

READING

WITH THE **RAYS**

READ YOUR WAY TO THE BALLPARK WITH MATT JOYCE!



Reading with the Rays
Read your way to the Ballpark

ON YOUR WAY TO THE BALLPARK
Use this card to track your reading progress. Each time you read a book, you can check off a box. When you've read all the books on the list, you'll have earned a special prize!

READ BEHIND THE SCENE - 30 MINUTE TOUR!

- Read 1 book
- Read 2 books
- Read 3 books
- Read 4 books
- Read 5 books

READING RAYS
with the Rays

Reading with the Rays
Read your way to the Ballpark

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
AGE: _____
TELEPHONE: _____
DATE: _____
BOOKS READ: _____
PRIZES: _____



Newspaper in Education

The Tampa Bay Times Newspaper in Education (NIE) program is a cooperative effort between schools and the *Times* to promote the use of newspapers in print and electronic form as educational resources.



Since the mid-1970s, NIE has provided schools with class sets of the *Times*, plus our award-winning original curriculum, at no cost to teachers or schools. With ever-shrinking school budgets, the newspaper has become an invaluable tool to teachers. In the Tampa Bay area, the *Times* provides more than 5 million free newspapers and electronic licenses for teachers to use in their classrooms every school year.

The *Times* and our NIE curriculum are rich educational resources, offering teachers an up-to-the-minute, living text and source for countless projects in virtually every content area. Teachers, e-mail ordernie@tampabay.com to become an NIE teacher. For information about how you can donate to NIE, call 800-333-7505, ext. 8138 or visit tampabay.com/nie.

Learn more about NIE on our website: tampabay.com/nie. Keep in the know about the Tampa Bay Times Newspaper in Education program by following us on Twitter: twitter.com/TBTimesNIE.

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Credits

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Player photos provided by the Tampa Bay Rays

Check out our summer reading website at tampabay.com/nie/raysreading.
Order copies of the *Tampa Bay Times* for your summer school classroom by e-mailing ordernie@tampabay.com.



With our baseball season in full swing, the Rays have teamed up with the Tampa Bay Times Newspaper in Education program to create a lineup of free summer reading fun. Our goals are to encourage you to read more this summer and to visit the library regularly before you return to school this fall. If we succeed in our efforts, then you, too, will succeed as part of our Read Your Way to the Ballpark program.

By reading books this summer, elementary school students in grades three through five in Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco and Pinellas counties can circle the bases – first, second, third and home – and collect prizes as they go. Make it all the way around to home and the ultimate reward is a ticket to see the red-hot Rays in action at Tropicana Field this season.

Check out this insert and you'll see what our players have to say about reading. Matt Joyce, Evan Longoria, James Shields, Ben Zobrist and Wade Davis all enjoyed reading as they grew up and understand how it's helped them to become the people they are today.

Kids, you can get your game cards and prizes at public libraries in Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco and Pinellas counties. Summer is baseball season, and it also can be a great time to be in the library reading books and stories that interest you. Catch all the action this summer at your library and the Trop!

A special thank you to our friends at Advantica for supporting this program in 2012.



A handwritten signature of Joe Maddon in black ink.

Joe Maddon
Tampa Bay Rays Manager

Summer Times reading

This summer, families and school district employees can subscribe to the 13/13 NIE program: 13 weeks of the *Times*, for \$13. New subscribers to the *Times* can take advantage of this program by calling 1-800-888-7012 during normal hours of operation: Monday through Friday 6 a.m. – 5 p.m., Saturday 6-11 a.m., Sunday 7-11 a.m. Ask for special offer code NIE2250. You also can subscribe at tampabay.com/special offer. Enter code 2250.



Read your way to the ballpark

Read around the bases

Stop the presses! Summer vacation has arrived, and it is time for the seventh-inning stretch. Playing games and sports is a great way to exercise your body during the summer so you can be strong and healthy for the next school year. Keeping your mind strong and healthy is important, too. The best way to exercise your brain is by reading.

The Tampa Bay Rays baseball players know the importance of staying healthy and strong and keeping their minds active. That is why the Rays have partnered with the Tampa Bay Times Newspaper in Education program, Advantica and the Tampa Bay-area library systems to encourage and reward students for reading.

The choices are endless

On the pages of this Tampa Bay Times Newspaper in Education publication, you will see suggested reading for students in grades three through five. Between the covers of these books are action, adventure, romance,

comedy and new worlds for you to explore and learn about. You can find these adventures and more on the shelves of your local library.

You can choose to read these books or any books that interest you. You also can read the *Tampa Bay Times*. Reading the *Tampa Bay Times* can help you earn hours to read your way to the ballpark, too! Within the pages of your daily newspaper, in print or online, you will find news, sports, adventure, comics, classifieds and a lot of fun things to do and read about. You can follow articles about the Rays by Marc Topkin, Gary Shelton, John Romano or Tom Jones.

Line drive

For every hour you read, you will swing the bat to advance around the bases on the game card pictured on this page. Every time you arrive at a base, you can pick up a reward at your local library. When you hit a home run, you will receive one ticket to see the Rays in action.

The rules of the Read Your Way to the Ballpark game are simple.

- Choose your favorite books from your local library or select your favorite section of the *Tampa Bay Times* to read over the summer.
- Go to your local library to get your game card.
- As you read, track your hours by rounding the bases and collect Rays rewards along the way.
- When you read enough hours to get to first base, ask your parent or guardian to initial your card; then bring it to your local library.
- The librarian will initial your card and give you a reading reward.
- Round the bases by reading a total of 24 hours this summer and receive a ticket to a Rays game!

Keeping score

On the back of the card, keep track of your favorite books and articles you read this summer. Read around the bases — 24 hours total!

- ★ **Read 3 hours** to get from Home Plate to First Base
Reward: Rays bookmark
- ★ **Read 5 more hours** to get from First to Second Base
Reward: Rays poster
- ★ **Read 7 more hours** to get from Second to Third Base
Reward: Rays slap bracelet
- ★ **Read 9 more hours** to get from Third Base to Home Plate
Reward: Official Reading with the Rays certificate. One (1) ticket to a Rays home game. See your game card for details (based upon availability).



History of baseball in the Sunshine State



MATT JOYCE

“When I was really young I enjoyed books by Dr. Seuss. I loved The Cat in the Hat. As I got older I really got into the Goosebumps series. My third-and fifth-grade teachers were the ones who got me interested in reading and I thank them for that. It is the most important thing you’ll ever learn to do. Reading applies to everything in your life and in your career. It helps to exercise your brain and improves your vocabulary. Good readers are good speakers; I’ve learned that working with people like Joe Maddon. On the road, I read constantly, fiction and non-fiction.”

Tampa native Matt Joyce joined the Rays in 2008. A graduate of Armwood High School, in Brandon, Joyce is a long-time Rays fan. The outfielder is active in the Tampa Bay community year round. In January, he hosted the Second Annual Sweet Swingin’ Baseball Camp at North Brandon Little League, helping to raise \$10,000 for the organization.

Tampa Bay’s favorite pastime

Baseball may be America’s favorite pastime, but it also holds a special place in the heart of the Tampa Bay area. This year marks the 93rd season in which Major League Baseball has had a presence in St. Petersburg.

On Feb. 27, 1914, the St. Louis Browns opened spring training workouts in the Sunshine City. With the Rays moving their spring home to Charlotte County in 2009, this is just the fourth

year St. Petersburg has been without a Spring Training team since 1945, when travel restrictions during World War II prohibited teams from traveling south for the spring. Nonetheless, more Major League Baseball Spring Training games have been played in St. Petersburg than in any other city.

Nine teams have trained in St. Petersburg: the St. Louis Browns, Philadelphia Phillies, Boston Braves, New York Yankees, St. Louis Cardinals, New York Giants, New York Mets, Baltimore Orioles and, of course, your Tampa Bay Rays.



DID YOU KNOW?

Research shows that children who do not continue reading through the summer can lose a month or more of progress made during the school year. By encouraging their children to read, parents are playing a critical role in achieving our goal of having every child reading at or above grade level. Keep your children engaged in reading!

Grades 3-5 Summer Reading Suggestions

Alvin Ho: Allergic to Camping, Hiking, and Other Natural Disasters, by Lenore Look

Bears Beware, by Patricia Reilly Giff

Camping, by Cindy Jenson-Elliott

Plantzilla Goes to Camp, by Jerdine Nolen

A Week in the Woods, by Andrew Clements

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, by Roald Dahl

The Fisherman and His Wife, by Eric Blair

Dodger Dreams: The Courage of Jackie Robinson, by Brandon Terrell

Stanley and the Magic Lamp, by Jeff Brown

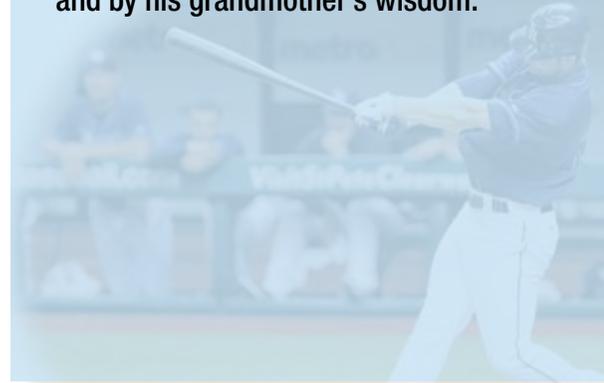
The Wish Giver: Three Tales of Coven Tree, by Bill Brittain



Read all about

Safe At Home, by Sharon Robinson

Ten-year-old Elijah Breeze, aka Jumper, is having the hardest summer of his life. His father has just died, his mother has moved the family from the suburbs to New York to the city's Harlem area and he has to spend the summer at baseball camp. Elijah loves playing basketball, but he doesn't know anything about baseball, or city life or how to keep going without his dad. Although Elijah struggles in his new life, he's encouraged by the support of his coach and by his grandmother's wisdom.



If you build it, they will come

In 1910, a former Pittsburgh laundry owner named Al Lang moved to St. Petersburg. As a baseball fan, he believed that attracting a Major League Baseball team to St. Petersburg for Spring Training was the answer to attracting more tourists to the area.

Lang convinced St. Louis Browns general manager Branch Rickey to move the team to St. Petersburg in 1914 for training. The first game between two major league teams in St. Petersburg took place on March 27, 1914, as the Grapefruit League was established. The Browns hosted the Chicago Cubs, who were training in Tampa and made the trip by steamboat across Tampa Bay. And that, as they say, is history.

Lang helped engineer a new ballpark, Waterfront Park, located close to where Al Lang Stadium is today. The new park had its first game when

the Boston Braves took the field in 1922. The Yankees joined the Braves in St. Petersburg in 1925. They would stay until 1962, when manager Casey Stengel and the expansion New York Mets moved in, and the Yankees went to Fort Lauderdale. When the Boston Braves left for Bradenton in 1937, the St. Louis Cardinals came to St. Petersburg, joining the Yankees the following year. The Cardinals would stay 57 of the next 60 years, missing only the war years.

Parent Tip

Reading aloud is a gift you can give to your children from the day they are born until the time they leave the nest. Children's reading experts agree that reading aloud offers the easiest and most effective way to help children become lifelong readers. It can also be as much fun for you as it is for your children.

Source: Florida Department of Education



Learning with the Times

On the sports pages

In 1996, at the age of 12, Matt Joyce hit his first home run at Disney's Wide World of Sports Complex. It was a dream come true. What are some of your dreams? What are your goals for the future? Look through the articles and photos in the *Tampa Bay Times*. Cut out headlines, words, photos and ads that will help you reach your goals. Create a collage. On the back of the collage, explain what the items shown represent to you. Share your collage with your family and classmates.

Midnight on the Moon, by Mary Pope Osborne

The Moon Book, by Layne deMarin

Team Moon: How 400,000 People Landed Apollo 11 on the Moon, by Catherine Thimmesh

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon, by Grace Lin

The Bears on Hemlock Mountain, by Alice Dalgliesh

The Bat Scientists, by Mary Kay Carson

Frogs, by Nic Bishop

The Hive Detectives: Chronicle of a Honey Bee Catastrophe, by Loree Griffin Burns

Knucklehead: Tall Tales & Mostly True Stories about Growing Up Scieszka, by Jon Scieszka

Lizards, by Nic Bishop

The 39 Clues: The Maze of Bones, by Rick Riordan

Read all about

The Comeback Challenge, by Matt Christopher

Mark Conway has a lot to deal with in his life. His parents are getting divorced, and Mark must move in with his grandparents. His only outlet seems to be the game of soccer. He quickly becomes a valuable player on his school soccer team, but there is a lot of tension on and off the field. Read about Mark's challenges and achievements.



Learning with the Times

Being a team player

Ben Zobrist knows the meaning of determination and teamwork. Look on the pages of the *Tampa Bay Times* for photos, illustrations, comics and headlines that represent teamwork and determination. Based on the items you find, write down how these items represent teamwork and determination. Next, write a fully developed paragraph discussing the importance of teamwork at home, at school and in your community. Share your thoughts with your family and classmates.

The academics of baseball

So, what do baseball and reading have in common? Sharpening your reading skills is a lot like sharpening skills for baseball. When baseball season has ended, the players do not become couch potatoes. They must exercise their bodies to stay in shape, just as you need to exercise your brain even though you are not in school.

