To guide you as you are reading, the Advising and Summer Reading Committee compiled a list of questions. Please answer the questions, and bring your responses to the small group discussions during Turning Titan: New Student Orientation on Wednesday, August 20th. In addition, you are encouraged to review and think about the “Questions for Discussion” listed at the end of *The Madonnas of Echo Park*.

1. How does the shooting of the ‘Baby Madonna’ tie the stories together?

2. For the various characters, what does it mean to be American? Mexican? Mexican American? Did your definitions change after reading this book? If so, how?

3. How do you define the “American Dream”? How do the characters define the “American Dream”? Do these differ? If so, how?

4. In the foreword, the author shares a regrettable childhood interaction around race that sets the stage for the story to follow. Have you experienced or witnessed any similar interactions with people who are different than you are? Are there things you might do differently to change a past interaction if you had a chance? Have you thought about ways in which you will interact with peers at IWU who are different from you?