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 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 Nazi Hunters: How a Team of Spies and Survivors Captured the World’s Most Notorious Nazi by Neal Bascomb
[Non-Fiction]
Presents the history of the group of spies, Holocaust survivors, and lawyers who pursued Adolf Eichmann, a Nazi war criminal, for fifteen years in order to bring him to justice for his leadership role in the killing of thousands of Jews during World War II.

Relish: My Life in the Kitchen by Lucy Knisley
[Memoir/Graphic Novel]
Presents a graphic novel memoir of cartoonist Lucy Knisley and her obsession with cooking and food.

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.

March: Book One 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.

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.
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.

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.

Picture Me Gone by Meg Rosoff
[Mystery]
Twelve-year-old Mila travels with her father to upstate New York to visit friends and family, who may lead them to clues to the whereabouts of her father's best friend, who has gone missing.

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.

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.

In the Shadow of Blackbirds by Cat Winters
[Historical Fiction/Fantasy]
In San Diego in 1918, as deadly influenza and World War I take their toll, sixteen-year-old Mary Shelley Black watches desperate mourners flock to seances and spirit photographers for comfort and, despite her scientific leanings, must consider if ghosts are real when her first love, killed in battle, returns.
*Boxer & Saints by Gene Luen Yang*  
[Historical Fiction/Graphic Novel]  
Presents a two-volume graphic novel set that looks China in 1898 during the Boxer Rebellion.

*I am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up For Education and Was Shot by the Taliban* by Malala Yousafzai *with Christina Lamb*  
[Biography]  
Malala Yousafzai’s describes her fight for education for girls under Taliban rule, the support she received from her parents to pursue an education, and how the Taliban retaliated against her by trying to kill her.

**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.

*Thirteen Reasons Why* by Jay Asher  
[Realistic Fiction]  
High school student Clay Jensen receives a box in the mail containing seven cassette tapes recorded by his crush, Hannah Baker, who committed suicide, and spends a bewildering and heartbreaking night crisscrossing their town, listening to Hannah’s voice recounting the events leading up to her death.

*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)*
A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier by Ismael Beah
[Memoir]
Ishmael Beah describes his experiences after he was driven from his home by war in Sierra Leone and picked up by the government army at the age of thirteen, serving as a soldier for three years before being removed from fighting by UNICEF and eventually moving to the United States.

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.

Maze Runner by James Dashner
[Science Fiction]
Sixteen-year-old Thomas wakes up with no memory in the middle of a maze and realizes he must work with the community in which he finds himself if he is to escape.
(The Scorch Trials, The Death Cure, The Kill Order)

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.

Seraphina by Rachel Hartman
[Fantasy]
In a world where dragons and humans coexist in an uneasy truce and dragons can assume human form, Seraphina, whose mother died giving birth to her, grapples with her own identity amid magical secrets and royal scandals, while she struggles to accept and develop her extraordinary musical talents.

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.

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.

In Darkness by Nick Lake
[Adventure Fiction]
In the aftermath of the Haitian earthquake, Shorty, a poor, fifteen-year-old gang member from the slums of Site Soleil, is trapped in the rubble of a hospital and as he grows weaker, he has visions and memories of his life of violence, his lost twin sister, and of Toussaint L'Ouverture, who liberated Haiti from French rule in 1804.
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.

Legend by Marie Lu
[Science Fiction]
In a dark future, when North America has split into two warring nations, fifteen-year-olds Day, a famous criminal, and prodigy June, the brilliant soldier hired to capture him, discover that they have a common enemy.

(Prodigy, Champion)
The Revolution of Evelyn Serrano by Sonia Manzano
[Historical Fiction]
It is 1969 in Spanish Harlem, and fourteen-year-old Evelyn Serrano is trying hard to break free from her conservative Puerto Rican surroundings, but when her activist grandmother comes to stay and the neighborhood protests start, things get a lot more complicated--and dangerous.

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.

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)

Bamboo People by Mitali Perkins
[Adventure Fiction]
Two Burmese boys, one a Karenni refugee and the other the son of an imprisoned Burmese doctor, meet in the jungle and in order to survive they must learn to trust each other.
Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children by Ransom Riggs
[Mystery/Fantasy]
Sixteen-year-old Jacob, having traveled to a remote island after a family tragedy, discovers an abandoned orphanage, and, after some investigating, he learns the children who lived there may have been dangerous and quarantined and may also still be alive.

(Hollow City)
Revolver by Marcus Sedgwick
[Historical Fiction/Mystery]
Fourteen-year-old Sig is stranded at a remote cabin in the Arctic wilderness with his father, who died just hours earlier after falling through the ice, when a terrifying man arrives, claiming Sig’s father owes him a share of a horde of stolen gold and that he will kill Sig if he does not get his money.

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.

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.

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.

(Behemoth, Goliath)
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.