A pitcher would never enter a game without warming up his or her arm, so why would you enter a new school year without warming up your brain? Baseball, the thinking person's game, is a sport in which having a lot of knowledge and sharp, critical thinking skills leads to success. The best way to sharpen those skills and increase your knowledge base is through reading.

Parent Tip

Set aside a special time each day to read aloud to your children. Fifteen minutes a day is an ideal time. Vary your reading selections. For very young children, look for picture books with artwork and stories that are simple, clear and colorful.

Source: Reading Is Fundamental



Grades 3-5 Summer Reading Suggestions

The Bears on Hemlock Mountain, by Alice Dalgliesh

Billions of Bats, by Scott Nickel

Guardians of Ga'Hoole series, by Kathryn Lasky

Hoot, by Carl Hiaasen

Real-Life Vampires, by Megan Kopp

The Book That Ate My Brother, by Michael Dahl

Ghost Hunters, by Michael Martin

Ghost Knight, by Cornelia Funke

Half-Minute Horrors, by Susan Rich

Lost in Spooky Forest, by Sean O'Reilly

Fun baseball facts



In Major League Baseball, the distance between bases is 90 feet. The distance from the pitcher's mound to home plate is 60 feet, 6 inches.



Baseball began interleague play in 1997. The first interleague game was played on June 12, 1997.



Major league umpire Cal Hubbard is the only person in both the baseball and football halls of fame.



The average game life span of a Major League Baseball is seven pitches.



Baseball stars from the National League and the American League played the first All-Star Game in 1933.



The National Baseball Hall of Fame & Museum is located in Cooperstown, N.Y. It opened in 1936.



On March 20, 2000, the Chicago Cubs and New York Mets played the first regular season game ever held outside of North America, at the Tokyo Dome in Japan.



Tampa native Luis Gonzalez became the first player to hit a home run into two bodies of water: McCovey Cove in San Francisco and Bank One Ballpark (now Chase Field) in Phoenix. He also was first player to hit a ball into the Rays' Touch Tank.



On May 19, 2003, the then Tampa Bay Devil Rays became the first team ever in Major League history to climb over .500 after being 18 games under that mark.

Sources: Think Quest, Factmonster and National Baseball Almanac

Misty Gordon and the Mystery of the Ghost Pirates, by Kim Kennedy

The Underneath, by Kathi Appelt

Elijah of Buxton, by Christopher Paul Curtis

Criss Cross, by Lynne Rae Perkins

Whittington, by Alan Armstrong

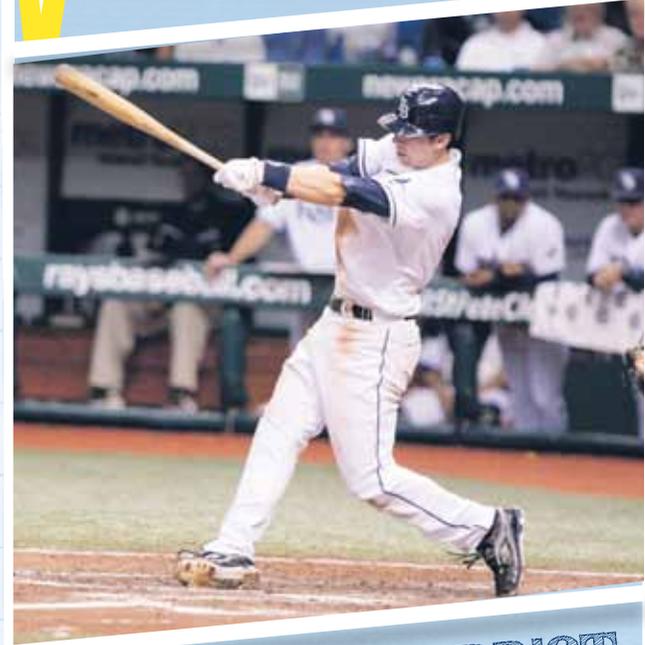
A Bear Named Trouble, by Marion Dane Bauer

The Beast of Blackslope, by Tracy Barrett

Bless This Mouse, by Lois Lowry

The Fantastic Secret of Owen Jester, by Barbara O'Connor

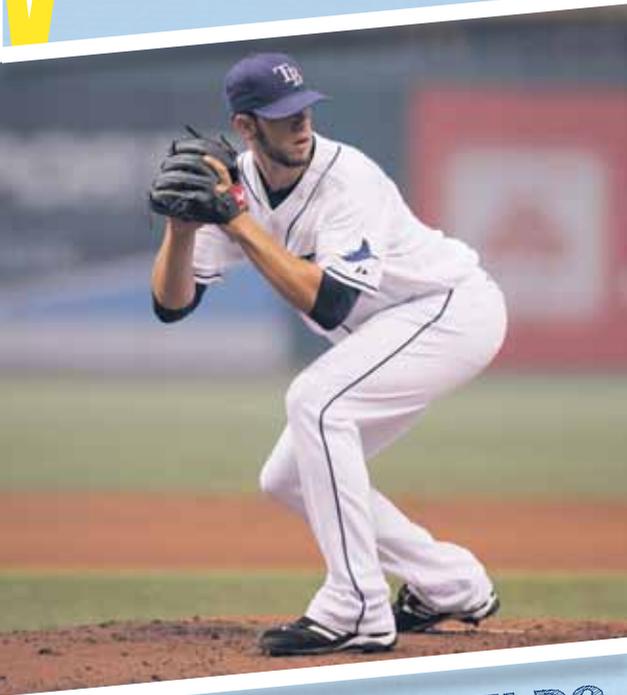
RAYS SPOTLIGHT



BEN ZOBRIST

"As a kid I remember reading Matt Christopher sports-themed books. These days I catch up on my reading during road trips. At home, my wife and I are already trying to pass on the love of reading to Zion and Kruse, even though they are young."

Infielder/outfielder Ben Zobrist has been a super utility player for the Rays since 2006. During the 2011 season, he led the team with a career-high 156 games played. Zobrist also led the team in runs, hits, doubles and extra-base hits. He believes kids need positive role models. He partnered with the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Suncoast to create a Sandlot Club for kids from the North Greenwood Center. In 2010, he met with the kids once a month during the season to teach them the basics of baseball and character-building skills such as sportsmanship and teamwork.



JAMES SHIELDS

"I love to sit down with my daughters to read their favorite books together. Reading is the foundation for a good education, and helps build creativity."

As a supporter of the Rays Baseball Foundation, pitcher James Shields believes in serving his community. In 2010, James and his wife, Ryane, teamed up with Eckerd and the Heart Gallery of Pinellas and Pasco to create an exclusive club for foster children. The Big Game James Club is designed to help promote normalcy along with a sense of stability and belonging in the lives of local foster children served by Eckerd programs. About 50 kids participated in the Big Game James Club in 2011, attending a series of games in a specially decorated suite generously donated by the Rays and the Shields family. For his work with foster children, Shields has been the Rays' recipient of the Roberto Clemente Award three years in a row.

