

# 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



# Freak the Mighty – 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. Quest
2. Ornithopter
3. Perspective
4. Imagination
5. Trust
6. Courage
7. Friendship
8. Strength
9. Identity
10. Loyalty

## Section 2: Whole-Book Comprehension Questions

*Answer in complete sentences.*

### A. Characters

1. Who are Max and Kevin (Freak), and how do their strengths balance each other?
2. How does Kevin help Max see himself differently?
3. What does Max learn about courage from Freak?
4. How does Max's relationship with Grim and Gram shape his growth?

### B. Plot & Major Events

5. What event brings Max and Freak together as "Freak the Mighty"?
6. How do their "quests" help Max gain confidence?
7. What happens when Max's father, Killer Kane, returns, and how does it affect Max?
8. How does Freak's illness impact the story and Max's emotional journey?

9. What does Max do after Freak dies, and why is this important?
10. How does the book show that Freak and Max changed each other's lives?

### **C. Themes**

11. How does the novel show that friendship can make people stronger?
12. What does the story teach about accepting yourself?
13. How does imagination help Freak and Max cope with challenges?
14. What message does the book give about bravery?

### **D. Setting & Real-World Challenges**

15. How does Max's home environment affect the way he sees himself?
16. How does school influence both boys differently?

### **E. Inference & Critical Thinking**

17. Why do you think Max believes Freak's stories so deeply?
  18. What can you infer about Max's growth based on how he handles grief?
  19. Why might the author have chosen to tell the story from Max's point of view?
  20. What does the ending reveal about the power of storytelling?
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