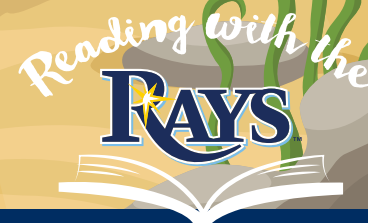
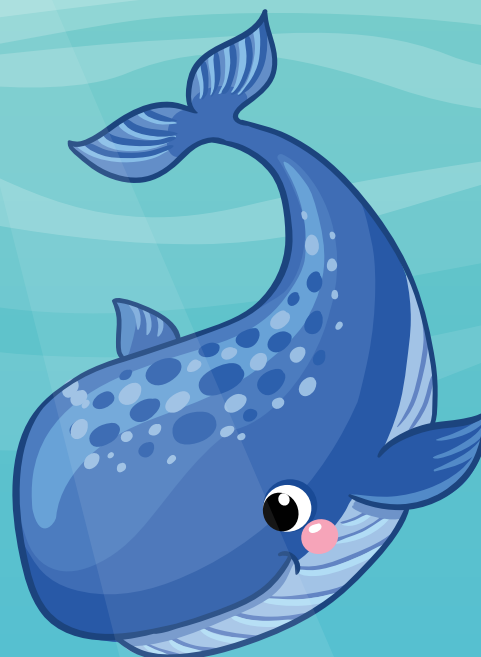


READ YOUR WAY TO THE BALLPARK



RAYSBASEBALL.COM/Reading

Reading with the
**THE IMPORTANCE
OF LITERACY**

“Traditionally, summer reading programs are designed to encourage elementary-aged children to keep reading during summer vacation,” notes the Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP). Public libraries are the perfect place for children of all ages to access free educational and enrichment activities and programs.

Throughout the summer of 2022, many libraries across the country will celebrate summer reading through the theme Oceans of Possibilities™. The theme was chosen by library professionals to help inspire readers of all ages.

The Tampa Bay Rays, Suncoast Credit Union and the Tampa Bay Times Newspaper in Education program are excited to celebrate this theme in the 15th annual Read Your Way to the Ballpark summer reading program.



Reading begins at home

Strong parental involvement is a key component of the *Just Read, Florida!* initiative. According to the Florida Department of Education, “Other than helping your children to grow up happy and healthy, the most important thing that you can do for them is help them develop their reading skills.”

- **Babies:** Read to your baby for short periods several times a day. As you read, point out things in the pictures.
- **Ages 1-4:** Talk with your child as you read together. Point to pictures and name what is in them. When they are ready, ask the children to do the same. Ask your children about their favorite parts of the story, and answer questions about events or characters.
- **Kindergarten:** Read predictable books to your children. Teach them to hear and say repeating words, such as names for colors, numbers, letters and animals. Practice the sounds of language by reading books with rhymes and playing simple word games.
- **First grade:** Point out the letter-sound relationships your child is learning on labels, boxes, newspapers and magazines. Listen to your child read words and books from school. Be patient and listen.
- **Second and third grade:** Build reading accuracy by having your children read aloud, point out words they missed and help them read words correctly.

Reading with the Rays: Read Your Way to the Ballpark program

The crack of the bat, the smell of popcorn and the sound of children reading mark the beginning of summer reading season!

Summer is here, and it is time to sit down with a good book and enjoy watching our Tampa Bay Rays in action. Once again, the Rays, Tampa Bay-area libraries, Suncoast Credit Union and the Tampa Bay Times Newspaper in Education program have teamed up to create a lineup of free summer reading fun to encourage and reward students for reading.

Everyone’s commitment to education in our community makes this an exciting matchup, especially with this year’s special theme: Oceans of Possibilities. By reading books, graphic novels and newspaper articles this summer, all students in grades pre-kindergarten through 12 in Charlotte, Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk and Sarasota counties can participate.

On the pages of this publication and the accompanying website, tampabay.com/nie/raysreading, you can get some great book suggestions to jog your imagination



throughout summer vacation.

Visit your local library or raysbaseball.com/reading for your game card. Once you read for 24 hours, you can win two tickets to see the Tampa Bay Rays at Tropicana Field.



