

Packer Collegiate Institute
Summer Reading List
2008
Incoming 5th Graders

CHOOSE THREE SELECTIONS FROM THIS LIST

FICTION

Classics

Bagnold, Enid, NATIONAL VELVET

A fourteen-year-old English girl wins a horse in a raffle, trains it, and rides it in the Grand National steeplechase.

DuBois, William, TWENTY-ONE BALLOONS

When Professor Sherman is found stranded in the Atlantic Ocean clinging to balloons, all of America is curious. Find out where he's been and why.

Fitzhugh, Louise, HARRIET THE SPY

When Harriet's classmates find her diary and read what she has written about them, they decide to make life miserable for her.

Gipson, Fred, OLD YELLER

In the Texas hill country of the late 1860s, a big yellow dog and a 14-year-old boy form a close, loving relationship.

Henry, Marguerite, MISTY OF CHINCOTEAGUE

Two youngsters' determination to own a Chincoteague pony is greatly increased when the Phantom and her colt are among those rounded up for the yearly auction.

L'Engle, Madeline, A WRINKLE IN TIME

Three extra-terrestrial beings take Meg and her brother to another world.

Merrill, Jean, THE PUSHCART WAR

A satire on modern city life depicting an outbreak of war between truck drivers and pushcart peddlers.

O'Dell, Scott, ISLAND OF THE BLUE DOLPHINS

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.

Realistic Fiction

Birdsall, Jeanne, **THE PENDERWICKS: A SUMMER TALE OF FOUR SISTERS, TWO RABBITS, AND A VERY INTERESTING BOY**

While vacationing with their widowed father in the Berkshire Mountains, four lovable sisters, ages four through twelve, share adventures with a local boy, much to the dismay of his snobbish mother. The sequel is The Pendericks on Gardam Street.

Creech, Sharon, **RUBY HOLLER**

Thirteen-year-old fraternal twins Dallas and Florida have grown up in a terrible orphanage, but their lives change forever when an eccentric but sweet older couple invites them each on an adventure, beginning in an almost magical place called Ruby Holler.

Curtis, Christopher, Paul, **BUD, NOT BUDDY**

Ten-year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression, escapes from a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father. (Newbery Medal, 2000)

Danziger, Paula, **P. S. LONGER LETTER, LATER**

Best friends Elizabeth and Tara* Starr now live in different towns, but they write each other letters and discuss the happy and sad events that occur in their lives. The sequel is Snail Mail No More.

Lupica, Mike, **TRAVEL TEAM**

After he is cut from his travel basketball team--the very same team that his father once led to national prominence--twelve-year-old Danny Walker forms his own team of cast-offs that might have a shot at victory.

Lynch, Chris, **GOLD DUST**

In 1975, twelve-year-old Richard befriends Napoleon, a Caribbean newcomer to his Boston Catholic school, hoping that Napoleon will learn to love baseball and the Red Sox, and will win acceptance in the racially polarized environment.

McKay, Hilary, **INDIGO'S STAR**

Spurred on by his youngest sister, Rose, twelve-year-old Indigo sticks up for himself and an American boy who has replaced him as the primary target of the school bullies.

Namioka, Lensey, **HALF AND HALF**

At Seattle's annual Folk Fest, twelve-year-old Fiona and her older brother are torn between trying to please their Chinese grandmother and making their Scottish grandparents happy.

Park, Linda Sue, **PROJECT MULBERRY**

Julia, a Korean American, and her friend Patrick learn about tolerance, friendship, and patience while working together on a project about silkworms.

Paulsen, Gary, SCHERNOFF DISCOVERIES

Harold and his best friend, both hopeless geeks and societal misfits, try to survive unusual science experiments, the attacks of the football team, and other dangers of junior high school.

Peck, Richard, A LONG WAY FROM CHICAGO

A boy recounts his annual summer trips to rural Illinois with his sister during the Great Depression to visit their larger-than-life grandmother. The story continues in A Year Down Yonder, winner of the 2001 Newbery Medal.

Perkins, Lynne Rae, ALL ALONE IN THE UNIVERSE

Debbie is dismayed when her best friend, Maureen, starts spending time with ordinary, boring Glenna.

