

**PACKER COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE**  
**SUMMER READING SUGGESTIONS**  
**FOR**  
**INCOMING FIRST GRADERS**  
**2008**

**BRINGING THE RAIN TO KAPITI PLAIN** by Verna Aardema

A cumulative rhyme relating how Ki-pat brought rain to the drought-stricken Kapiti Plain.

**HI! FLY GUY** by Ted Arnold

When Buzz captures a fly to enter in the Amazing Pet Show, his parents and the judges tell him that a fly cannot be a pet, but Fly Guy proves them wrong. This is the first book in the Fly Guy series.

**RUBY'S WISH** by Shirin Yim Bridges

In China, at a time when few girls are taught to read or write, Ruby dreams of going to the university with her brothers and male cousins.

**THE EMPTY POT** by Demi

When Ping admits that he is the only child in China unable to grow a flower from the seed distributed by the Emperor, he is rewarded for his honesty.

**WILFRID GORDON McDONALD PARTRIDGE** by Mem Fox

A small boy with a big name tries to discover the meaning of memory, so he can restore that of an elderly friend.

**HONEY, I LOVE, AND OTHER POEMS** by Eloise Greenfield

Poems including "I Look Pretty," "Riding on the Train," "Harriet Tubman," and "By Myself."

**CHRYSANTHEMUM** by Kevin Henkes

Chrysanthemum loves her name, until she starts going to school and the other children make fun of it. But with the help of her teacher Chrysanthemum learns to love her name all over again.

**MY FAMILY VACATION** by Dayal Kaur Khalsa

Excited May takes her first trip away from home when the family goes on vacation in Florida, and the adventures she and her older brother have in Miami bring them to a better understanding of each other.

**ANANSI AND THE MOSS-COVERED ROCK** by Eric Kimmel

Anansi the spider uses a strange moss-covered rock in the forest to trick all the other animals, until Little Bush Deer decides he needs to teach Anansi a lesson.

**MIRETTE ON THE HIGH WIRE** by Emily Arnold McCully

Mirette, a little girl living in Paris, learns the art of tight-rope walking from Monsieur Bellini, a guest in her mother's boarding house, not knowing that he is a world famous tight-rope walker who has withdrawn from performing because of fear.

**LIZA LOU AND THE YELLER BELLY SWAMP** by Mercer Mayer

With her quick thinking Liza Lou manages to outwit all the haunts, gobbycocks, and witches in the Yeller Belly Swamp.

**THE PAPER BAG PRINCESS** by Robert Munsch

Elizabeth, a beautiful princess, lives in a castle and wears fancy clothes. Just when she is about to marry Prince Ronald, a dragon smashes her castle, burns her clothes with his fiery breath, and prince-naps Ronald. Undaunted, she dons a large paper bag and sets off to find the dragon and her cherished prince.

**KATE AND THE BEANSTALK** by Mary Pope Osborne

In this new version of the classic tale, a girl climbs to the top of a giant beanstalk, where she uses her wits to outsmart a giant and make her and her mother's fortune.

**YOUNG LARRY** by Daniel Pinkwater

After being hit in the head by his mother and told to fend for himself, Larry the polar bear floats from Baffin Bay to New Jersey where he is given a job as a life guard. This is the first of many books about Larry the polar bear.

**GILA MONSTERS MEET YOU AT THE AIRPORT** by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat

A New York City boy's preconceived ideas of life in the West make him very apprehensive about the family's move there.

**SYLVESTER AND THE MAGIC PEBBLE** by William Stieg

Sylvester the donkey finds a magic pebble and unthinkingly wishes himself turned into a rock when he's frightened by a lion. How Sylvester is eventually reunited with his loving parents is a magical tale of the transforming power of love.

**DEAR MRS. LARUE: LETTERS FROM OBEDIENCE SCHOOL** by Mark Teague

Gertrude LaRue receives type-written—and paw written—letters from her dog, Ike, entreating her to let him leave the Igor Brotweiler Canine Academy and come back home.

**CLASS TRIP FROM THE BLACK LAGOON** by Mike Thaler

The students must deal with a scary bus driver named Mr. Fenderbender, mosquitoes as large as Dracula, and their mean teacher, Mrs. Green, on their class trip to the Black Lagoon. This is one of many books in the Black Lagoon series.

**SUKI'S KIMONO** by Chieri Uegaki,

A little girl declares that on the first day of school she will wear a kimono that her grandmother brought her during her visit from Japan, no matter what anyone says.

**FALLING FOR RAPUNZEL** by Leah Wilcox

A prince tries to get Rapunzel to throw down her hair, so he can rescue her, but she mishears him and throws down an assortment of objects from her room instead.

**LIBRARY LIL** by Suzanne Williams

A formidable librarian makes readers not only out of the once resistant residents of her small town, but out of a tough-talking, television-obsessed motorcycle gang as well.

## Chapter Books

**THE STORIES HUEY TELLS** by Ann Cameron

Six-year-old Huey hates it when his big brother Julian puts him down, but Huey uses a clever trick to get back at Julian. In another episode the family eats in a smart restaurant, and Huey loses his appetite when he sees the trout's head on the plate, with its big, sad eye looking straight at him. This is just one of many books about Huey and Julian.

**HENRY HUGGINS** by Beverly Cleary,

Henry Huggins picks up a stray dog, names him Ribsby and sets out on numerous adventures with him, including breeding hundreds of fish and collecting over a thousand worms. Followed by Ribsby and Henry and Ribsby.

**ESIO TROT** by Roald Dahl

Mr. Hoppy devises a plan to win the heart of his true love by teaching her a spell to make her tortoise grow bigger.

**FANTASTIC MR. FOX** by Roald Dahl

Three farmers, each one meaner than the other, try all-out warfare to get rid of the fox and his family.

**THE JAMIE AND ANGUS STORIES** by Anne Fine

Six stories about Angus, a toy bull, and Jamie, the boy who owns him.

**RUSSELL SPROUTS** by Johanna Hurwitz

The adventures of Russell, age six and growing up fast, both at home and at school. This is just one of many books in the Russell series.

**CATWINGS** by Ursula Leguin

Four young cats with wings leave the city slums in search of a safe place to live, finally meeting two children with kind hands. This is the first book in the Catwings series.

**THE CRICKET IN TIMES SQUARE** by George Selden

The adventures of a country cricket who unintentionally arrives in New York, takes up residence in a subway station, and is befriended by Tucker Mouse and Harry Cat. This is the first book in a series of books about the cricket, Tucker, and Harry.

**ALL OF A KIND FAMILY** by Sydney Taylor

The everyday adventures of five sisters growing up in a Jewish family in New York City in the early twentieth century. This is the first book in the classic All of a Kind Family series.