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.

5th 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.

6th Grade

6th Grade Required Reading:  
Chew On This: Everything You Don’t Want to Know About Fast Food by Eric Schlosser & Charles Wilson  
[Non-Fiction]  
A look at fast food, what’s in it, how it's made, and what it does to our bodies.

Plan on reading this book as close to September as possible because it will be discussed in your Health class when you return to school.
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.

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 & Noteworthy

**The Crossover by Kwame Alexander**  
[Realistic Fiction in Verse]  
Fourteen-year-old twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan wrestle with highs and lows on and off the court as their father ignores his declining health.

**Doll Bones by Holly Black**  
[Adventure Fiction/Ghost Story]  
Zach, Alice, and Poppy, friends from a Pennsylvania middle school who have long enjoyed acting out imaginary adventures with dolls and action figures, embark on a real-life quest to Ohio to bury a doll made from the ashes of a dead girl.

**Jinx by Sage Blackwood**  
[Fantasy]  
A young boy named Jinx encounters magic and danger as he grows up in the deep, dark forest known as the Urwald and discovers that the world beyond--and within--the Urwald is more complex than he could imagine.

*(Jinx’s Magic)*

**Flora & Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures by Kate DiCamillo**  
[Fantasy]  
A girl named Flora and a squirrel named Ulysses, whose life was saved by Flora after he was involved in an incident with a vacuum cleaner, team up to use Ulysses’ superpowers to conquer villains and protect the weak.

**Better Nate Than Ever by Time Federle**  
[Realistic Fiction]  
An eighth-grader who dreams of performing in a Broadway musical concocts a plan to run away to New York and audition for the role of Elliot in the musical version of "E.T."

*(Five, Six, Seven, Nate!)*
Counting by 7s by Holly Sloan Goldberg
[Realistic Fiction]
Twelve-year-old genius and outsider Willow Chance must figure out how to connect with other people and find a surrogate family for herself after her parents are killed in a car accident.

The Thing About Luck by Cynthia Kadohata
[Realistic Fiction]
Just when twelve-year-old Summer thinks nothing else can possibly go wrong in a year of bad luck, an emergency takes her parents to Japan, leaving Summer to care for her little brother while helping her grandmother cook and do laundry for harvest workers.

The Boy on the Wooden Box: How the Impossible Became Possible…on Schindler’s List: A Memoir by Leon Leyson
[Biography]
Leon Leyson describes growing up in Poland, being forced from home to ghetto to concentration camps by the Nazis, and being saved by Oskar Schindler.

A Snicker of Magic by Natalie Lloyd
[Fantasy]
The Pickles are new to Midnight Gulch, Tennessee, a town which legend says was once magic—but Felicity is convinced the magic is still there, and with the help of her new friend Jonah the Beedle she hopes to bring the magic back.

Zane and the Hurricane: A Story of Katrina by W.R. Philbrick
[Realistic Fiction]
A twelve-year-old boy and his dog become trapped in New Orleans during the horrors of Hurricane Katrina.
West of the Moon by Margi Preus
[Historical Fiction/Fantasy]
In nineteenth-century Norway, fourteen-year-old Astri, whose aunt has sold her to a mean goatherder, dreams of joining her father in America.

The Port Chicago 50: Disaster, Mutiny and the Fight for Civil Rights by Steve Sheinkin
[Non-Fiction]
Describes the fifty black sailors who refused to work in unsafe and unfair conditions after an explosion in Port Chicago killed 320 servicemen, and how the incident influenced civil rights.

Rump: The True Story of Rumpelstiltskin by Liesl Shurtliff
[Fantasy/Fairy Tale]
Relates the tale of Rumpelstiltskin’s childhood and youth, explaining why his name is so important, how he is able to spin straw into gold, and why a first-born child is his reward for helping the miller’s daughter-turned-queen.