DIVE INTO NEW WORLDS

Throughout the pages of this Tampa Bay Times Newspaper in Education publication, you will see suggested reading for students in grades pre-kindergarten through fifth grade. There are additional reading suggestions for students in grades pre-kindergarten through 12, broken down by grade level and genre, on the **Reading with the Rays website**, tampabay.com/nie/raysreading.

Whether you are reading a printed book or the digital version, action, adventure, comedy, history, fantasy and new worlds are inside for you to explore. The ocean of stories is endless.

You can find these exciting tales and more on the virtual shelves of your local library. You can choose to read any books and graphic novels that interest you. The book lists provided are just suggestions.



SUGGESTED READING >> PRE-K THROUGH FIRST GRADE

Big Little Hippo by Valeri Gorbachev

Corduroy by Don Freeman

Cork & Fuzz: The Collectors

by Dori Chaconas and Lisa McCue

Curious George by H. A. Rey

Dear Dragon by Josh Funk

Emily and the Enchanted Frog

by Helen V. Griffith

Fluffy McWhiskers Cuteness Explosion

by Stephen W. Martin

Fox & Chick: The Party And Other Stories by Sergio Ruzzier

Fox Eyes by Margaret Wise Brown

Frog and Friends: Party at the Pond by Eve Bunting

Good Rosie! by Kate DiCamillo

Grumpy Monkey by Suzanne Lang

Hello, Hippo! Goodbye, Bird!

by Kristyn Crow and Poly Bernatene

Here Comes Ocean

by Meg Fleming and Paola Zakimi

Hey Little Rockabye: A Lullaby for Pet Adoption

by Buffy Sainte-Marie and Ben Hodson

I Want My Hat Back by Jon Klassen

I'm a Unicorn

by Mallory Loehr

Lil' Merl and the Dastardly Dragon

by Liam Barrett

My Papi Has a Motorcycle

by Isabel Quintero

Not Quite Narwhal by Jessie Sima

One Red Sock by Jennifer Sattler

Rainbow Fish Board Book

by Marcus Pfister and Margaret Wise Brown

Rot: The Cutest in the World

by Ben Clanton

Sidekicks by Dan Santat

Snail & Worm All Day: Three Stories about Two Friends

by Tina Kugler

Some Pets

by Angela DiTerlizzi and Brendan Wenzel

Stuart's Cape by Sara Pennypacker

Sylvester and the Magic Pebble

by William Steig

The Cookie Fiasco

by Dan Santat and Mo Willems

The Cot in the Living Room

by Hilda Eunice Burgos

The Dragon's Scales by Sarah Albee

The Dragons of Wayward Crescent: Gruffen by Chris d'Lacey

The Fairy Dogmother by Maribeth Boelts

The Gruffalo

by Julia Donaldson and Alex Scheffler

The Hiccupotamus by Aaron Zenz

The Rainbow Fish by Marcus Pfister

The Tale of Peter Rabbit by Beatrix Potter

The Velveteen Rabbit by Margery Williams

The Very Impatient Caterpillar

by Ross Burach

Time Soldiers: Rex

by Robert Gould

Uni's First Sleepover

by Amy Krouse Rosenthal and Brigitte Barrager

We Don't Eat Our Classmates

by Ryan T. Higgins

What Pet Should I Get? by Dr. Seuss

Where the Wild Things Are

by Maurice Sendak

Whobert Whoever, Owl Detective

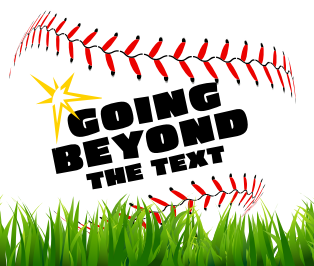
by Jason June

Yoo-Hoo, Ladybug! by Mem Fox



Journal your way through summer

Keeping a reading journal is a great way to keep track of what you have read and learn more about yourself. While you are reading books and newspaper articles this summer, write down questions, thoughts and opinions about what you have read. Through your reading, you can explore new concepts and ideas. While you are keeping your journal, read the *Tampa Bay Times* at least twice a week, along with your books. You can read news, sports, comic strips or even advertisements. What are your thoughts about the things you read in the newspaper? To begin your journal, write about something that you have read in the *Times* that directly affects your life. Share some of your journal entries and thoughts with your peers and family. Submit a book or newspaper article review on the Times NIE Reading with the Rays website, tampabay.com/nie/raysreading.