Rays highlights



The team officially became the Tampa Bay Rays on November 8, 2007. In the four seasons since, they have averaged 92 wins per season, advanced to the postseason three times and won two American League East titles. In the 10 previous seasons as the Devil Rays, the team averaged 97 losses per season. Under the current three-division format, which was initiated in 1995, only the Yankees and Rays have won more than one American League East title over a full 162-game season.

- ★ Joe Maddon has won two American League Manager of the Year awards (2008, 2011).
- ★ Rays have won two American League Rookie of the Year awards: Evan Longoria in 2008 and Jeremy Hellickson in 2011.
- ★ Over the past four seasons, the Rays have had 11 different players make the All-Star team: Jason Bartlett, Carl Crawford, Matt Joyce, Scott Kazmir, Evan Longoria, Dioner Navarro, Carlos Pena, David Price, James Shields, Rafael Soriano and Ben Zobrist.

- ★ The Rays as a team have won four straight AL stolen base crowns.
- ★ The Rays have used only 13 different starting pitchers over the last four seasons, three fewer than any other team in Major League Baseball.
- ★ Since 2008, the Rays have committed only 346 errors, fourth fewest in the majors and second fewest in the American League.
- ★ Between 2008 and 2011, the Rays have allowed the fewest runs and the pitchers have had the lowest earned runs in the American League.

Parent Tip

Have your children sit where they can see the book clearly, especially if it is a picture book. Allow time for your children to settle into the story, as well as time afterward to talk about it.

Grades 3-5 Summer Reading Suggestions

Princess Academy, by Shannon Hale

A Faraway Island, by Annika Thor

Eidi, by Bodil Bredsdorff

Animals in the House: A History of Pets and People, by Sheila Keenan

Bud, Not Buddy, by Christopher Paul Curtis

Crazy Cars, by Matt Doeden

Crossing Jordan, by Adrian Fogelin

Dare to Dream! by Carl Sommer

Do Not Open: An Encyclopedia of the World's Best-Kept Secrets, by John Farndon

Dog Diaries: Secret Writings of the WOOF Society, by Betsy Byars, Betsy Duffey and Laurie Myers

Baseball terms word search

Directions: Find the following Rays players in the word search puzzle.

- Badenhop
- Davis
- Gomes
- Hellickson
- Howell
- McGee
- Moore
- Niemann
- Peralta
- Price
- Rodney
- Shields
- Gimenez
- Molina
- Johnson
- Keppinger
- Longoria
- Pena
- Rodriguez
- Jennings
- Joyce
- Zobrist

W E N S Z J Z E Z H P R I C E C P W B C
 T E N E E X O F R E O J E O S A E F C Q
 Y G F E U M N Y M I N W Q G T N N E M X
 Y C N T G R O B C S W E E C N G A K Z K
 S M I H I M R G R E R F M L O I J J D A
 J L E C R L O N G O R I A I L R P R X I
 J A M R D G S N O R R F E Q G B H P S Z
 K E A T O B O M N O S K C I L L E H E S
 E W N Z R S I V A D Q L Z Z Y C R E P K
 K E N N N V S L E N N U W Z E S P U B J
 B H W H I B R P N E L Z H V K U F I F P
 J L O L G N O N T Y I R F X K S H G T Y
 J J E Y X H A A Y W Z O B R I S T Q L X
 I I M U N M B S G P P E C Z I K D V A R
 L Q O E O J V Q P E N U Q Z T I N G K I
 Z R D L S V M V R J L H H Q V Z D P L U
 X A I D T H O A J B M Z Q I Q V M X L W
 B N E P S G L N D A S D L E I H S L P O
 A F P W T T N F I Y V V B F Z Y H A I V
 H J N U A F O G Z M E F U H M G W M W X



Read all about

Rotten School #4: Lose, Team, Lose, by R.L. Stine

Jennifer Ecch is so tough that she attends Rotten School on an arm wrestling scholarship! Bernie Bridges calls her Nightmare Girl. But Jennifer likes Bernie and will do anything to get him to be her boyfriend, including joining the all-boys football team. With Jennifer playing, they can't lose. But wait. If they win, they have to play the National Champion team – the Bone Breakers!



Learning with the Times

Setting a good example

James Shields and his wife are setting a good example in our community. Look in the pages of the *Tampa Bay Times* to find other people who are role models to others because of their actions. Make a list of the people you find and what they have done that shows good character. Share what you have learned with your classmates and family.



Learning with the Times

Taking action

Each of the Rays players featured in this publication supports the Rays Baseball Foundation. They know the importance of helping their community. Now it is your turn. Create a team of at least three people and choose a community project you can complete, such as reading to younger children, visiting children in the hospital or picking up trash around your school. Write a letter to the editor about your community work.

Every Minute on Earth: Fun Facts That Happen Every 60 Seconds, by Steve Murrie and Matthew Murrie

Extreme Pets! by Jane Harrington

Life under Ice, by Mary M. Cerullo

Riddle-iculous Math, by Joan Holub

Sarah, Plain and Tall, by Patricia MacLachlan

See What You Can Be: Explore Careers That Could Be for You! by Diane Heiman and Liz Suneby

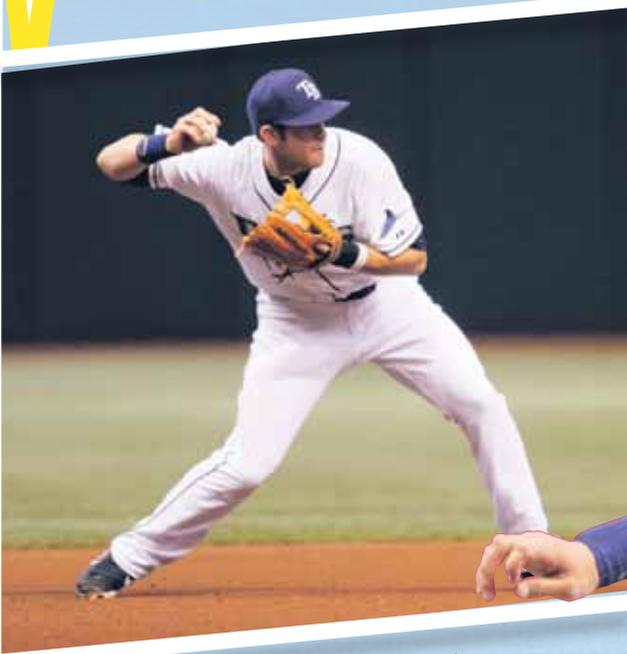
Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, by Lewis Carroll

The Black Stallion, by Walter Farley

The Birchbark House, by Louise Erdrich

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon, by Grace Lin

Negro National League



EVAN LONGORIA

"I enjoy the challenge of doing the daily crossword puzzle in the newspaper during my down time in the clubhouse. Reading helps me expand my vocabulary and gives me a sense of accomplishment."