Ryan, Pam Munoz, BECOMING NAOMI LEON

When Naomi's absent mother resurfaces to claim her, Naomi runs away to Mexico with her great-grandmother and younger brother in search of her father.

Stauffacher, Sue, DONUTHEAD

Franklin Delano Donuthead, a fifth-grader obsessed with hygiene and safety, finds an unlikely friend and protector in Sarah Kervick, the tough new student who lives in a dirty trailer, who bonds with his mother, and is as "irregular" as he is.

Tolan, Stephanie S., SURVIVING THE APPLEWHITES

Jake, a budding juvenile delinquent, is sent for home schooling to the arty and eccentric Applewhite family's Creative Academy, where he discovers talents and interests he never knew he had.

Historical Fiction

Avi, THE FIGHTING GROUND

Thirteen-year-old Jonathan goes off to fight in the Revolutionary War and discovers the real war is being fought within himself.

Erdrich, Louise, THE BIRCHBARK HOUSE

Omakayas, a seven-year-old Native American girl of the Ojibwa tribe, lives through the joys of summer and the perils of winter on an island in Lake Superior in 1847. The sequel is The Game of Silence.

Meyer, Carolyn, MARY BLOODY MARY

This novel is about England's Queen Mary I, known for the burning of heretics. This account is from Mary's point of view and covers her life from age 10 to 20 when, upon her father, King Henry VIII's marriage to Anne Boleyn, she no longer felt special. You may also enjoy Beware, Princess Elizabeth, Doomed Queen Anne, and Patience, Princess Catherine.

Winthrop, Elizabeth, COUNTING ON GRACE

Twelve-year-old Grace Forcier and her friend Arthur, taken out of school and put to work in a Vermont textile mill in 1910, are championed by their teacher who urges them to write the National Child Labor Committee, an action only Grace seems to realize will have serious repercussions.

Science Fiction

Anderson, M.T., WHALES ON STILTS

Racing against the clock, shy middle-school student Lily and her best friends, Katie and Jasper, must foil the plot of her father's conniving boss to conquer the world using an army of whales.

Haddix, Margaret, AMONG THE HIDDEN

In a future where the Population Police enforce the law limiting a family to only two children, Luke has lived all his twelve years in isolation and fear on his family's farm, until another "third" convinces him that the government is wrong. Sequels are Among the Imposters, Among the Betrayed, Among the Barons, Among the Brave, and Among the Free.

Klause, Annette, ALIEN SECRETS

On her journey to the distant planet where her parents are working, twelve-year-old Puck befriends a troubled alien and becomes involved in a dangerous mystery involving a precious artifact.

Lowry, Lois, THE GIVER

Given his lifetime assignment at the Ceremony of Twelve, Jonas becomes the receiver of memories shared by only one other in his community and discovers the terrible truth about the society in which he lives. Companion books are Gathering Blue, and Messenger.

Pratchett, Terry, ONLY YOU CAN SAVE MANKIND

Twelve-year-old Johnny endures tensions between his parents, watches television coverage of the Gulf War, and plays a computer game called Only You Can Save Mankind, in which he is increasingly drawn into the reality of the alien ScreeWee.

Waugh, Sylvia, SPACE RACE

When he learns that he and his father must soon leave Earth, eleven-year-old Thomas Derwent is upset, but a terrible accident that separates the two of them makes Thomas' situation much worse.

Fantasy

Armstrong, Alan, WHITTINGTON

Whittington, a feline descendant of Dick Whittington's famous cat of English folklore, appears at a rundown barnyard plagued by rats, and restores harmony while telling his ancestor's story.

Avi, MAYOR OF CENTRAL PARK

Oscar Westerwit, a squirrel who loves baseball and Broadway musicals, fights back when a gangster rat named Big Daddy Duds and his thugs move uptown in the year 1900, invade Central Park, and evict Oscar and his animal friends from their homes.

Bauer, Joan, RUNT

Runt, the smallest wolf cub in the litter, seeks to prove himself to his father, King, and the rest of the pack, and to earn a new name.