One Came Home by Amy Timberlake
[Historical Fiction]
In 1871 Wisconsin, thirteen-year-old Georgia sets out to find her sister Agatha, presumed dead when remains are found wearing the dress she was last seen in, and before the end of the year gains fame as a sharpshooter and foiler of counterfeiters.

The Paperboy by Vince Vawter
[Historical Fiction]
When an eleven-year-old boy takes over a friend’s newspaper route in July, 1959, in Memphis, his debilitating stutter makes for a memorable month.

Fiction & Non-Fiction
George Washington, Spymaster: How the Americans Outspied the British and won the Revolutionary War by Thomas B. Allen
[Non-Fiction]
Examines how George Washington used espionage during the American Revolutionary War, discussing the Culper Ring, the Sons of Liberty, codes, ciphers, and more.

The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate
[Realistic Fiction in Verse]
When Ivan, a gorilla who has lived for years in a down-and-out circus-themed mall, meets Ruby, a baby elephant that has been added to the mall, he decides that he must find her a better life.

Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World by Jennifer Armstrong
[Non-Fiction]
Describes the events of the 1914 Shackleton Antarctic expedition when, after being trapped in a frozen sea for nine months, their ship, Endurance, was finally crushed, forcing Shackleton and his men to make a very long and perilous journey to reach inhabited land.

Seer of Shadows by AVI
[Historical Fiction/Fantasy]
Photographer Horace Carptine is commissioned to do a portrait for society matron Mrs. Frederick Von Macht; however, the photos evoke both the image and the ghost of the Von Macht's dead daughter, Eleanora, who has returned to seek vengence on those who killed her.

Hold Fast by Blue Balliet
[Realistic Fiction]
On a cold winter day in Chicago, Early's father disappeared, and now she, her mother and her brother have been forced to flee their apartment and join the ranks of the homeless--and it is up to Early to hold her family together and solve the mystery surrounding her father.
Cosmic by Frank Boyce
[Science Fiction]
Twelve-year-old Liam, who looks like he is thirty and is tired of being treated like he is older than he actually is, decides he is going to pose as the adult chaperone on the first spaceship to take civilians into space, but when he ends up in outer space with a group of kids and no adult supervision, he must think fast to make things right.

Jefferson’s Sons: A Founding Father’s Secret Children by Kimberly Bradley
[Historical Fiction]
A fictionalized look at the last twenty years of Thomas Jefferson’s life at Monticello through the eyes of three of his slaves, including two who were his sons by his slave, Sally Hemings.

Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper
[Realistic Fiction]
Considered by many to be mentally retarded, a brilliant, impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy discovers a technological device that will allow her to speak for the first time.

The London Eye Mystery by Siobhan Dowd
[Mystery]
When Ted and Kat’s cousin Salim disappears from the London Eye ferris wheel, the two siblings must work together--Ted with his brain that is "wired differently" and impatient Kat--to try to solve the mystery of what happened to Salim.

Change-Up: Mystery at the World Series by John Feinstein
[Mystery]
While covering the World Series, teen reporters Stevie Thomas and Susan Carol uncover some inconsistencies in the life story of a popular, new pitcher and begin to investigate.
Once Upon A Marigold by Jean Ferris
[Fantasy]
A young man with a mysterious past and a penchant for inventing things leaves the troll who raised him, meets an unhappy princess he has loved from afar, and discovers a plot against her and her father.
(Twice Upon a Marigold, Thrice Upon a Marigold)

Amelia Lost: The Life and Disappearance of Amelia Earhart by Candace Fleming
[Biography]
Traces the life of female aviator Amelia Earhart from her childhood to her final flight, discusses the extensive search for her and her missing plane, and includes photographs, maps, handwritten notes by Amelia, and sidebars.

The Thief Lord by Cornelia Funke
[Mystery/Fantasy]
Orphaned brothers Prosper and Bo, having run away from their cruel aunt and uncle, decide to hide out in Venice where they fall in with the Thief Lord, a thirteen-year-old boy who leads a crime ring of street children.

The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman
[Fantasy]
The orphan Bod, short for Nobody, is taken in by the inhabitants of a graveyard as a child of eighteen months and raised lovingly and carefully to the age of eighteen years by the community of ghosts and otherworldly creatures.

Dead End in Norvelt by Jack Gantos
[Realistic Fiction]
In the historic town of Norvelt, Pennsylvania, twelve-year-old Jack Gantos spends the summer of 1962 grounded for various offenses until he is assigned to help an elderly neighbor with a most unusual chore involving the newly dead, molten wax, twisted promises, Girl Scout cookies, underage driving, lessons from history, typewriting, and countless bloody noses.
(From Norvelt to Nowhere)
A Tale Dark and Grimm by Adam Gidwitz  
[Fantasy]  
Follows Hansel and Gretel as they walk out of their own story and into eight more tales, encountering such wicked creatures as witches, along with kindly strangers and other helpful folk. Based in part on the Grimms’ fairy tales Faithful Johannes, Hansel and Gretel, The seven ravens, Brother and sister, The robber bridegroom, and The devil and his three golden hairs.  
(In a Glass Grimmly, The Grimm Conclusion)

A Tangle of Knots by Lisa Graff  
[Fantasy]  
Destiny leads 11-year-old Cady to a peanut butter factory, a family of children searching for their own Talents, and a Talent Thief who will alter her life forever.

Chomp by Carl Hiaasen  
[Realistic/Adventure Fiction]  
The difficult star of the reality television show "Expedition Survival" disappears on location in the Florida Everglades, where they were filming animals from the wildlife refuge run by Wahoo Crane’s family, and Wahoo and classmate Tuna Gordon set out to find him, but they must avoid Tuna’s gun-happy father.

Totally Joe by James Howe  
[Realistic Fiction]  
As a school assignment, a thirteen-year-old boy writes an alphabiography, and explores issues of friendship, family, school, and the challenges of being a gay teenager.  
(Companion to Misfits)

See You at Harry’s by Johanna Knowles  
[Realistic Fiction]  
Twelve-year-old Fern feels invisible in her family, where grumpy eighteen-year-old Sarah is working at the family restaurant, fourteen-year-old Holden is struggling with school bullies and his emerging homosexuality, and adorable, three-year-old Charlie is always the center of attention, and when tragedy strikes, the fragile bond holding the family together is stretched almost to the breaking point.
Ungifted by Gordon Korman
[Realistic Fiction]
Due to an administrative mix-up, troublemaker Donovan Curtis is sent to the Academy of Scholastic Distinction, a special program for gifted and talented students, after pulling a major prank at middle school.

Inside Out and Back Again by Thanhha Lai
[Historical Fiction in Verse]
Through a series of poems, a young girl chronicles the life-changing year of 1975, when she, her mother, and her brothers leave Vietnam and resettle in Alabama.

Lions of Little Rock by Kristin Levine
[Historical Fiction]
Twelve-year-old Marlee develops a strong friendship with Liz, the new girl in school, but when Liz suddenly stops attending school and Marlee hears a rumor that her friend is actually an African American girl passing herself off as white, the two young girls must decide whether their friendship is worth taking on integration and the dangers it could bring to their families.

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon by Grace Lin
[Fantasy/Folklore]
Minli, an adventurous girl from a poor village, buys a magical goldfish, and then joins a dragon who cannot fly on a quest to find the Old Man of the Moon in hopes of bringing life to Fruitless Mountain and freshness to Jade River.

