

TCA Middle School READING Summer Learning Instructions

This summer, all students are expected to stay engaged in reading and skill practice to ensure a strong start to the new school year. Each student will complete two required components:

1. i-Ready Reading Lessons (Minimum: 4 Lessons)

Students must complete at least four Reading i-Ready lessons during the summer.

- Lessons may be completed at any pace.
- Students should log in using their school account.
- **Lessons must be completed by July 1st.**

2. Summer Reading Packet

Each grade level has a **Summer Reading Packet** designed to strengthen comprehension, vocabulary, and critical-thinking skills.

- Students must complete **all sections** of the packet.
- Packets include comprehension questions and vocabulary practice.
- Completed packets will be turned in on August 7th.
- Students will test on August 8th.

Distribution of Materials

All summer learning materials — including the i-Ready instructions and the full reading packet — will be:

- **Sent home with students on Friday, May 15th and Monday, May 18th**
- **Posted in the NEW Summer Learning Google Classroom**
- **Available on the school website** for families to access at any time

Please check all three locations to ensure you have everything you need.

Student Expectations

By the first week of school, students should have:

- Completed at least **4 i-Ready Reading lessons**
- Finished the **entire Summer Reading Packet** for their grade level
- Brought the packet back to school for review and credit

Island of the Blue Dolphins – Summer Reading Packet

Directions: Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper to be turned in on the first FULL day of school.

Name: _____

Grade: _____

Section 1: Essential Vocabulary (10 Words)

Write the definition and a sentence for each word.

1. Aleuts
2. Headland
3. Abalone
4. Lair
5. Cormorant
6. Tides
7. Canoe
8. Spearhead
9. Shelter
10. Tribe

Section 2: Whole-Book Comprehension Questions

Answer in complete sentences.

A. Characters

1. Who is Karana, and what qualities help her survive on the island?
2. Describe Karana's relationship with Ramo. How does his death change her?
3. Why is Rontu important to Karana emotionally and physically?
4. How does Karana's friendship with Tutok show her growth?

B. Plot & Major Events

5. Why does Karana jump off the ship instead of leaving the island?
6. What causes the conflict between the tribe and the Aleuts?
7. How does Karana learn to take care of herself after being left alone?
8. What discoveries does Karana make in the Black Cave, and how do they affect her?
9. How does Karana change her attitude toward animals over the course of the book?

10. What events lead to Karana finally being rescued?

C. Themes

11. How does the novel show the theme of survival?

12. What does Karana learn about forgiveness?

13. How does the story show that friendship can come from unexpected places?

14. What message does the book give about living in harmony with nature?

D. Setting & World-Building

15. How does the island itself help shape Karana's character?

16. What natural challenges does Karana face, and how does she overcome them?

E. Inference & Critical Thinking

17. Why do you think Karana chooses not to kill the wild dogs after Ramo's death?

18. What can you infer about Karana's personality based on her decision to befriend Tutok?

19. Why might the author have chosen to keep Karana alone for most of the story?

20. What does Karana's final rescue symbolize for her personally?