Third baseman Evan Longoria knows the importance of education. He studied criminology at Long Beach State University in California, and he has enjoyed reading since he was a child. During the 2010 season, at the age of 24, Evan became the first third baseman to make the All-Star team in each of his first three seasons. Last season, Longoria led the Rays in home runs, runs batted in and walks.

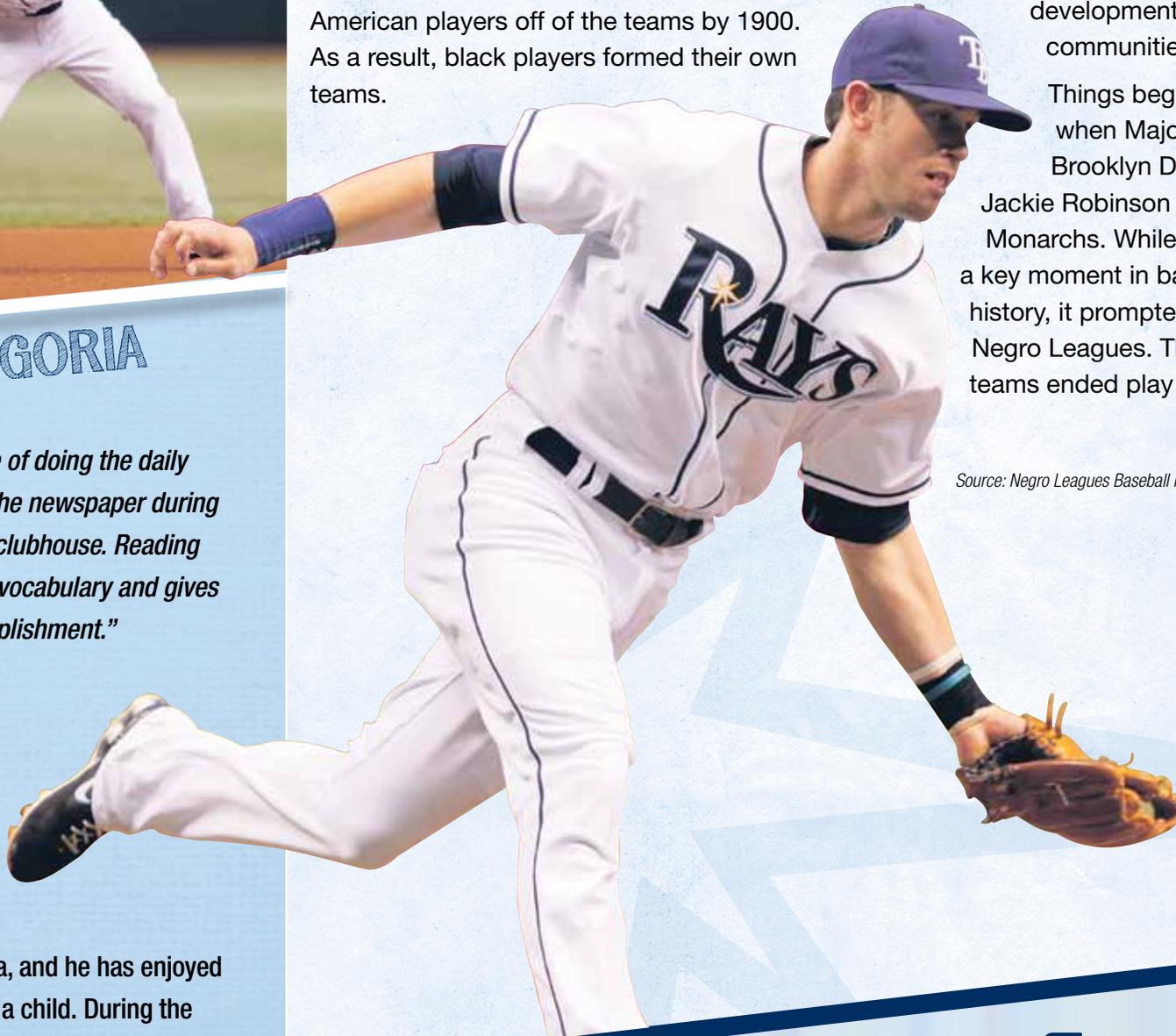
You wouldn't know it from watching baseball today, but integration of African-Americans into Major League Baseball was not always the case.

African-Americans eventually found their way to professional teams with white players; however, racism and Jim Crow laws would force African-American players off of the teams by 1900. As a result, black players formed their own teams.

In 1920, an organized league structure called the Negro National League was created in the Midwest under the guidance of Andrew "Rube" Foster. Soon, competitor leagues formed in Eastern and Southern states. These leagues maintained a high level of professional skill and became the nucleus for economic development in many black communities.

Things began to change in 1945, when Major League Baseball's Brooklyn Dodgers recruited Jackie Robinson from the Kansas City Monarchs. While this historic event was a key moment in baseball and civil rights history, it prompted the decline of the Negro Leagues. The last Negro League teams ended play in the early 1960s.

Source: Negro Leagues Baseball Museum



Grades 3-5 Summer Reading Suggestions

Hurricanes: Earth's Mightiest Storms, by Patricia Lauber

Horses, by Seymour Simon

A History of Us, by Joy Hakim

Discovering Mars: The Amazing Story of the Red Planet, by Melvin Berger

Quest for the Tree Kangaroo, by Sy Montgomery

Aquiferious, by Margaret Ross Tolbert

A Nest for Celeste: A Story about Art, Inspiration, and the Meaning of Home, by Henry Cole

Heroes for My Son, by Brad Meltzer

The Last Egret, by Harvey E. Oyer III

Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears: A West African Tale, by Verna Aardema



Parent Tip

Children like a sense of completion, so finish what you begin. If the book is lengthy, find an appropriate stopping point, such as the end of a chapter.

Learning about history

The history of the Negro Leagues of baseball is important and extensive. From the late 1800s through the end of the official Negro League in 1960, more than 2,500 men and women participated as players, coaches, managers and officials. Research the players and teams at the Negro League Baseball Museum's website, nlbm.com. Choose one of the many players and research his or her story. Share the information you learn with your classmates and family.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The Jacksonville Redcaps were the only Florida African-American baseball team. The team was a member of the Negro American League.
- There were eight organized Negro Leagues from 1920 to 1960.
- In 1885, the Cuban Giants became the first group of professional black players.
- In 1945, Jackie Robinson became the first black player to sign a formal Major League contract.
- In 1947, Cleveland Indian Larry Doby became the first black player in the American League.
- In 1948, Satchel Paige became the first black pitcher to play in an American League game.
- Jackie Robinson was elected into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1962.

