhausting narrative, I felt it was important to show the painful reality of these experiences, especially within the specific context of the predatory targeting of Native women and the jurisdictional quagmire on tribal lands.” (Boulley 490)
For AP English: A Book to be Assigned
Students in AP English will be contacted in early July with a reading assignment to complete before the beginning of the year. Please contact Mr. Benedict if you have any questions.