Rules by Cynthia Lord
[Realistic Fiction]
Frustrated at life with an autistic brother, twelve-year-old Catherine longs for a normal existence but her world is further complicated by a friendship with an young paraplegic.
The Giver by Lois Lowry
[Science Fiction]
Given his lifetime assignment at the Ceremony of Twelve, Jonas becomes the receiver of memories shared by only one other. He then learns the terrible truth about the Community.
(Gathering Blue, Messenger, Son)

Chinese Cinderella: The True Story of an Unwanted Daughter by Adeline Yen Mah
[Autobiography]
The author tells the story of her painful childhood in China where she lived until the age of fourteen with her father, stepmother, and siblings, all of whom considered her bad luck because her mother died shortly after giving birth to her.

Every Soul a Star by Wendy Mass
[Realistic Fiction]
Ally, Bree, and Jack meet at Moon Shadow, an isolated campground, to watch a total eclipse of the sun; but soon they begin to learn a great deal about themselves, each other, and the universe.

Heart and Soul: The Story of America and African Americans by Kadir Nelson
[Non-Fiction]
Examines the history of the United States, focusing on events that influenced African-Americans and how they advanced liberty and justice in America.

The False Prince by Jennifer A. Nielson
[Fantasy]
In the country of Carthya, a devious nobleman engages four orphans in a brutal competition to be selected to impersonate the king's long-missing son in an effort to avoid a civil war.
Wonder by R.J. Palacio
[Realistic Fiction]
Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan, which entails enduring the taunts and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student.

The True Meaning of Smekday by Adam Rex
[Science Fiction]
Twelve-year-old Gratuity "Tip" Tucci is left to fend for herself after Earth is colonized by aliens and her mother is abducted, and must try to stop another alien invasion with only the help of a cat named Pig and an alien named J. Lo.

Hurt Go Happy by Ginny Rorby
[Realistic Fiction]
Thirteen-year-old Joey Willis has been deaf since age six, but her mother has refused to let her learn sign language, leaving Joey struggling to connect with those around her until she meets Dr. Charles Mansell and his baby chimpanzee, who secretly teach Joey how to sign.

Rooftoppers by Katherine Rundell
[Historical Fiction/Fantasy]
When authorities threaten to take Sophie, twelve, from Charles who has been her guardian since she was one and both survived a shipwreck, the pair goes to Paris to try to find Sophie's mother, and they are aided by Matteo and his band of "rooftoppers."

Holes by Louis Sachar
[Realistic Fiction]
As further evidence of his family's bad fortune which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a hellish correctional camp in the Texas desert where he finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself.
Splendors & Gloom by Laura Amy Schlitz
[Historical Fiction/Fantasy Fiction]
When Clara vanishes after the puppeteer Grisini and two orphaned assistants were at her twelfth birthday party, suspicion of kidnapping chases the trio away from London and soon the two orphans are caught in a trap set by Grisini’s ancient rival, a witch with a deadly inheritance to shed before it is too late.

The Wednesday Wars by Gary Schmidt
[Historical Fiction]
During the 1967 school year, on Wednesday afternoons when all his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school, seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood stays in Mrs. Baker’s classroom where they read the plays of William Shakespeare and Holling learns much of value about the world he lives in.

The Only Ones by Aaron Starmer
[Science Fiction]
After leading a solitary existence on an island, thirteen-year-old Martin discovers a village filled with children who live without adults after their families and friends disappeared one afternoon, but after meeting a mysterious boy who can talk to animals Martin thinks he can find a way to reunite the children with their families.

When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead
[Historical Fiction/Science Fiction/Mystery]
As her mother prepares to be a contestant on the 1980s television game show, “The $20,000 Pyramid,” a twelve-year-old New York City girl tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seems to defy the laws of time and space.

The Mysterious Benedict Society by Trenton Lee Stewart
[Science Fiction/Adventure Fiction]
After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected for a secret mission that requires them to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules.
(The Mysterious Benedict Society and the Perilous Journey,
The Mysterious Benedict Society and the Prisoner’s Dilemma, The Extraordinary Education of Nicholas Benedict)
Drama by Raina Telgemeier
[Graphic Novel]
Callie rides an emotional roller coaster while serving on the stage crew for a middle school production of Moon over Mississippi as various relationships start and end, and others never quite get going.