THE TALE OF TWO MASCOTS ...



Once upon a time, there were two fearless mascots living at Tropicana Field. By day, they led typical lives, yet as soon as batting practice began, they changed into their super identities. These two super mascots were Raymond and DJ Kitty!

Raymond and DJ Kitty love meeting new people, saving the world from dangerous wild pitches, evil flying bats and dreaded hot dog shortages. After making Tropicana Field a better place, they spend their down time in their underground dugout relaxing and, of course, reading.

From the depths of the Gulf of Mexico

It was more than 20 years ago when Rays scouts, on a fishing trip in the Gulf of Mexico, spotted a strange looking animal. The creature, drawn to the boat by the smell of hot dogs, climbed aboard and entertained the scouts with his silly antics. "Raymond" as the scouts named him, accepted the invitation to become the fun-loving fuzzball mascot for the Tampa Bay Rays.



Although Raymond's animal-like appearance causes confusion among fans of all ages, scientists discovered that Raymond is actually a previously undiscovered species of dog known as "Canus Manta Whatthefluffalus" or a Seadog.

Seadogs have all the traits of normal dogs. They enjoy going for walks, playing with kids and fetching. Unlike other dogs, they are five to six feet tall, walk upright, are blue in color and chase catfish. While other dogs live on land, Seadogs usually live in or around the water. Seadogs are well known for their fun-loving nature, passion for baseball and general good looks.

Raymond loves baseball and reading. His other hobbies include belly dancing, hugging, eating hot dogs, doing flips, playing full-contact shuffleboard, extreme chess and meeting kids. Some of Raymond's favorite books are *Clifford the Big Red Dog* series by Norman Bridwell, *Hank the Cowdog* series by John R. Erickson and *Two Hot Dogs With Everything* by Paul Haven.

From the streets of St. Petersburg

Once upon a time, in 2010, in a city known as St. Petersburg, a kitten was found in the back of Tropicana Field near the dumpsters. This was not your average cat. At 6 feet tall and 200 pounds, this was the hippest cat in all of Major League Baseball land.

The scouts at Tropicana Field discovered that this cat had a secret talent: the ability to throw down the hottest scratches in all the land. Dubbed DJ Kitty, this fine feline became the Designated Disc Jockey (DDJ) for the Tampa Bay Rays.

DJ Kitty is the coolest disc jockey on the planet. He plays the hits while watching the hits. Some of DJ Kitty's favorite songs are "Pump Up the Jam" by Technotronic, "Jump Around" by House of Pain, "Do It Again" by the Chemical Brothers, "Voodoo People" by the Prodigy and "Jump" by the Movement.

But when he is relaxing in the dugout, DJ Kitty's No. 1 song is "Year of the Cat" by Al Stewart. His thing to do while listening to his favorite music is read! DJ Kitty's favorite books are the *Cat in the Hat* books by Dr. Seuss, *The Cricket in Times Square* by George Selden, *Hip Cat* by Jonathan London and *Bad Kitty: Kitten Trouble* by Nick Bruel.

The Shark Report

by Derek Anderson

What would you do if a shark followed you home? When Benny learns about sharks at school, he immediately feels worried. He definitely can't go in the ocean, because sharks live there. But even simply staying out of the water isn't enough, because a shark named Mr. Chompers follows him home! What will Benny do?

Grades: 1-2

Publisher: Penguin Random House

Book Summary: Penguin Random House



Puppy Problems

by Paige Braddock

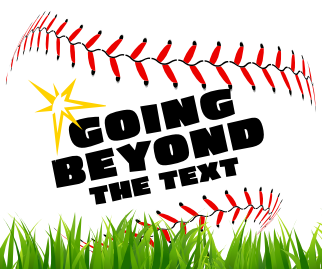
Crackers is a rescue dog who's a bit on the nervous side, but pretty comfy at home with Butter, a very plump cat who – like all cats – is all about himself. The two pets have a good life: big back yard, nice couch, good eats and an owner who goes to work every day, so they can pretty much do what they want. Enter Peanut, a brand-new puppy with big floppy ears, unabashed energy and no appreciation for the quiet life. The little dog is a chowhound who dips into everybody's food bowl. He drools, he chews up stuff, he doesn't get how stairs work and he's afraid of the dark. Yow!! Not to mention he's hogging their owner's lap.