Source: Baseball Almanac

Read all about

In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson, by Bette Bao Lord

In 1947, a young Chinese girl comes to Brooklyn and discovers her love for baseball while adjusting to a new life in America. Shirley Temple Wong and her mother sail from China to America to join her father, who is an engineer in Brooklyn. America is world of wonder to Shirley, but it makes her feel afraid, stupid and clumsy. Then Shirley discovers baseball, and playing right field, she no longer feels small and stupid. Shirley becomes a big fan of Jackie Robinson and the Brooklyn Dodgers. Baseball, America's pastime, helps Shirley make friends and be accepted in a strange and foreign land.



Learning with the Times

Follow the leader

Jackie Robinson was a leader, not just in the context of baseball, but in life. Leadership requires commitment, responsibility and hard work. What does being a leader mean to you? Read through the articles in the e-Edition of the *Tampa Bay Times* to find three examples of people who you think are leaders. Write a few sentences explaining why you have chosen these people. Share your ideas with your classmates and family.

Big Wolf and Little Wolf, by Nadine Brun-Cosme

What Do You Do with a Tail Like This? by Steve Jenkins and Robin Page

The Storm Book, by Charlotte Zolotow

Mogo, the Third Warthog, by Donna Jo Napoli

Someone Named Eva, by Joan M. Wolf

The London Eye Mystery, by Siobhan Dowd

The Middle of Somewhere, by J.B. Cheaney

Operation Redwood, by S. Terrell French

Operation Yes, by Sara Holmes

Peter and the Starcatchers, by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson

The Porcupine Year, by Louise Erdrich

Redwall, by Brian Jacques

Roberto and Me, by Dan Gutman

Read all about

Ted & Me (Baseball Card Adventures), **by Dan Gutman**

Stosh should have figured that the FBI would find him eventually. Now they've turned up on his doorstep – and they know all about his ability to travel through time using baseball cards. In fact, they want to send him back in time on a mission: to warn President Roosevelt about the attack on Pearl Harbor! But when Stosh finds out that his “ticket” back to 1941 is a Ted Williams card, he starts planning a mission of his own.

Follow the leader

Wade Davis knows the importance of reading, especially the daily newspaper. The daily newspaper often contains stories with an underlying theme of individuals showing respect for others. Find an example of an article showing the theme of respect in the *Tampa Bay Times*. Think about the points that contribute to the theme of respect. Share your thoughts with your classmates and family.

Breaking gender barriers

Parent Tip

Teenagers may enjoy reading aloud to a younger sibling. They often like to revisit some of their old books.

World War II: a game changer

The year was 1942 and Major League Baseball was in serious trouble. Young men 18 years of age and older were being drafted into the armed services to help fight in World War II. Major League Baseball parks across the country were in danger of closing. That is when chewing-gum industrialist Philip K. Wrigley took

charge of the situation. The solution was to create an all-girls' baseball league.

Clara Schillace, Ann Harnett, Edie Perlick and Shirley Jameson became the first women signed in the league. When women took the field for Spring Training in 1943, there were four teams: the Kenosha Comets, Racine Belles, Rockford Peaches and South Bend Blue Sox. You can read more about these teams, as well as the rest of the history of the AAGPBL, on the official website of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League: aagpbl.org.

Source: Official website of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League



Grades 3-5 Summer Reading Suggestions

Science Fair: A Story of Mystery, Danger, International Suspense, and a Very Nervous Frog, by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson

Haunting at Home Plate, by David Patneude

The Young Man and the Sea, by Rodman Philbrick

The Stupendous Dodgeball Fiasco, by Janice Repka

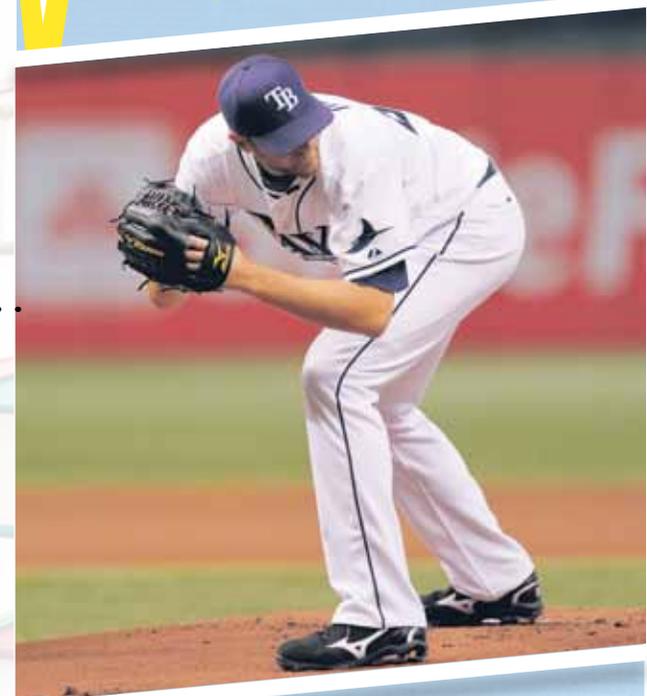
Not My Dog, by Colby Rodowsky

The School Story, by Andrew Clements

Gregor the Overlander, by Suzanne Collins

The Beloved Dearly, by Doug Cooney

Ruby Holler, by Sharon Creech



WADE DAVIS

Rules of play

How does baseball as played in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League differ from men's baseball? With only a few exceptions, girls' baseball followed the same rules as men's professional baseball. Basically, the rules, strategy and general play were the same. There were differences in the distances between the bases, the distance from the pitching mound to home plate, the size of the ball and pitching styles. Although the pitching rules did change during the decade of women's professional baseball, the length of the base paths remained shorter than regulation baseball by five feet.

Source: Official website of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League

Learning about history

Research one of these notable women athletes on the Internet.

Babe Didrikson Zaharias	Nadia Comaneci
Sonja Henie	Martina Navratilova
Chris Evert	Bonnie Blair
Peggy Fleming	Michelle Akers
Janet Evans	Billie Jean King
Mia Hamm	Althea Gibson
Florence Griffith-Joyner	Venus Williams
Serena Williams	Wilma Rudolph
Clara Schillace	Ann Harnett

DID YOU KNOW?

- Members of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League had to follow specific rules of conduct and follow the behaviors set forth in the *Charm School Guide*. Check out the official website of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League at aagpbl.org for details.
- Although they did not all play during the same years, there were 14 teams in the AAGPBL throughout its history: Racine Belles, South Bend Blue Sox, Kenosha Comets, Rockford Peaches, Milwaukee Chicks, Minneapolis Millerettes, Ft. Wayne Daisies, Grand Rapids Chicks, Muskegon Lassies, Peoria Redwings, Chicago Colleens, Springfield Sallies, Kalamazoo Lassies and Battle Creek Belles.