Bode, N.E. THE ANYBODIES

After learning that she is not the biological daughter of boring Mr. and Mrs. Drudger, Fern embarks on magical adventures with her real father and finally finds "a place that feels like home." Sequels are The Nobodies and The Somebodies.

Colfer, Eoin, ARTEMIS FOWL

When a twelve-year-old evil genius tries to restore his family fortune by capturing a fairy and demanding a ransom in gold, the fairies fight back with magic, technology, and a particularly nasty troll. Sequels include Artemis Fowl: The Arctic Incident, Artemis Fowl: The Eternity Code, and Artemis Fowl: The Opal Deception.

Collins, Suzanne, GREGOR THE OVERLANDER

When eleven-year-old Gregor and his two-year-old sister are pulled into a strange underground world, they trigger an epic battle involving humans, bats, rats, cockroaches, and spiders while on a quest foretold by ancient prophecy. Sequels to this book include Gregor and the Prophecy of Bane, Gregor and the Marks of Secret, Gregor and the Warmbloods, and Gregor and the Code of Claw.

Ferris, Jean, ONCE UPON A MARIGOLD

A young man with a mysterious past and a tendency 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.

Funke, Cornelia, INKHEART

Twelve-year-old Meggie learns that her father, who repairs and binds books for a living, can "read" fictional characters to life when one of those characters abducts them and tries to force him into service.

Funke, Cornelia, **THE THIEF LORD**

Two brothers, having run away from the aunt who plans to adopt the younger one, are sought by a detective hired by their aunt. They find shelter in an abandoned movie theatre and protection from Venice's mysterious "Thief Lord."

Gaiman, Neil, **CORALINE**

Looking for excitement, Coraline ventures through a mysterious door into a world that is similar, yet disturbingly different from her own. There she must challenge a gruesome entity in order to save herself, her parents, and the souls of three others.

Ibbotson, Eva, **THE HAUNTING OF GRANITE FALLS**

When twelve-year-old Alex's Scottish castle of Carra is sold, dismantled, and moved to Texas, the ghosts that raised him from a child have difficulty relocating.

Jacques, Brian, **REDWALL**

When the peaceful life of ancient Redwall Abbey is shattered by the arrival of the evil rat Cluny and his villainous hordes, Matthias, a young mouse, determines to find the legendary sword of Martin the Warrior. He is convinced that the sword will help Redwall's inhabitants destroy the enemy. Sequels include Mossflower, Salamandastron, Mariel of Redwall, and Martin the Warrior.

Lasky, Kathryn, **THE CAPTURE**

Four owls band together to save the owl world from an unimaginable evil. Some of the other titles in the Guardians of Ga'hoole series are The Journey, The Rescue, The Siege, The Shattering, The Burning, The Hatchling, and The Outcast.

MacCaffrey, Anne, **DRAGONSONG**

Forbidden by her father to indulge in music in any way, a girl on the planet Pern runs away, taking shelter with the planet's fire lizards who, along with her music, open a new life for her. The series continues in Dragonsinger and Dragondrums.

Pierce, Tamora, **ALANNA: THE FIRST ADVENTURE**

Eleven-year-old Alanna, who aspires to be a knight even though she is a girl, disguises herself as a boy to become a royal page, and learns many hard lessons along her path to high adventure. Sequels are In the Hand of the Goddess, The Woman Who Rides Like a Man, and Lioness Rampant.

Pullman, Philip, **THE SCARECROW AND HIS SERVANT**

A scarecrow and his boy servant, Jack, set off on a dangerous adventure as they try to outwit the crooked Buffaloni family and stake their claim to valuable Spring Valley.

Riordan, Rick, **THE LIGHTNING THIEF**

After learning that he is the son of a mortal woman and Poseidon, god of the sea, twelve-year-old Percy is sent to a summer camp for demigods like himself, and joins his new friends on a quest to prevent a war between the gods. The sequels are The Sea of Monsters, The Titan's Curse, and The Battle of the Labyrinth.

Adventure and Mystery

Aiken, Joan, **WOLVES OF WILLOUGHBY CHASE**

Surrounded by villains of the first order, brave Bonnie and gentle cousin Sylvia conquer all obstacles in this Victorian melodrama.

