Packer Collegiate Institute
Summer Reading List 2015

10th Grade Required Reading:

**Ragtime** by E.L. Doctorow

The lives of three remarkable families become entwined with Henry Ford, Harry Houdini, J.P. Morgan, Theodore Dreiser, Sigmund Freud, and Emiliano Zapata at the turn of the century.

**What are my Reading Choices?**

Enclosed is your Summer Reading List. These books have been selected by your librarians and include a variety of genres and subjects. Incoming juniors and seniors should choose at least **THREE** titles from this list to read. Incoming sophomores should choose at least **TWO** titles from this list to read. At the end of the summer, you will need to write a letter to your new advisor. (Your advisor's name will be included with information sent to you in August from the Upper School office.) This letter is a great way to introduce yourself and talk about the books you read over the summer. Tell your advisor what you liked about the books you read - or what you didn't like. This letter should be about 200 words long and emailed to your advisor or delivered in person on the first day of school. Summer Reading advisor letters are due September 10, 2015.

You will find many of these books at Packer's Book Fair May 7th-May 9th. Your local library, bookstore, or ebook store is likely to carry the other titles. Enjoy your Summer and Happy Reading!

Mrs. Dorfman, Librarian
Mr. Parson, Library Department Head
New This Year

**Dark Eden by Chris Beckett**
On a sunless planet called Eden, the 532 members of the Family seek shelter and warmth under the Forest's lantern trees, and the legends of ancestors who built ships that could cross the stars inspire young John Redlanter to venture out into the dark and discover the truth about Eden.

**Nine Years Under by Sheri Booker**
A memoir of Sheri Booker, who was only fifteen years old when she started working at Wylie Funeral Home in West Baltimore, she had no idea that her summer job would become nine years of immersion in a hidden world.

**The Lives of Tao by Wesley Chu**
Roen wakes up one morning to the sounds of an ancient alien life-form in his head. The Tao are split into two factions and are fighting to create soldiers out of humans.

**The Book of Unknown Americans by Cristina Henriquez**
[Realistic Fiction]
Moving from Mexico to America when their daughter suffers a near-fatal accident, the Riveras confront cultural barriers, their daughter's difficult recovery and her developing relationship with a Panamanian boy.
Relish by Lucy Knisley
Presents a graphic novel memoir of cartoonist Lucy Knisley and her obsession with cooking and food.

March: Book One by John Lewis
Presents in graphic novel format events from the life of Georgia congressman John Lewis, focusing on his youth in rural Alabama, his meeting with Martin Luther King Jr., and the birth of the Nashville Student Movement.

Sea of Tranquility by Katha Millay
[Realistic Fiction- Abusive Relationship]
After an unspeakable tragedy, Nastya Kashnikov moves to a new town to keep a distance from her past and is drawn to another isolated person, Josh.

The Cooked Seed by Anchee Min
The sequel to Anchee Min's memoir "Red Azalea," in which she comes to America to find her way, her voice, and her love.

Reconstructing Amelia by Kimberly McCreight
Kate, a lawyer, investigates her daughter's suicide at a private school after she receives an anonymous text message implying it was murder.
Death of Bees by Lisa O’Donnell
Fifteen-year-old Marnie and her little sister, Nelly, are on their own after they bury their parents in the backyard and after a while the old man from next door, Lennie, takes them in but soon their friends, teachers and the police begin to ask too many questions about their parents and the lies begin to stack up.

Golden Boy by Tara Sullivan
A Tanzanian albino boy finds himself the ultimate outsider, hunted because of the color of his skin.

Fiction & Non-Fiction

The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander
Argues that mass incarceration of African- and Latino Americans in the United States is a form of social control, and contends the civil rights community needs to become more active in protecting the rights of criminals.

Northanger Abbey by Jane Austen
Young Catherine Morland’s entry into nineteenth-century English society is attended by the collapse of many romantic illusions.

Giovanni’s Room by James Baldwin
Set in the contemporary Paris of American expatriate liaisons, and violence, a young man finds himself caught between desire and conventional morality.
Lexicon by Max Barry
Emily Ruff belongs to a secret organization whose "poets" can break down individuals by psychographic markers in order to take control of their thoughts. Then she makes a catastrophic mistake and falls in love, breaking her organization’s rules.

The White Boy Shuffle by Paul Beatty
After moving from Santa Monica to West Los Angeles, awkward young Gunnar Kaufman changes from a surfer bum outcast to a messianic basketball hero with very strong and very public opinions on race and suicide.

A Clockwork Orange by Anthony Burgess
In the Slav-oriented state of the future, the Lower Orders are in ascendance and happy hooligans roam the London streets, bashing senior citizens in the eyes with bicycle chains.

Kindred by Octavia Butler
A young African-American woman is mysteriously transferred back in time leading to an irresistible curiosity about her family's past.

One Summer, American 1927 by Bill Bryson
Chronicles the sensational events of the summer of 1927, including the trans-Atlantic flight of Charles Lindbergh, the premier of the first "talking picture," and the beginning of Babe Ruth's home run record.

In Cold Blood by Truman Capote
An account of the murders of the four members of the Clutter family in Holcomb, Kansas, in 1959 by two drifters who fled to Mexico and were later arrested and executed for their crimes.
Silent Spring by Rachel Carson
This 1962 environmental classic introduced the American public to the dangers of indiscriminate pesticide posed to our environment.

The Brief and Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao by Junot Díaz
Overweight and nerdy Oscar lives with his Dominican American mother and sister in New Jersey and dreams of becoming a renowned author and finding true love, but unfortunately, a family curse stands in the way of his wishes.

Great Expectations by Charles Dickens
An unknown person has provided money for the education of Pip, a poor English boy, in nineteenth-century England.

Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison
A nameless narrator, expelled from a Negro college, moves to New York to become the chief spokesman for the Harlem branch of "the Brotherhood."

Like Water for Chocolate by Laura Esquivel
A romantic and poignant tale of love and family life in turn-of-the-century Mexico.

Bicycles: Love Poems by Nikki Giovanni
David and Goliath by Malcolm Gladwell
Argues that the obstacles and disadvantages experienced by the underdog require adaptations that can lead to benefits and success in professional life, and draws upon examples from the world of business, sports, and culture.

The Sun Also Rises by Ernest Hemingway
Focuses on a "lost generation" of Americans who fought in France during World War I and who expatriated themselves from America after the war.

Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston
Janie Crawford, a Southern black woman in the 1930s, journeys from a free-spirited girl to a woman of independence and substance.

Suddenly, A Knock at the Door by Etgar Keret
Humor, sadness, and compassion fill this collection of very short short stories.

The Woman Warrior by Maxine Hong Kingston
A memoir of the American-born daughter of Chinese immigrants who lived within the traditions and fears of the Chinese past as well as the realities of the alien modern American culture.

Let’s Pretend This Never Happened by Jenny Lawson
Blogger Lawson brings humor and pathos to dark and disturbing, but also wonderful, moments of everyday life.
Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything by Steven D. Levitt & Stephen J. Dubner
The authors explore the economics of real-world issues often viewed as insignificant, such as the extent to which the Roe v. Wade decision affected violent crime, and examine hidden incentives behind all sorts of human behavior.

Call of the Cthulhu by H.P. Lovecraft
Short story of cosmic terror and demonic creatures.

The Heart is a Lonely Hunter by Carson McCullers
A deaf mute who has lost his only friend to a hospital for the insane becomes the recipient of the confidences of several other town residents.

Lonesome Dove by Larry McMurtry
Two former Texas Rangers, Augustus McCrae and Woodrow Call, leave their Texas ranch to lead a cattle drive to Montana, encountering outlaws, Native Americans, and ex-loves along the way.

V for Vendetta by Alan Moore
A collection of comics from the "V for Vendetta" series, which recounts one man’s attempts to rise up against the oppressive government.

The Night Circus by Erin Morgenstern
A circus known as Le Cirque des Reves features two illusionists, Celia and Marco, who are unknowingly competing in a game to which they have been irrevocably bound by their mercurial masters, and as the two fall deeply and passionately in love with each other, their masters intervene with dangerous consequences.
Sula by Toni Morrison
Traces the lives of two African-American heroines from their growing up together in a small Ohio town, to their sharply divergent paths of womanhood, to their ultimate confrontation and reconciliation.

Blindness by José Saramago
Chaos ensues when a city is struck with an epidemic of blindness in which its victims see only white, and a doctor who is locked in an asylum for the affliction is taken care of by his wife, who has retained her sight.

Tales of the Genji by Murasaki Shikibu
In this early eleventh-century novel, a Japanese nobleman named Genji seeks romance in the Emperor’s highly refined court.

The Signal and the Noise by Nate Silver
Silver built an innovative system for predicting baseball performance, predicted the 2008 election within a hair’s breadth, and became a national sensation as a blogger. Drawing on his own groundbreaking work, Silver examines the world of prediction.

My Beloved World by Sonia Sotomayor
Supreme Court justice Sonia Sotomayor shares details about her life, discussing her childhood, education, health, career, appointment, and more.

Ake by Wole Soyinka
Soyinka’s masterful memories presents the story of his boyhood before and during World War II in a Yoruba village in western Nigeria called Aké.
The Secret History by Donna Tartt
Richard Papen becomes embroiled in a society of brutal and deadly secrets from which he is unable to escape when an elite group of students from the prestigious Hampden College accept him into their group.

Anna Karenina by Leo Tolstoy
In nineteenth-century Russia, the wife of an important government official loses her family and social status when she chooses the love of Count Vronsky over a passionless marriage.

Roughing It by Mark Twain
These memoirs recount the writer and humorist’s scuffling years, during which he beat a path across the American West and all the way to Hawaii.

The Silver Star by Jeanette Walls
Two motherless sisters, Bean and Liz, are shuttled to Virginia to live with their Uncle Tinsley in a decaying mansion. When school starts in the fall, Bean easily adjusts and makes friends, and Liz becomes increasingly withdrawn. Then something happens to Liz and Bean is left to challenge the injustice of the adult world.

Age of Innocence by Edith Wharton
A portrayal of New York society in the 1870s where money counted for less than manners and morals.

Alif the Unseen by Willow G. Wilson
In Middle Eastern security state, a young Arab-Indian hacker shields clients, dissidents, outlaws, Islamists, and other watched groups, from surveillance and tries to stay out of trouble but the aristocratic woman Alif loves has jilted him for a prince chosen by her parents, and his computer has just been breached by the
State's electronic security force, putting his clients and his own neck on the line.

**White Like Me by Tim Wise**
Tim Wise explores what it means to be part of the white majority in America, examining what benefits whites reap, how they approach racism, and the cost of racial privilege.

**Frozen in Time: An Epic Story of Survival and a Modern Quest for the Lost Heroes of World War II by Mitchell Zuckoff**
In November 1942, a U.S. cargo plane crashed into the Greenland ice cap, the B-17 sent on the search-and-rescue mission got caught in a storm and also crashed, miraculously all nine men aboard survived. A second rescue operation was launched, but the plane, the Grumman Duck, flew into a storm and vanished. The survivors of the B-17 spent 148 days fighting to stay alive while waiting for rescue by famed explorer Bernt Balchen. Then in 2012 the U.S. Coast Guard and North South Polar mount an expedition to solve the mystery of the vanished plane and recover the remains of the lost plane’s crew.