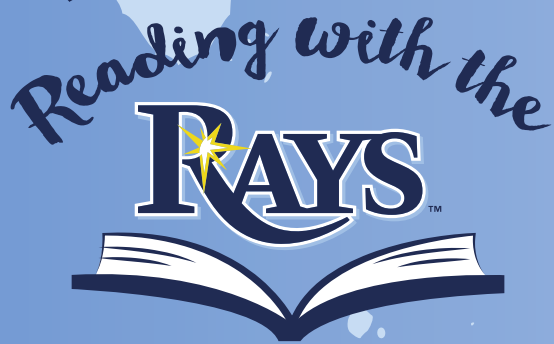


Read your way to the Ballpark





The importance of literacy

“Traditionally, summer reading programs are designed to encourage elementary school-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 2023, many libraries across the country will celebrate summer reading through the theme “All Together Now.”™ This theme, focused on kindness, friendship and unity, 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 16th annual Read Your Way to the Ballpark summer reading program.



Did you know?

Twenty-five years ago, the Devil Rays announced they would host Spring Training in St. