Packer Collegiate Institute
Summer Reading List 2015

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.

7th Grade

7th Grade Required Reading:
The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie
[Realistic Fiction]
Budding cartoonist Junior leaves his troubled school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white farm town school where the only other Native American is the school mascot.

In addition to the required reading, you should choose at least TWO titles from this list to read. In the Fall, your teachers will ask you to write about your two selections.

8th Grade

You should choose at least THREE titles from this list to read. We believe reading is a lifelong habit that must be nurtured, even in the summer. (Of course, we hope you will read many more than three books over the summer!) In the Fall, your teachers will ask you to write about your three selections.

You will find many of these books at Packer’s Book Fair May 6th-May 8th. 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 & Noteworthy

**Dreaming in Indian: Contemporary Native American Voices** Edited by Lisa Charleyboy & Mary Beth Leatherdale  
[Non-Fiction, Short Stories & Memoirs]  
Looks at over fifty emerging and established contemporary Native American artists.

**The Family Romanov: Murder, Rebellion, and the Fall of Imperial Russia** by Candace Fleming  
[Non-Fiction]  
Details the history of Russia's last royal family, the Romanovs.

**Skink: No Surrender** by Carl Hiaasen  
[Mystery]  
With the help of an eccentric ex-governor, a teenaged boy searches for his missing cousin in the Florida wilds.

**The Story of Owen: Dragonslayer of Trondheim** by E.K. Johnston  
[Fantasy/Adventure Fiction]  
In an alternate world where industrialization has caused many species of carbon-eating dragons to thrive, Owen, a slayer being trained by his famous father and aunt, and Siobahn, his bard, face a dragon infestation near their small town in Canada.

**Like No Other** by Una Lamarche  
[Realistic Fiction]  
Devorah, a young Hasidic Jewish woman with a strict upbringing, and Jaxon, a fun-loving, book-smart nerd, who live across the street from one another in Brooklyn and have never met are trapped together in an elevator during a hurricane and make a connection. Even though their relationship is forbidden, they continue to meet.
March: Book Two by John Lewis & Andrew Aydin, Illustrated by Nate Powell
[Non-Fiction/Graphic Novel]
Presents in graphic novel format 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.

(March: Book One)

We Were Liars by E. Lockhart
[Realistic Fiction/Mystery]
Spending the summers on her family's private island off the coast of Massachusetts with her cousins and a special boy named Gat, teenaged Cadence struggles to remember what happened during her fifteenth summer.

Egg & Spoon by Gregory Maguire
[Fantasy/Fairy Tale]
Impoverished Russian country girl Elena Rudina and the aristocratic Ekatrina meet and set in motion an escapade that includes mistaken identity, a monk locked in a tower, a prince traveling incognito, and the witch Baba Yaga.

A Volcano Beneath the Snow: John Brown's War Against Slavery by Albert Marrin
[Biography]
A biography of American abolitionist John Brown, discussing his childhood, his career and family, and his involvement in the abolition movement during the Civil War in which he led a raid on a military armory at Harper's Ferry, West Virginia.

The Ghosts of Heaven by Marcus Sedgwick
[Historical Fiction/Science Fiction]
Four linked stories of discovery and survival begin with a Paleolithic-era girl who makes the first written signs, continue with Anna, who people call a witch, then a mad twentieth-century poet who watches the ocean knowing the horrors it hides, and concluding with an astronaut on the first spaceship from Earth sent to colonize another world.
Lies We Tell Ourselves by Robin Talley  
[Historical Fiction]  
In 1959 Virginia, Linda Hairston, who has been taught all her life that the races should be kept "separate but equal," must work on a school project with Sarah Dunbar, one of the first African-American students at the all-white Jefferson High School.

This One Summer by Mariko Tamaki  
[Graphic Novel/Realistic Fiction]  
Rose and her parents go on vacation to Awago Beach like they do every year, but this year Rose's mom and dad won't stop fighting and she turns to her friend Windy for help dealing with her troubled family life.

Popular: Vintage Wisdom for a Modern Geek by Maya Van Wagenen  
[Memoir]  
Presents a memoir of a one year social experiment in which teen author Maya Van Wagenen followed a 1950's popularity guide, written by former teen model Betty Cornell.

Hold Tight, Don’t Let Go by Laura Rose Wagner  
[Realistic Fiction]  
In the aftermath of the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, Nadine goes to live with her father in Miami while her cousin Magdalie, raised as her sister, remains behind in a refugee camp, dreaming of joining Nadine but wondering if she must accept that her life and future are in Port-au-Prince.