Grades: K-2

Publisher: Penguin Random House

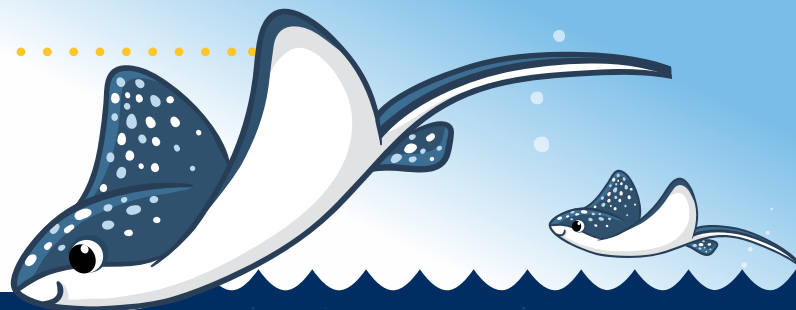
Book Summary: Penguin Random House





Hidden message

Throughout the pages of this publication there are some hidden baseballs with letters on them. Find the six hidden baseballs and put together the magic phrase. Next look, in the *Tampa Bay Times* for words, photos and images that start with each of these letters. Make a list of the items you find in your summer reading journal. Submit a book or newspaper article review to ordernie@tampabay.com.



SUGGESTED READING GRADES FIRST THROUGH SECOND

365 Penguins by Jean Luc Fromental

A Perfect Time for Pandas

by Mary Pope Osborne

And I Mean It, Stanley by Crosby Bonsall

Bad Kitty: Kitten Trouble by Nick Bruel

Bats at the Beach by Brian Lies

Bird Boy by Matthew Burgess

Brown Bear, Brown Bear by Bill Martin

Bug Boys by Laura Knetzger

Carmela Full of Wishes by Matt de la Peña

Carpenter's Helper by Sybil Rosen and
Camille Garoche

Clifford the Big Red Dog

by Norman Bridwell

Cloud Tea Monkeys by Mal Peet

Diary of a Wombat by Jackie French and
Elspeth Graham

Diary of a Worm by Doreen Cronin

Duck, Duck, Porcupine! by Salina Yoon

Freckle Juice by Judy Blume

Frog and Toad Are Friends

by Arnold Lobel

Fruit Bowl by Mark Hoffman

Giant Squid

by Candace Fleming and Eric Rohmann

Giraffe Problems by Jory John

Go, Dog. Go! by P.D. Eastman

Green Eggs and Ham by Dr. Seuss

Grumpy Monkey by Suzanne Lang

Hero Cat by Eileen Spinelli

Hey, Wall by Susan Verde

Honey Helps by Laura Godwin

Hot Hot Hot by Neal Layton

How do Dinosaurs Say Goodnight?

by Jane Yolen

How to Clean a Hippopotamus

by Robin Page

Humphrey's Tiny Tales series

by Betty G. Birney

I Am Jane Goodall by Brad Meltzer

I Like Bugs by Margaret Wise Brown

If You Come to Earth by Sophie Blackall

InvestiGators by John Patrick Green

It Came in the Mail by Ben Clanton

Junie B. Jones Smells Something Fishy

by Barbara Park

Knuffle Bunny by Mo Willems

Late Lunch with Llamas

by Mary Pope Osborne

Little Cliff's First Day of School

by Cliffron L. Taulbert

Lulu and the Hamster in the Night

by Hilary McKay

Make Way for Ducklings

by Robert McCloskey

Mercy Watson to the Rescue

by Kate DiCamillo

Mittens at School by Lola M. Schaefer

Morris the Moose by Bernard Wiseman

Moth: An Evolution Story

by Isabel Thomas

Narwhal: Unicorn of the Sea

by Ben Clanton

Ninja Red Riding Hood

by Corey Rosen Schwartz and Dan Santat

Norman: One Amazing Goldfish!

