

PACKER COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE
SUMMER READING SUGGESTIONS
FOR
INCOMING FOURTH GRADERS
2008

THE SECRET SCHOOL by Avi

In 1925, fourteen-year-old Ida Bison secretly takes over as the teacher when the one-room school house in the in her remote Colorado area closes unexpectedly.

NEVER MIND!: A TWIN NOVEL by Avi

Twelve-year-old New York City twins Meg and Edward have nothing in common, so they are just a shocked as everyone else when Meg's hopes for popularity and Edward's mischievous schemes coincidentally collide in a hilarious showdown.

TUCK EVERLASTING by Natalie Babbitt

The Tuck family is confronted with an agonizing situation when they discover that a a ten-year-old girl and a malicious stranger now share their secret: a spring whose waters offer eternal life.

THE FAIRY REBEL by Lynne Reid Banks

A rebellious fairy named Tiki, already in trouble for breaking the rule against wearing jeans, risks the further wrath of the Fairy Queen by trying to help a human.

ORDINARY BOY: THE HERO REVEALED by William Boniface.

Ordinary Boy, the only resident of Superopolis without a superpower, uncovers and foils a sinister plot to destroy the town. This is the first book in the Ordinary Boy series.

DEAR MR. HENSHAW by Beverly Cleary

In his letters to his favorite author, ten-year-old Leigh reveals his problems in coping with his parents' divorce, being the new boy in school, and generally finding his own place in the world.

THE LANDRY NEWS by Andrew Clements

A fifth-grader starts a class newspaper and prints a revealing editorial that re-awakens her teacher's passion for teaching, but also threatens to cost him his job.

LAST HOLIDAY CONTEST by Andrew Clements

Life is usually easy for sixth-grader Hart Evans, but when his music teacher puts him in charge of the holiday concert, Hart must find a way to unite the students.

JEREMY THATCHER, DRAGON HATCHER: A MAGIC SHOP BOOK by Bruce Coville

Small for his age but artistically talented, twelve-year-old Jeremy Thatcher unknowingly buys a dragon's egg. This is the first book in the Magic Shop series.

THE GHOST OF FOSSIL GLEN by Cynthia C. DeFelice

Alice knows it's not her imagination when she hears a voice and sees in her mind's eye the face of a girl who seems to be seeking her help.

TIGER RISING by Kate DiCamillo

Rob, who passes his time in his rural Florida community by wood carving, is drawn by his spunky but angry friend Sistine into a plan to free a caged tiger.

DOVEY COE by Frances O'Roark Dowell

Accused of murder in her North Carolina mountain town in 1928, Dovey Coe, a strong-willed twelve-year-old girl, comes to a new understanding of others, including her deaf brother, as she attempts to clear her name.

THE FISH IN ROOM 11 by Heather Dyer,

Toby, an orphan who has always lived in a hotel by the sea, finally finds love and support of a real family when he meets Eliza Flot, the daughter of mermaid parents who are stranded under a dock.

MANDY by Julie Edwards

Longing for a place of her own, a ten-year-old orphan creates a secret home in a deserted cottage behind her orphanage.

JACKIE & ME: A BASEBALL CARD ADVENTURE by Dan Gutman

With his ability to travel through time by using baseball cards, Joe goes back to 1947 to meet the legendary Jackie Robinson, and experience discrimination first hand. This is one of many books in the Baseball Card Adventure series.

THE KID WHO RAN FOR PRESIDENT By Dan Gutman

With his friend as campaign manager and his former babysitter as running mate, twelve-year-old Judson Moon sets out to become President of the United States. The sequel is [The Kid Who Became the President](#).

RUNNING OUT OF TIME by Margaret Peterson Haddix

When a diphtheria epidemic hits her 1840 village, thirteen-year-old Jessie discovers it is actually a 1996 tourist site, and she and all her neighbors are under secret observation by heartless scientists. It's up to Jesse to venture out into the unknown world of the present and find someone to save the lives of the villagers.

THE CHAMELEON WORE CHARTREUSE by Bruce Hale

When hired by a fellow fourth-grader to help find her missing brother, Chet Gecko uncovers a plot involving Gila monster's revenge on the school football team. This is one of many books in the Chet Gecko Mysteries series.

JUST GRACE by Charise Harper

Misnamed by her teacher, seven-year-old Just Grace prides herself on being empathetic, but when she tries to help a neighbor feel better, her good intentions backfire.

THE POSTMAN ALWAYS BRINGS MICE by Holm & Hamel

A dashing British feline spy is dismayed to find himself stranded in New Jersey and adopted by a typical suburban family, until he puts his skills to good use for his new human.

THE SECRET OF PLATFORM 13 by Eva Ibbotson

Edge Gribble, a young hag, accompanies an old wizard, a gentle fey, and a giant ogre on a mission through a magical tunnel from their island to London to rescue their King and Queen's son, who was kidnapped as an infant.

FROM THE MIXED-UP FILES OF MRS. BASIL E. FRANKWEILER by E.L. Konigsburg

Two suburban children runaway from their Connecticut home and go to live at New York City's Metropolitan Museum of Art. There they learn to live by their wits, and get involved in a mystery involving a statue possibly created by Michelangelo.

THE YEAR OF THE DOG by Grace Lin

Frustrated at her seeming lack of talent for anything, a young Taiwanese-American girl sets out to apply the lessons of the Chinese Year of the Dog to her own life, making new friends, and learning to find her unique talents.