“When I was in school, I enjoyed reading. Now I read the newspaper often to keep tabs on current events in the U.S. and overseas, as well as baseball. It’s a part of my daily routine, and I like to stay informed.”

Pitcher Wade Davis loves working with kids and organizes the Full Kount Foundation to help children, especially those who are at risk or have special needs or chronic diseases. Full Kount sponsors the Dutchess Debs, a 12-and-under girls travel softball team based in New York, and provides them with jerseys, uniforms, equipment and more. Davis, a University of Florida, Gator football fan, loves the outdoors and loves to hunt, but he also likes to work with kids.

United States of America, by Paula Danziger
The Missing Manatee, by Cynthia DeFelice
Because of Winn-Dixie, by Kate DiCamillo
When Mack Came Back, by Brad Strickland
Surviving the Applewhites, by Stephanie Tolan
Seaward Born, by Lea Wait
The Victory Garden, by Lee Kochenderfer
Chasing the Falconers, by Gordon Korman

Rules, by Cynthia Lord

Get Ready for Gabi: A Crazy Mixed-Up Spanglish Day, by Marisa Montes

The Boy Who Spoke Dog, by Clay Morgan

Lewis and Clark and Me: A Dog’s Tale, by Laurie Myers

The Spy Who Came In from the Sea, by Peggy Nolan

Read all about

Super-sized Slugger, by Cal Ripken Jr.

Cody Parker is the new kid in school. He's overweight, scared and hates his new life in Dullsville, Maryland, where he is a target for teasing and bullying. But Cody loves baseball. And despite his size, he is very good at playing third base. Too bad he's competing for the starting job against his enemy, Dante Rizzo. Life gets even more complicated when Cody's school is beset by a crime wave that threatens to sideline Cody – and ruin a golden season for the Orioles.

Read your way to the ballpark

America's favorite pastime ... reading

In addition to reading the *Tampa Bay Times*, Raymond, the Rays mascot, loves to read books. His favorite books are *The Little Book of the Sea*, by Lorenz Schroter; *Into the Sea*, by Brenda Z. Guiberson; *Sea Dog*, by Dayle Gaetz and *The Lucky Baseball Bat*, by Matt Christopher. You can check out some of these fun summer reading books at your local library.

Relaxing at your library

After a hard day at the ballpark, some of the Tampa Bay Rays like to relax with a good book or the *Tampa Bay Times*. Reading can be relaxing as well as entertaining. You can enjoy the best of both worlds this summer by participating in the Reading with the Rays program.

Your local library can be a great place to have fun during the summer break. By reading books and exploring the Internet, you can have a lot of adventures. Books are your ticket to learning about the past and traveling around the world this summer. Be your own travel agent and choose your destinations that will lead you right back to the Tampa Bay area and Tropicana Field. The best place to find your favorite books is at your library.

Hey, parents!

The No. 1 way to keep your family reading is with the *Tampa Bay Times*. Encourage your children to participate in the Tampa Bay

Parent Tip

Continue to read aloud to your children even after they begin school and are independent readers. There is no age limit to reading to your children.

Times Newspaper in Education Reading with the Rays program. Have your children keep up with the Rays' games and chart their favorite players' statistics.



Learning with the Times

Honesty is the best policy

Raymond loves reading books, but he also likes reading the comics in the *Tampa Bay Times*. The comic strips in the newspaper often reflect real life. We can be pleased with this because there is much honesty that can be found among the characters in various comic strips. Read through the comic strips in the *Times*. As you read, look for examples of honesty or truthfulness in each character's speech and actions. Write a brief paragraph about the comic strip and the qualities you have discovered in the character or characters. Share your thoughts with your classmates and family.



The following library systems are proud partners of the Reading with the Rays program

RAYS
SPOTLIGHT

Citrus County Library System

Website: citruslibraries.org

Phone: 352-795-3716

Hernando County Public Library System

Website: hcpl.lib.fl.us

Phone: 352-754-4043

Hillsborough County Public Library Cooperative

Website: hcplc.org

Phone: 813-273-3652

Manatee County Library System

Website: mymanatee.org/library.html

Phone: 941-748-5555

Pasco County Library Cooperative

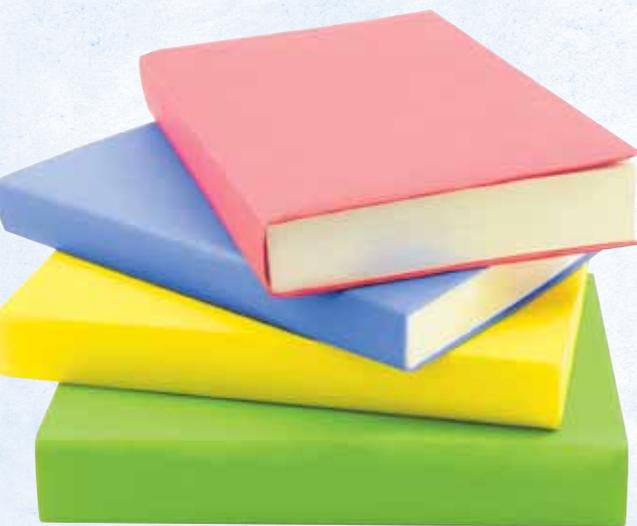
Website: pascolibraries.org

Phone: 727-861-3040

Pinellas Public Library Cooperative

Website: pplc.us

Phone: 727-441-8408



Want to have some fun this summer?

Check out your library's summer programs. You can find out about your library's calendar of events, kids' and teens' programs, and special events by going to the main library Web page.

Visit tampabay.com/nie/raysreading
for more activities.



RAYMOND

"LeVar Burton from Reading Rainbow first inspired me to read. Some of my favorite books are There's a Monster under My Bed and the Harry Potter series. Reading is fun! More importantly, reading opens doors to understanding, and allows you to grow. Reading and baseball go ball-in glove – you've got to read to understand the history of baseball and to learn how the game is played."

Raymond has been the Rays mascot since 1998, and he loves to read as many books as he can. You can see Raymond at all of the Rays games. Raymond is an awesome dancer and loves to play pranks on the other team. Raymond's favorite books are about baseball, food and dancing. When he's not at the games, you will probably find Raymond at a local library, reading stacks of books. Raymond also practices doing flips and eating a lot of hot dogs. The next time you see Raymond, ask him about reading — you are sure to get two thumbs up!