by Kelly Bennett

Over and Under the Pond

by Kate Messner

Ramona the Pest by Beverly Cleary

Scruffy by Peggy Parish

Summer of the Sea Serpent

by Mary Pope Osborne

The Book Hog

by Greg Pizzoli

The Boy Who Loved Words

by Roni Schotter

The Camping Trip by Jennifer K. Mann

The Dot by Peter H. Reynolds

**The Fantastic Undersea Life of Jacques
Cousteau** by Dan Yaccarino

The Grouchy Ladybug by Eric Carle

The Hundred Dresses by Eleanor Estes

The Ocean Calls: A Haenyeo

Mermaid Story by Tina Cho

The Rescue Princesses series

by Paula Harrison

The Sticky Situation by Geronimo Stilton

The Three Billy Goats Gruff

by Jerry Pinkney

The True Story of the Three Little Pigs

by Jon Scieszka

There Is a Bird on Your Head!

by Mo Willems

There's An Alligator Under My Bed

by Mercer Mayer

Truman by Jean Reidy

Tuesday by David Wiesner

Uneversaurus by Aidan Potts

Water Boy by David McPhail

We Dig Worms! by Kevin McCloskey

What Do You Do with a Tail Like This?

by Steve Jenkins and Robin Page

When Sheep Cannot Sleep

by Satoshi Kitamura

Where the Wild Things Are

by Maurice Sendak

You Hold Me Up by Monique Gray Smith

Your Name is a Song

by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow

The Newspaper Club

by Beth Vrabel

Learn what it means to be a journalist in this fun, fast-paced new series about a club of kid reporters by an award-winning author. Nellie Murrow is the daughter of two (former) newspaper reporters, Nellie was named after one of the fiercest journalists who ever lived. When she moves to sleepy Bear Creek, Maine, rumors of vandalism and attacks at the only park in town are keeping her saddled to the house. When Nellie thinks like a reporter, she starts looking for explanations. Something is happening at the park, but what? All of the fake online news and rumors are clouding the truth. Nellie wants to break the story – and break free from the front yard – but she can't do it alone. She needs a whole club if she's going to start the Club Report, the town's first independent newspaper. Creating a newspaper from scratch is going to be tough; but for Nellie, making friends is even harder.

Grades: 3-5

Publisher: Running Press Kids

Book Summary: Amazon



The Incredibly Dead Pets of Rex Dexter

by Aaron Reynolds

Rex Dexter is itching to have a dog but ends up with a pet chicken. One hour and fourteen minutes later, the chicken is dead, Rex is cursed, and wild animal ghosts are haunting Rex's room. Rex's uninvited ghostly guests are a chatty, messy bunch. And they need Rex to solve their mysterious deadly departures from the Middling Falls Zoo before it happens again. But how?

Grades: 3-5

Publisher: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

Summary: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers



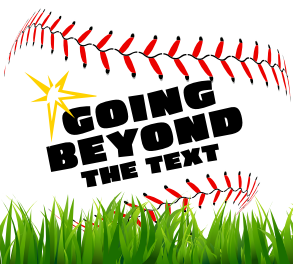
Get Ready to Read Your Way to the Ballpark

Parents, you can encourage your children to participate in the Reading with the Rays program this summer. There are suggested book titles for students on the pages of this Newspaper in Education publication. Visit the Times NIE website, tampabay.com/nie/raysreading, for more reading suggestions for students of all ages, as well as some extra activities. All students in grades pre-kindergarten through 12 are eligible to participate in the Reading with the Rays program. Visit your local library or raysbaseball.com/reading for your game card.

The library systems on the next page are proud partners of the Reading with the Rays program. You can find out more about your library's summer programs online by going to the main library web page.

Reading fun

Reading books and exploring fairy tales, fantasy and mythology can be a lot of fun. Did you know that Rays mascot DJ Kitty loves reading books, especially fairy tales? He loves exploring fantasy worlds and going where no cat has gone before. DJ Kitty also likes reading about people in the community and imagining those people in different settings. Choose a mythological animal – it can be one you have heard of or a completely new one – and imagine that animal in your own community. Find an article in the *Tampa Bay Times* and put your character into the situation described in the article. Write a brief paragraph about what the creature does in the situation presented in the article. Illustrate your story and share it with your classmates and family. You also can share the paragraph and artwork with the Reading with the Rays program coordinators and earn a special Rays prize. Check out the Reading with the Rays website for details or you can email community@raysbaseball.com.