Fiction & Non-Fiction  
Me, Earl and The Dying Girl by Jesse Andrews  
[Realistic Fiction]  
Seventeen-year-old Greg has managed to become part of every social group at his Pittsburgh high school without having any friends, but his life changes when his mother forces him to befriend Rachel, a girl he once knew in Hebrew school who has leukemia.
Shadow and Bone by Leigh Bardugo
[Fantasy]
Orphaned by the Border Wars, Alina Starkov is taken from obscurity and her only friend, Mal, to become the protege of the mysterious Darkling, who trains her to join the magical elite in the belief that she is the Sun Summoner, who can destroy the monsters of the Fold.

(Siege and Storm, Ruin and Rising)
The Boy in the Striped Pajamas: A Fable by John Boyne
[Historical Fiction]
Bored and lonely after his family moves from Berlin to a place called "Out-With" in 1942, Bruno, the son of a Nazi officer, befriends a boy in striped pajamas who lives behind a wire fence.

If I Ever Get Out of Here by Eric Gansworth
[Realistic Fiction]
Seventh-grader Lewis "Shoe" Blake from the Tuscarora Reservation has a new friend, George Haddonfield from the local Air Force base, but in 1975 upstate New York there is a lot of tension and hatred between Native Americans and Whites--and Lewis is not sure that he can rely on friendship.

Ruby Red by Kerstin Gier
[Science Fiction]
Sixteen-year-old Gwyneth Shepherd unexpectedly travels through time to the eighteenth century, and she must find out why her mother lied about her date of birth to hide her ability, research her history, and work with Gideon, another time traveler.

(Sapphire Blue, Emerald Green)
The Fault in Our Stars by John Green
[Realistic Fiction]
Sixteen-year-old Hazel, a stage IV thyroid cancer patient, has accepted her terminal diagnosis until a chance meeting with a boy at cancer support group forces her to reexamine her perspective on love, loss, and life.

A Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time by Mark Haddon
[Mystery]
Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, Christopher, a mathematically-gifted, autistic fifteen-year-old boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secret information about his mother.
Hex Hall by Rachel Hawkins
[Fantasy]
Witch Sophie Mercer, having been sent to a reform school by her father after a prom night spell went horribly wrong, learns her roommate, who is the only vampire on campus, is the suspect in a series of attacks on students and sets out to find the real culprit.

Openly Straight by Bill Konigsberg
[Realistic Fiction]
Tired of being known as “the gay kid”, Rafe Goldberg decides to assume a new persona when he comes east and enters an elite Massachusetts prep school--but trying to deny his identity has both complications and unexpected consequences.

Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mount Everest Disaster by Jon Krakauer
[Non-Fiction]
The author relates his experience of climbing Mount Everest during its deadliest season and examines what it is about the mountain that makes people willingly subject themselves to such risk, hardship, and expense.

Thrice Told Tales by Catherine Lewis
[Non-Fiction]
Uses the "Three Blind Mice" nursery rhyme to illustrate key elements of writing and literature, including plot, mechanics, foreshadowing, point of view, character, style, and dialogue.

The Young Elites by Marie Lu
[Fantasy/Adventure Fiction]
Adelina Amouteru survived the blood fever, a deadly illness that killed many, but left others with strange markings and supernatural powers. Cast out by her family, Adelina joins the secret society of the Young Elites and discovers her own dangerous abilities.
A Corner of White by Jaclyn Moriarty
[Fantasy]
Fourteen-year-old Madeleine of Cambridge, England, struggling to cope with poverty and her mother's illness, and fifteen-year-old Elliot of the Kingdom of Cello in a parallel world where colors are villainous and his father is missing, begin exchanging notes through a crack between their worlds and find they can be of great help to each other.
(The Cracks in the Kingdom)

Bad Boy: A Memoir by Walter Dean Myers
[Memoir]
Author Walter Dean Myers describes his childhood in Harlem in the 1940s and 1950s, discussing his loving stepmother, his problems in school, his reasons for leaving home, and his beginnings as a writer.

How I Discovered Poetry by Marilyn Nelson
[Memoir/Poetry]
A powerful and thought-provoking Civil Rights era memoir from one of America's most celebrated poets.