SAFFY'S ANGEL by Hilary McKay

After learning that she was adopted, thirteen-year-old Saffron's relationship with her eccentric, artistic family changes, until they help her go back to Italy, where she was born, to find a special memento.

SARAH, PLAIN AND TALL by Patricia McLachlan

When their father invites a mail-order bride to come live with them in their prairie home, Caleb and Anna are captivated by their new mother and hope that she will stay.

THE SNOW TREASURE by Maria McSwigan

The fictionalized retelling of the true story of a group of Norwegian children who helped Norway move its gold reserves to the United States during the World War II by carrying it to the sea on their sleds.

THE QUIGLEYS by Simon Mason

The adventures and misadventures of the four members of the Quigley family—Mum, Dad, Lucy, and Will.

KENSUKE'S KINGDOM by Michael Morpurgo

When Michael is swept off his family's yacht, he washes up on a desert island, where he struggles to survive—until he finds he is not alone.

MRS. FRISBY AND THE RATS OF NIMH by Robert C. O'Brien

Having no one to help with her problems, a widowed mouse visits the rats whose former imprisonment in a laboratory as subjects of a neurological experiment left them extremely intelligent and extended their life spans.

NIM'S ISLAND by Wendy Orr

Nim loves her island home and the animals she shares it with, but while her scientist father is away doing research, trouble begins to brew, and a new E-mail friend may be the only one who can help her.

ALMOST STARRING SKINNYBONES by Barbara Park

Twelve-year-old Alex is convinced that he will be a star and impress his schoolmates when, as the winner of a cat food essay writing contest, he is asked to make a commercial for national television.

GREAT GILLY HOPKINS by Katherine Paterson

Eleven-year-old Gilly has been stuck in more foster families than she can remember, and she has disliked them all. So when she's sent to live with the Trotters—by far the strangest family yet—Gilly decides to put her sharp mind to work. Before long she's devised an elaborate scheme to get her real mother to come rescue her.

MR. TUCKET by Gary Paulsen

In 1848, while on a wagon train headed for Oregon, fourteen-year-old Francis Tucket is kidnapped by Pawnee Indians and then falls in with an armed trapper who teaches him how to survive in the wild.

LOST IN CYBERSPACE by Richard Peck

While dealing with changes at home, sixth-grader Josh and his friend Aaron use the computer at their New York prep school to travel through time, learning some secrets from the school's past and improving Josh's home situation.

FIREWORK-MAKER'S DAUGHTER by Philip Pullman

In a country far to the East, Chulak and his talking white elephant, Hamlet, help Lila seek the Royal sulphur from the sacred volcano so she can become a master maker of fireworks like her father.

DRAGON OF LONELY ISLAND by Rebecca Rupp

Three children spend the summer with their mother on a secluded island where they discover a three-headed dragon living in a cave. In the sequel the children fight to save the dragon from capture. The sequel is The Return of the Dragon.

SIDEWAYS STORIES FROM THE WAYSIDE SCHOOL by Louis Sachar

Humorous episodes from the classroom on the thirtieth floor of Wayside School, which was accidentally built sideways, with one classroom on each story.

ENCYCLOPEDIA BROWN, BOY DETECTIVE by Donald Sobol

Fifth-grader Encyclopedia Brown solves ten mysteries and, by putting the solutions at the back of the book, challenges the reader to do the same. This is the first of many books in the Encyclopedia Brown series.

Books to Read Together

THE WOLVES OF WILLOUGHBY CHASE by Joan Aiken

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

PETER AND THE STARCATCHERS by Dave Barry

Peter, an orphan boy, and his friend, Molly, fight off thieves and pirates in order to keep a secret away from the diabolical Black Stache and his evil associate, Mister Grin. This is the first book in a trilogy.

SHAKESPEARE STEALER by Gary Blackwood

A young orphan boy is ordered by his master to infiltrate Shakespeare's acting troupe in order to steal the script of "Hamlet." In the process he learns the meaning of friendship and loyalty.

RUBY HOLLER by Sharon Creech

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.

THE THIEF LORD by Cornelia Funke

Two orphaned brothers, having run away from the aunt who plans to separate them, are sought by a detective. The boys find shelter in an abandoned movie theatre, and protection—and adventure—from Venice's mysterious "Thief Lord."

MY SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN by Jean Craighead George

A young boy relates his adventures during the year he spent living alone in the Catskill Mountains, including his everyday struggle for survival, his animal friends, and his eventual realization, that he needs human companionship. Followed by Far Side of the Mountain and Frightful's Mountain.

STAR OF KAZAN By Eva Ibbotson

Annika, a twelve-year-old foundling in late nineteenth-century Vienna, inherits a trunk of costume jewelry, and soon afterwards a woman claiming to be her aristocratic mother arrives and takes her to live in an eerily decrepit mansion in Germany.

THE MOORCHILD by Eloise McGraw

Feeling that she is never fully human, nor fully "Folk," a young changeling learns her true identity and attempts to rescue the human child whose identity she has been given.

THE FIVE CHILDREN AND IT by E. Nesbit

When four brothers and sisters discover a sand-fairy in the gravel pit near the country house where they are staying, they have no way of knowing all the adventures its wish-granting will bring them.

LIGHTNING THIEF by Rick Riordan

After learning that he is the son of a mortal woman and Poseidon, the god of the sea, twelve-year-old Percy Jackson is sent to special summer camp for demigods, like himself, and joins his new friends on a quest to prevent a war between the gods.