WORD SEARCH

Find these animal characters in the word search

WHALE SHARK
MANATEE
MANTA
SEA TURTLE
DOLPHIN

SAWFISH
HAMMERHEAD SHARK
LIONFISH
GROUPER
OCTOPUS

SEA URCHIN
VAMPIRE SQUID
ORCA
SPERM WHALE
BLUE FIN TUNA

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

KEEPING UP WITH THE TIMES

Don't forget, you and your children can keep up with the Rays games and chart your favorite players' statistics by reading the *Tampa Bay Times* every day. Reading the *Times* digital edition is a great way to get students reading every day and engaged in their communities.



Charlotte County Library System

Website: charlottecountyfl.com

Phone: 941-625-6470

New Port Richey Public Library

Website: nprrlibrary.org

Phone: 727-853-1267

Citrus County Library System

Website: citruslibraries.org

Phone: 352-795-3716

Pasco County Library Cooperative

Website: pascolibraries.org

Phone: 727-861-3040

Hernando County Public Library System

Website: hernandocountylibrary.us

Phone: 352-754-4043

Pinellas Public Library Cooperative

Website: pplc.us

Phone: 727-441-8408

Hillsborough County Public Library Cooperative

Website: hcplc.org

Phone: 813-273-3652

Polk County Library Cooperative

Website: mypclc.org

Phone: 863-834-4280

Manatee County Library System

Website: mymanatee.org/library

Phone: 941-748-5555

Sarasota County Library System

Website: scgov.net/government/departments/libraries

Phone: 941-861-5000

Your Tampa Bay Times Newspaper in Education team

The Newspaper in Education (NIE) program is a cooperative effort between schools and the Times Publishing Co. to promote the use of newspapers in print and electronic form as educational resources. Our educational resources fall into the category of informational text.

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. 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.

NIE serves teachers in private, public, alternative and home schools. Email ordernie@tampabay.com to become an



NIE teacher.

For information about how you can donate to NIE, call 727-893-8138 or visit tampabay.com/nie. Keep in the know about the Tampa Bay Times Newspaper in Education program by following us on Twitter: twitter.com/TBTimesNIE and liking us on Facebook: facebook.com/TBTNIE.

Teachers, you can order copies of the *Tampa Bay Times* for your summer school classroom by emailing ordernie@tampabay.com.

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Cover design by Tampa Bay Rays

Check out the Times NIE website at tampabay.com/nie/raysreading.



Florida Standards

The materials in this publication correlate to the following Florida Standards for elementary school students: ELA.

K1.F.1.1; ELA.K1.F.1.2; ELA.K5.F.1.3; ELA.K5.F.1.4; ELA.K5.R.1.1; ELA.K5.C.1.1; ELA.K5.C.1.2; ELA.K5.C.1.4; ELA.15.R.1.2; ELA.15.R.1.3; ELA.K5.R.2.2; ELA.25.R.2.3; ELA.K3.R.3.2; ELA.K4.C.2.1; ELA.5.C.2.1; ELA.K5.V.1.3LAFS.68.RI.4.10; LAFS.68.SL.1.1; LAFS.68.SL.1.2; LAFS.68.SL.1.3; LAFS.68.SL.2.4; LAFS.68.SL.2.5; LAFS.68.SL.2.6; LAFS.68.W.1.1; LAFS.68.W.1.2; LAFS.68.W.2.4; LAFS.68.W.3.7; LAFS.68.W.3.8; LAFS.68.W.3.9; LAFS.68.W.4.10

READING WITH THE RAYS MAKES SUMMER READING A HIT!



ATTENTION, KIDS!

Suncoast Credit Union and the Tampa Bay Rays are ready to make reading fun all summer long. Check out our Reading with the Rays program where you can earn prizes just for doing what you love to do – read! It's as easy as A-B-C!

WIN PRIZES!

Use your game card to track hours and collect prizes. If you read 24 hours during the program you can earn exclusive Rays prizes!

HOW IT WORKS:

- A.** Pick up your game card at your local library or visit raysbaseball.com/reading
- B.** Pick up your favorite books
- C.** Start reading!

MAKING A DIFFERENCE THROUGH EDUCATION!

Over the course of the program more than 400,000 students have combined to read for 2.55 million hours during their summer break! Over 74,000 fans experienced a Rays game for free thanks to the reading program.



Suncoast
Credit Union

PROUD PARTNER OF THE TAMPA BAY RAYS

LET'S MAKE 2022 A READING HOME RUN

suncoastcreditunion.com