Learning with the Times

Ripped from the headlines

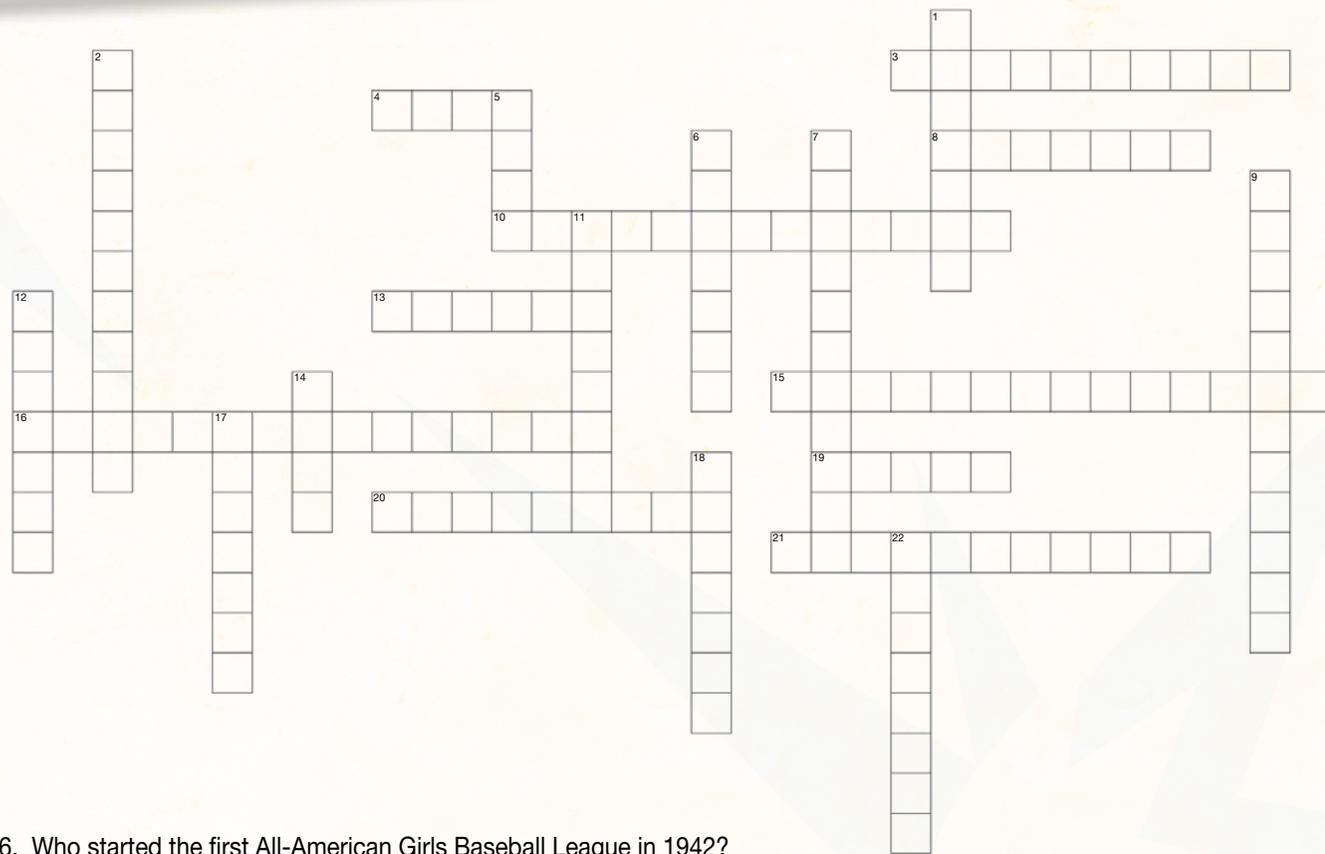
As a journalist for your school newspaper, you are assigned the job of writing a newspaper article about one of the characters in a summer reading book. A good journalist must begin with six key questions: who, what, where, when, why and how. Before you plan your character interview, find an article in the e-Edition of the Tampa Bay Times and answer each of those six questions. Now that you see the pattern for a newspaper article, write a newspaper article about your favorite book.

Play Ball Baseball facts puzzle

Directions: Read this publication to find the answers.

Across

- This Rays player won the American League Rookie of the Year Award in 2011.
- How many straight American League stolen base crowns have the Rays won?
- What author did Matt Joyce enjoy reading when he was a child?
- What team opened Spring Training in the Sunshine City of St. Petersburg on Feb. 27, 1914?
- This man won two American League Manager of the Year awards (2008, 2011).
- This man was the first African-American player recruited to the Brooklyn Dodgers from the Kansas City Monarchs.
- When Ben Zobrist was younger, he loved to read books by this author.
- ____ *Bay Times*
- Wade Davis reads this every day to keep up on current events.
- The Baseball Hall of Fame is located in this town in New York.



Down

- This is a great way to exercise your brain.
- In 1885, this team became the first group of black professional baseball players.
- On May 19, 2003, what Tampa Bay team became the first team ever in Major League history to climb over .500 after being 18 games under that mark?
- Who started the first All-American Girls Baseball League in 1942?
- What event happened in 1942 that affected baseball?
- Who is the Tampa native who was the first player to hit a home run into two different bodies of water?
- This Rays player won the American League Rookie of the Year Award in 2008.
- This is the mascot of the Tampa Bay Rays baseball team.
- How many MLB teams have trained in St. Petersburg?
- Who is the only person in history who is in both the Baseball and Football Halls of Fame? Hint: He was a Major League Baseball umpire.
- What high school did Matt Joyce graduate from?
- What is a common requirement for both baseball and reading?



**Learning
with the Times**

Poetry in motion

The poem *Casey at the Bat*, by Ernest Lawrence Thayer is a classic. You can read the poem on the Baseball Almanac website at baseball-almanac.com/poetry/po_case.shtml. The poem, printed in the *San Francisco Examiner* in 1885, is considered one of the best baseball poems ever written. Now it is your turn to write a poem about baseball in Tampa Bay. For inspiration, look for baseball articles on the pages of the *Tampa Bay Times*.

Hey parents...

The No. 1 way to keep your family reading is with the daily newspaper. Encourage your children to participate in the Tampa Bay Times Newspaper in Education Reading with the Rays program. Have your children keep up with the Rays' games and chart their favorite players' statistics. Encourage your child to read books and newspaper articles. We would like to know your thoughts about this program, too. Log on to tampabay.com/blogs/niezone and share your thoughts about this Reading with the Rays program.

Crossword Puzzle Answers
Across: 3. Heinicke 4. Four 8. Dr. Seuss 10. St. Louis Browns 13. Maddon 15. Jackie Robinson 16. Matt Christopher 19. Tampa 20. Newspaper 21. Cooperstown
Down: 1. Reading 2. Cuban Giants 5. Rays 6. Wright 7. World War Two 9. Luis Gonzalez 11. Longoria 12. Raymond 14. Nine 17. Hubbard 18. Armwood 22. Practice