

# Packer Collegiate Institute Summer Reading List 2014

## 9th Grade

### What Should I Read?

Enclosed is your Summer Reading List. These books have been selected by your librarians and include a variety of genres and subjects. **You should choose at least THREE books from this list to read.** At the end of the summer, you will need to write a letter to your new advisor. (Your advisor's name will be included with information sent to you in August from the Upper School office.) This letter is a great way to introduce yourself and talk about the books you read over the summer. Tell your advisor what you liked about the books you read - or what you didn't like. This letter should be about 200 words long and emailed to your advisor or delivered in person on the first day of school. Summer Reading advisor letters are due September 9, 2014.

**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 True Tale of the Monster Billy Dean as Telt by Himself by David Almond**

[Science Fiction]

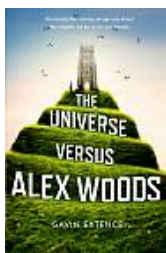
Billy Dean is a secret child, growing up in the dark heart of Blinkbonny. He has a beautiful young mother and a father who arrives at night carrying the smell of incense and cigarettes. His world is just a bed, some pictures of the holy island and a single locked door, but his father fills his dreams with mysterious tales and dreadful warnings. When his father disappears, Billy's mum brings him out into the world, and he learns the dreadful truth of what happened in Blinkbonny on the day he was born. Gradually he finds he has the gift of helping to rebuild what has been broken. But there is one figure who is beyond healing, who comes looking for Billy himself and is determined on a kind of reckoning.



### **The Living by Matt De La Peña**

[Adventure Fiction]

After an earthquake destroys California and a tsunami wrecks the luxury cruise ship where he is a summer employee, high schooler Shy confronts another deadly surprise.



### **The Universe Versus Alex Woods by Gavin Extence**

[Realistic Fiction]

Alex Woods was struck by a meteorite when he was ten years old, leaving scars that marked him for an extraordinary life. The son of a fortune teller, bookish, and an easy target for bullies, he hasn't had the most conventional childhood. When he meets curmudgeonly widower Mr. Peterson, he finds an unlikely friend. Someone who teaches him that that you only get one shot at life. That you have to make it count. So when, aged seventeen, Alex is stopped at Dover customs with 113 grams of marijuana, an urnfull of ashes on the passenger seat, and an entire nation in uproar, he's fairly sure he's done the right thing



### **Foul Trouble by John Feinstein**

[Realistic Fiction]

College recruiters are clamoring to sign up Terrell Jamerson, the #1 high school basketball player in the country. But not all of these recruiters are straight shooters, and Terrell will have to think fast if he wants to stay in the game



### **Maggot Moon by Sally Gardner**

[Science Fiction]

Friendship and trust inspire Standish to rise up against an oppressive regime and expose the truth about a planned moon landing.



### **Charm & Strange by Stephanie Kuehn**

[Realistic Fiction – Mental Illness]

A lonely teenager exiled to a remote Vermont boarding school in the wake of a family tragedy must either surrender his sanity to the wild wolves inside his mind or learn that surviving means more than not dying.



### **Beyond Magenta: Transgender Teens Speak Out by Susan Kuklin**

[Non-Fiction]

Six teens tell what it is like for them to be members of the transgender community.



### **More Than This by Patrick Ness**

[Science Fiction]

A boy named Seth drowns, but then wakes up alone in his hometown, and doesn't know if he is alive or dead.



### **Midwinter Blood by Marcus Sedgwick**

[Fantasy]

Seven linked vignettes unfold on a Scandinavian island inhabited--throughout various time periods--by Vikings, vampires, ghosts, and a curiously powerful plant.

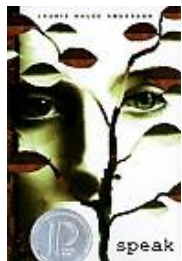


### **Winger by Andrew Smith**

[Realistic Fiction]

Two years younger than his classmates at a prestigious boarding school, fourteen-year-old Ryan Dean West grapples with living in the dorm for troublemakers, falling for his female best friend who thinks of him as just a kid, and playing wing on the Varsity rugby team with some of his frightening new dorm-mates.

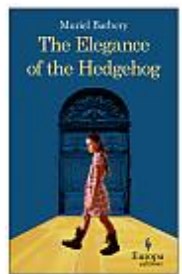
## **Fiction & Non-Fiction**



### **Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson**

[Realistic Fiction]

A traumatic event near the end of the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year in high school.



### **The Elegance of the Hedgehog by Muriel Barbery**

[Realistic Fiction]

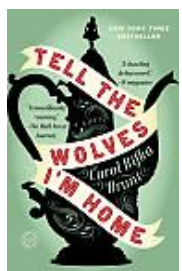
The lives of fifty-four-year-old concierge Rene Michel and extremely bright, suicidal twelve-year-old Paloma Josse are transformed by the arrival of a new tenant, Kakuro Ozu.