Three Times Lucky by Sheila Turnage
[Mystery]
Washed ashore as a baby in tiny Tupelo Landing, North Carolina, Mo LoBeau, now eleven, and her best friend Dale turn detective when the amnesiac Colonel, owner of a cafe and co-parent of Mo with his cook, Miss Lana, seems implicated in a murder.
(Ghosts of Tupelo Landing)

One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams-Garcia
[Historical Fiction]
In the summer of 1968, after traveling from Brooklyn to Oakland, California, to spend a month with the mother they barely know, eleven-year-old Delphine and her two younger sisters arrive to a cold welcome as they discover that their mother, a dedicated poet and printer, is resentful of the intrusion of their visit and wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp.
(P.S. Be Eleven)

Breaking Stalin’s Nose by Eugene Yelchin
[Historical Fiction]
In the Stalinist era of the Soviet Union, ten-year-old Sasha idolizes his father, a devoted Communist, but when police take his father away and leave Sasha homeless, he is forced to examine his own perceptions, values, and beliefs.

Classics
The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett
[Realistic Fiction]
Originally published in 1911. Ten-year-old Mary comes to live in a lonely house on the Yorkshire moors and discovers an invalid cousin and the mysteries of a locked garden.
Johnny Tremain by Esther Forbes  
[Historical Fiction]  
After injuring his hand, a silversmith's apprentice in Boston becomes a messenger for the Sons of Liberty in the days before the American Revolution.

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle  
[Science Fiction]  
Meg Murry, her brother Charles, and their friend Calvin, embark on a journey through space and time, assisted by three otherworldly women, to find Meg's father, a physicist who disappeared while experimenting with time travel.

The Call of the Wild by Jack London  
[Adventure Fiction]  
Jack London's classic tale tracing Buck's entry into the wild and survival among the wolves.

Anne of Green Gables by L.M. Montgomery  
[Realistic Fiction]  
Anne, an eleven-year-old orphan, is sent by mistake to live with a lonely middle-aged brother and sister on a Prince Edward Island farm and proceeds to make an indelible impression on everyone around her.  
(Anne of Avonlea, Anne of the Island, Anne of Windy Poplars, Anne's House of Dreams, Anne of Ingleside, Rainbow Valley, Rilla of Ingleside)

Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell  
[Realistic/Adventure Fiction]  
Records the courage and self-reliance of an Indian girl who lived alone for eighteen years on an isolated island off the California coast when her tribe emigrated and she was left behind.

The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin  
[Mystery]  
The mysterious death of an eccentric millionaire brings together an unlikely assortment of heirs who must uncover the circumstances of his death before they can claim their inheritance.
Heidi by Johanna Spyri
[Realistic Fiction]
After Heidi, an orphan, builds a strong bond with her grandfather in the Swiss Alps, she is sent into town to attend school and be a friend to a wealthy man’s daughter, who is restricted to a wheelchair, but Heidi’s health begins to fail as her desire to return to her home in the mountains increases.

Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson
[Adventure Fiction]
While going through the possessions of a deceased guest who owed them money, the mistress of an inn and her son find a treasure map that leads them to a pirate’s fortune.

The Hobbit or There and Back Again by J.R.R. Tolkien
[Fantasy]
Bilbo Baggins, a Hobbit who only wanted to be left alone, is drawn by a wizard and a band of homeless dwarves into a quest where he confronts evil orcs, savage wolves, and the great dragon, Smaug the Magnificent.

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain
[Adventure Fiction]
The adventures of a mischievous young boy and his friends growing up in a Mississippi River town in the nineteenth century.

Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea by Jules Verne
[Science Fiction]
Jules Verne’s classic nineteenth-century novel about the adventures of the mysterious Captain Nemo and his unusual submarine.