Avi, **MIDNIGHT MAGIC**

In Italy in 1491, Mangus the magician and his apprentice are summoned to the castle of Duke Claudio to determine if his daughter is indeed being haunted by a ghost.

Clements, Andrew, **A WEEK IN THE WOODS**

The fifth grade's annual camping trip in the woods tests Mark's survival skills and his ability to relate to a teacher who seems out to get him.

Cottrell Boyce, Frank, **FRAMED**

Dylan and his sisters have some ideas about how to make Snowdonia Oasis Auto Marvel into a more profitable business, but it is not until some strange men arrive in their small town of Manod, Wales with valuable paintings, and their father disappears, that they consider turning to crime.

Farley, Walter, **THE BLACK STALLION**

Pulled to a desert island by a wild black stallion he has freed during a shipwreck at sea, then rescued by a southbound freighter, a seventeen-year-old boy befriends the horse, trains him by night, and rides him to victory in a match race.

Hughes, Carol, **JACK BLACK AND THE SHIP OF THIEVES**

Having fallen from his father's airship, Jack blunders into a feud between a pirate ship and a deadly ocean-going war machine, and encounters danger, intrigue, and treachery.

McKinley, Robin, **THE OUTLAWS OF SHERWOOD**

The author retells the adventures of Robin Hood and his band of outlaws who live in Sherwood Forest in 12th century England.

Pullman, Philip, **COUNT KARLSTEIN**

In the mountains of Switzerland, the wicked Count Karlstein plots to abandon his two nieces in a hunting lodge as prey for the Demon Huntsman and his ghostly hounds.

Roberts, Willo Davis, **THE KIDNAPPERS**

No one believes eleven-year-old Joey, who has a reputation for telling tall tales, when he claims to have witnessed the kidnapping of the class bully outside their New York City private school.

Selznick, Brian, **THE INVENTION OF HUGO CABRET: A NOVEL IN WORDS AND PICTURES**

When twelve-year-old Hugo, an orphan living and repairing clocks within the walls of a Paris train station in 1931, meets a mysterious toyseller and his goddaughter, his undercover life and his biggest secret are jeopardized. This book combines written and graphic novel formats. Winner of the 2008 Caldecott Medal.

Smith, Roland, **THE CAPTAIN'S DOG - MY JOURNEY WITH THE LEWIS AND CLARKE TRIBE**

Captain Meriwether Lewis's dog Seaman describes his experiences as he accompanies his master on the Lewis and Clark Expedition to explore the uncharted western wilderness.

Ullman, James, **BANNER IN THE SKY**

Sixteen-year-old Rudi dreams of being the first to climb the highest mountain in Switzerland.

NON-FICTION

Allen, Thomas, **GEORGE WASHINGTON: SPYMASTER**

A biography of Revolutionary War general and first President of the United States, George Washington, focusing on his use of spies to gather intelligence that helped the colonies win the war.

Goodall, Jane, **MY LIFE WITH THE CHIMPANZEES**

Jane Goodall describes her adventures with the chimps and the discoveries she has made about them.

Micklos, John, **UNSOLVED: WHAT REALLY HAPPENED TO AMELIA EARHART?**

Examines the various pieces of evidence and eyewitness accounts surrounding the disappearance of aviator Amelia Earhart in 1937, the different rumors of her actual mission, and assumptions that she and her navigator, Fred Noonan, survived and were captured by the Japanese.

Paulsen, Gary, **PUPPIES, DOGS, AND BLUE NORTHERS: REFLECTIONS ON BEING RAISED BY A PACK OF SLED DOGS**

Minnesota author and dog musher Gary Paulsen reflects on the growth of his sled dogs as he and his animals discover the world around them.

Spinelli, Jerry, **KNOTS IN MY YO-YO STRING**

This Newbery Medalist presents a humorous account of his childhood and youth in Norristown, Pennsylvania.

Tucker, Tom, BRAINSTORM! THE STORIES OF TWENTY AMERICAN KID INVENTORS
Reveals some of the amazing inventions of the past and present that have come from young
Americans, ages eight to nineteen.