### **Love in the Time of Global Warming by Francesca Lia Block**

[Science Fiction/Adventure Fiction]

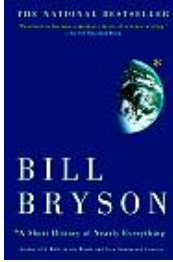
After a devastating earthquake destroys the West Coast, causing seventeen-year-old Penelope to lose her home, her parents, and her ten-year-old brother, she navigates a dark world, holding hope and love in her hands and refusing to be defeated.



### **Tell The Wolves I'm Home by Carol Rifka Brunt**

[Realistic Fiction]

Her world upended by the death of a beloved artist uncle who was the only person that understood her, fourteen-year-old June is mailed a teapot by her uncle's grieving friend, with whom she forges a poignant relationship.



## **A Short History of Nearly Everything by Bill Bryson** [Non-Fiction]

Nature and science writer Bill Bryson examines some of mysteries of science, and attempts to understand not only what scientists know, but how they know it. Covers the creation of the universe, the size of the Earth, the origins of life, and other topics.



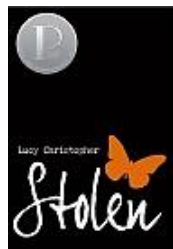
## **The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky** [Epistolary Fiction]

Charlie, a freshman in high school, explores the dilemmas of growing up through a collection of letters he sends to an unknown receiver.



## **Murder on the Orient Express by Agatha Christie** [Mystery]

Belgian detective Hercule Poirot investigates the curious murder of millionaire Samuel Edward Ratchett in a locked compartment aboard the Orient Express while the train is stranded by a snowdrift. He must find the murderer before he decides to strike again.



## **Stolen by Lucy Christopher** [Adventure Fiction]

Sixteen-year-old Gemma, a British city-dweller, is abducted while on vacation with her parents and taken to the Australian outback, where she soon realizes that escape attempts are futile, and in time she learns that her captor is not as despicable as she first believed.



## **Little Brother by Cory Doctorow** [Realistic Fiction]

Interrogated for days by the Department of Homeland Security in the aftermath of a major terrorist attack on San Francisco, California, seventeen-year-old Marcus is released into what is now a police state, and decides to use his expertise in computer hacking to set things right.



## **If I Stay by Gayle Forman** [Realistic Fiction]

While in a coma following an automobile accident that killed her parents and younger brother, seventeen-year-old Mia, a gifted cellist, weighs whether to live with her grief or join her family in death.



## **The Princess Bride by William Goldman**

[Fantasy]

Westley, a farm boy, goes off to seek his fortune shortly after declaring his love for Buttercup, the most beautiful woman in the world, but their relationship is put to the test when his ship is captured by pirates and she is summoned to become the bride of the prince.



## **Paper Towns by John Green**

[Mystery]

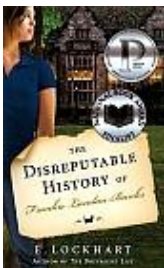
One month before graduating from his Central Florida high school, Quentin "Q" Jacobsen basks in the predictable boringness of his life until the beautiful and exciting Margo Roth Spiegelman, Q's neighbor and classmate, takes him on a midnight adventure and then mysteriously disappears.



## **Boy Meets Boy by David Levithan**

[Realistic Fiction]

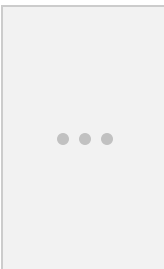
Paul's simple high-school life is confused by his desire for another boy who seems unattainable, until Paul's friends help him find the courage to pursue the object of his affections.



## **The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau Banks by E. Lockhart**

[Realistic Fiction]

Frankie Landau-Banks attempts to take over a secret, all-male society at her exclusive prep school, and her antics with the group soon draw some unlikely attention and have unexpected consequences that could change her life forever.

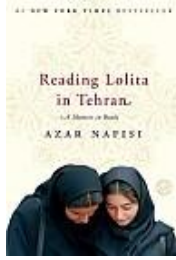


## **Monster by Walter Dean Myers**

[Mystery]

While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script as he tries to come to terms with the course his life has taken.





## **Reading Lolita in Tehran by Azar Nafisi**

[Memoir]

The author presents a memoir of her life in post-revolutionary Iran, focusing on her organization of a group of young women in 1997 who met secretly once a week to read and discuss forbidden works of Western literature.



## **How I Live Now by Meg Rosoff**

[Dystopian]

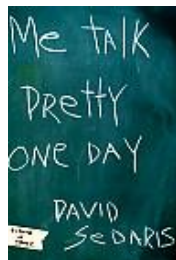
To get away from her pregnant stepmother in New York City, fifteen-year-old Daisy goes to England to stay with her aunt and cousins, with whom she instantly bonds, but soon war breaks out and rips apart the family while devastating the land.



## **Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe by Benjamin Alire Sáenz**

[Realistic Fiction]

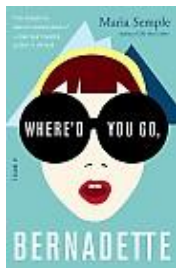
Fifteen-year-old Ari Mendoza is an angry loner with a brother in prison, but when he meets Dante and they become friends, Ari starts to ask questions about himself, his parents, and his family that he has never asked before.