The Knife of Never Letting Go by Patrick Ness
[Science Fiction]
Todd, one month away from an important birthday, learns all the tough lessons of adulthood when he is forced to flee after discovering a secret near the town where he lives.
(The Ask and The Answer, Monsters of Men)

Open Mic: Riffs on Life Between Cultures in Ten Voices Edited by Mitali Perkins
[Non-Fiction]
Shares stories about growing up in diverse homes or communities, from an Asian youth who gains temporary popularity by making up a false background, to a biracial girl whose father clears subway seats by calmly sitting between two prejudiced women.

Eleanor & Park by Rainbow Rowell
[Realistic Fiction]
Set over the course of one school year in 1986, this is the story of two star-crossed misfits—smart enough to know that first love almost never lasts, but brave and desperate enough to try.
Between Shades of Gray by Ruta Sepetys
[Historical Fiction]
In 1941, fifteen-year-old Lina, her mother, and brother are pulled from their Lithuanian home by Soviet guards and sent to Siberia, where her father is sentenced to death in a prison camp while she fights for her life, vowing to honor her family and the thousands like hers by burying her story in a jar on Lithuanian soil.

The Riverman by Aaron Starmer
[Fantasy]
Fiona Loomis claims she is visiting a parallel universe where a nefarious being called The Riverman is stealing the souls of children and the boy she asks to write her biography because she fears her soul may be next.

It’s Kind of a Funny Story by Ned Vizzini
[Realistic Fiction]
New York City teenager Craig Gilner succumbs to academic and social pressures at an elite high school and enters a psychiatric hospital after attempting suicide.

A Time to Dance by Padma Venkatrama
[Realistic Fiction in Verse]
In India, a girl who excels at Bharatanatyam dance refuses to give up after losing a leg in an accident.

Leviathan by Scott Westerfeld
[Science Fiction]
In an alternate 1914 Europe, fifteen-year-old Austrian Prince Alek, on the run from the Clanker Powers who are attempting to take over the globe using mechanical machinery, forms an uneasy alliance with Deryn who, disguised as a boy to join the British Air Service, is learning to fly genetically-engineered beasts.

If You Come Softly by Jacqueline Woodson
[Realistic Fiction]
After meeting at their private school in New York, fifteen-year-old Jeremiah, who is black and whose parents are separated, and Ellie, who is white and whose mother has twice abandoned her, fall in love and then try to cope with peoples’ reactions.
The 5th Wave by Rick Yancey  
[Science Fiction]  
Cassie Sullivan, the survivor of an alien invasion, must rescue her young brother from the enemy with help from a boy who may be one of them.

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak  
[Historical Fiction]  
Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel—a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.

Classics

The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams  
[Science Fiction]  
Seconds before Earth is demolished to make room for a galactic freeway, an earthman is saved by his friend. Together they journey through the galaxy.  
(The Restaurant at the End of the Universe; Life, The Universe and Everything; So Long and Thanks for all the Fish, Mostly Harmless, And Another Thing...)

Watership Down by Richard Adams  
[Fantasy/Adventure Fiction]  
A group of hardy Berkshire rabbits share many adventures together as they search for a safe place to establish a new warren after the destruction of their community.

The Good Earth by Pearl S. Buck  
[Historical Fiction]  
The story of a Chinese peasant and his passionate, dogged accumulation of land during famine, drought, and revolution.
The Red Badge of Courage by Stephen Crane
[Historical Fiction]
During his service in the Civil War, a young Union soldier matures to manhood and finds peace of mind as he comes to grips with his conflicting emotions about war.

The Three Musketeers by Alexander Dumas
[Adventure Fiction]
During the reign of France's King Louis XIV, D'Artagnan and three musketeers unite to defend the honor of Anne of Austria against the plots of Cardinal Richelieu.

Brave New World by Aldous Huxley
[Science Fiction]
A satirical novel about the utopia of the future, a world in which babies are decanted from bottles and the great Ford is worshipped.

Going After Cacciato by Tim O'Brien
[Historical Fiction]
An American soldier in Vietnam decides to leave the war and simply walks out of the jungle, with the intent of going to Paris.

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith
[Historical Fiction]
Young Francie Nolan, having inherited both her father's romantic and her mother's practical nature, struggles to survive and thrive growing up in the slums of Brooklyn in the early twentieth century.

The Fellowship of the Ring by J.R.R Tolkien
[Fantasy]
Frodo the hobbit and a band of warriors from the different kingdoms set out to destroy the Ring of Power before the evil Sauron grasps control.
(The Two Towers, The Return of the King)
The Time Machine by H.G. Wells
[Science Fiction]
Relates the adventures of a scientist who invents a machine that transports him into the future.