



**Summer Reading Assignment: Grades 7 & 8**  
**Portersville Christian School**  
**Summer 2026**

*To travel far, there is no better ship than a book.*  
-Emily Dickinson

*If you are going to get anywhere in life, you have to read a lot of books!*  
-Roald Dahl

**Goal:** It's important to be a lifelong reader. Reading helps you grow in many ways, including becoming a better writer. We want to encourage you to keep reading through the summer with books you may not have considered reading before and ones that you just can't put down!

**How it works:** Select **one book from the list below and one book of your choice** (that does not have to be from the list) to read this summer. When you've finished reading both, please select one book to use to complete the reading reflection on the back of this page. Submit this to your English teacher during the first week of school.

**A Note to Parents:** Use discretion when helping your child select their summer reading. All families have different levels of comfortability when it comes to certain subject matter. Please review your child's book selections and contact your child's teacher with any questions or concerns.

\*Audio books are acceptable for use.

---

Classic Fiction

- *The Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan
- *The Call of the Wild* by Jack London
- *The Family Under the Bridge* by Carlson
- *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* by Jules Verne
- *Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O'Dell
- *Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* by DiCamillo

Christian Fiction

- Any by C.S. Lewis
- Any from the *O'Malley Series*
- *The Traveler's Gift* by Andy Andrews
- *Remember the Alamo* by Amelia Barr
- Any from the *Dragons Among Us Series*
- Any from the *Millie Maven Series*

Historical Fiction

- *The Watsons Go to Birmingham* by Curtis
- *Calico Captive* by Elizabeth Speare
- *Out of the Dust* by Karen Hesse
- Any from *Dear America Series*

Realistic Fiction

- *Freak the Mighty* by Rodman Philbrick
- *How to Eat Fried Worms* by Thomas Rockwell
- *Christy Series* by Catherine Marshall
- *Replay* by Sharon Creech
- *The Running Dream* by Van Draanen
- *The View from Saturday* by Konigsburg
- Any by Andrew Clements

Fantasy Fiction

- *The Magician's Elephant* by Kate DiCamillo
- *Crenshaw* by Katherine Applegate
- *Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame
- *Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathan Swift
- *The Time Machine* by H.G. Wells

Adventure - Survival/Mystery

- *A Dog's Purpose* by W. Bruce Cameron
- *A Dog's Journey* by W. Bruce Cameron
- *The Penderwicks* by Jeanne Birdsall
- *Call It Courage* by Armstrong Sperry
- *The Everest Series* by Gordon Korman

Novels In Verse/Poetry

- *Alone* by Megan Freeman
- *The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander
- *Closer to Nowhere* by Ellen Hopkins

Sports

- *Crash* by Jerry Spinelli
- *Free Baseball* by Sue Corbett
- *Kid Owner* by Tim Green
- *Soar* by Joan Bauer

Biography/Autobiography

- Any from the *Christian Heroes* series
- *The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank
- *God's Smuggler* by Brother Andrew
- *Kisses from Katie* by Katie Davis
- *Born Again* by Charles Colson
- *The Keeper* by Jeremy Jones