## **Me Talk Pretty One Day by David Sedaris**

[Memoir]

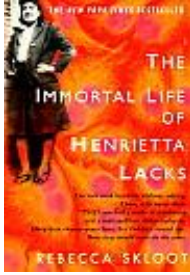
David Sedaris describes the struggles he has had in life due to his voice problems, discussing how his voice has affected his personal relationships, his career, and his family life.



## **Where'd You Go Bernadette by Maria Semple**

[Realistic Fiction]

When Bee aces her report card she claims her reward, which is a trip to Antarctica, but her mother, Bernadette, disappears due to her intensifying allergy to Seattle and people in general, which has made her so agoraphobic that a virtual assistant in India now runs her most basic errands and Bee uses emails, invoices, school memos, private correspondence, and other evidence to try and understand why her mother has left.



## **The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot**

[Non-Fiction]

Examines the experiences of the children and husband of Henrietta Lacks, who, twenty years after her death from cervical cancer in 1951, learned doctors and researchers took cells from her cervix without consent which were used to create the immortal cell line known as the HeLa cell; provides an overview of Henrietta's life; and explores issues of experimentation on African-Americans and bioethics.



## **The Raven Boys by Maggie Stiefvater**

[Fantasy]

Though she is from a family of clairvoyants, Blue Sargent's only gift seems to be that she makes other people's talents stronger, and when she meets Gansey, one of the Raven Boys from the expensive Aglionby Academy, she discovers that he has talents of his own--and that together their talents are a dangerous mix.

**(The Dream Thieves)**

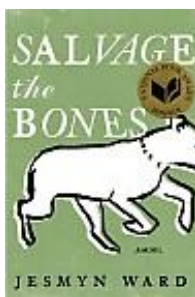


## **Daughter of Smoke & Bone by Liani Taylor**

[Fantasy]

Seventeen-year-old Karou, a lovely, enigmatic art student in a Prague boarding school, carries a sketchbook of hideous, frightening monsters--the chimaerae who form the only family she has ever known.

**(Days of Blood & Starlight, Dreams of Gods and Monsters)**

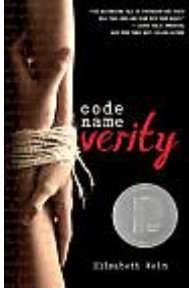


## **Salvage the Bones by Jesmyn Ward**

[Realistic Fiction]

Pregnant fifteen-year-old Esch and her family live in Bois Sauvage, Mississippi, which puts them in the path of Hurricane Katrina, and as they try to stock the small amount of food they have in preparation for the disaster, the family's love for each other will be their only hope for survival.





### **Code Name Verity by Elizabeth Wein**

[Historical Fiction]

In 1943, a British fighter plane crashes in Nazi-occupied France and the survivor tells a tale of friendship, war, espionage, and great courage as she relates what she must do to survive while keeping secret all that she can.

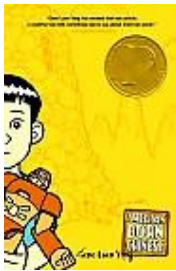
**(Rose Under Fire)**



### **Naked Statistics: Stripping the Dread for the Data by Charles Wheelan**

[Non-Fiction]

Strips away all of the technical details and jargon from the study of statistics to offer an easy-to-understand introduction to its basic principles.



### **American Born Chinese by Gene Luen Yang**

[Graphic Novel]

Alternates interrelated stories about three characters, including a Chinese American trying to participate in popular culture; a Chinese folk hero attempting to be worshipped as a god; and a teenager who is so ashamed by his Chinese cousin's behavior that he changes schools.

## **Classics**



### **Rebecca by Daphne Du Maurier**

[Mystery]

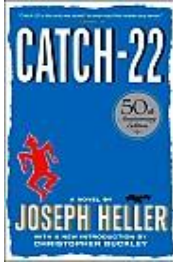
The second Mrs. Maxim de Winter finds it difficult and frightening to live in the shadow of her predecessor, a situation that is exacerbated by her husband's moodiness, and the presence of sinister housekeeper, Mrs. Danvers.



### **Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison**

[Realistic Fiction]

In the course of his wanderings from a Southern college to New York's Harlem, an African-American man becomes involved in a series of adventures.



## **Catch-22 by Joseph Heller**

[Realistic Fiction]

Presents a classic edition of the 1961 satire of military bureaucracy, focusing on the story of John Yossarian, a bombardier in World War II who is trying to avoid getting killed while at the same time dealing with a colonel who keeps upping the number of missions he must fly.



## **1984 by George Orwell**

[Science Fiction]

Depicts life in a totalitarian regime of the future.



## **Nine Stories by J.D. Salinger**

[Short Stories]

This collection of stories deals mainly with sensitive and troubled adolescents and children.