



## **7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> SUMMER READING**

Thank you for your continued partnership in your child's learning. At Rossville Christian Academy our goal is to cultivate students who reflect Christ-like character, honor learning as a process that requires time and grit and demonstrate academic excellence. As tools like Artificial Intelligence (AI) become more common, we believe students must rigorously limit the use of AI. AI should never be used to short-circuit learning, but rather, when appropriate, to support growth and understanding.

As part of a school-wide initiative to reduce AI use and dependence, as well as to encourage students to do meaningful work at school without the assistance of AI technology, RCA drafted and is implementing an AI policy. This new policy was sent to families in October 2025. It includes (amongst other things) that all classwork, including reading, be done in class. This was done both to ensure accountability in classwork and allow teachers to directly guide students in their work, short-circuiting the need for AI use and dependence. We believe that this policy will help ground students in their work and allow teachers to offer immediate correction, instruction, and evaluation.

Although we believe summer reading is important, the existence of AI and our policy regarding all classwork and readings going forward require changes to our typical summer reading assignments. Therefore, to be fully aligned with the policy, we are not requiring summer reading.

We still strongly encourage our students to read this summer, because summer reading has many benefits:

- It prevents "summer slide": Regular reading helps ensure students do not lose academic gains made during the school year, which can otherwise accumulate a two-year lag in reading achievement by middle school.

- It boosts academic performance: Children who read during the summer often return to school with better reading skills, improved self-esteem, and increased motivation to learn.
- It enhances cognitive skills: Reading strengthens phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and critical thinking.
- It develops lifelong habits: Summer reading programs encourage reading as a fun, voluntary, and enjoyable activity rather than a chore.
- It reduces stress: Reading can serve as a healthy escape and lower heart rate and muscle tension.
- It supports reluctant readers: Library programs and incentives can engage students through diverse, enjoyable options.
- It offers long-term advantages: Consistent summer reading builds background knowledge, improves memory, and encourages reading for pleasure; for adults, it's also a chance to explore new topics and grow personally.

We appreciate your support in encouraging reading at home this summer while reinforcing our commitment to meaningful, honest academic growth. If you'd like suggestions for age-appropriate titles, please see our [short list](#) or participate in local library programs.

If you have any questions about our AI policy, please contact our admin team.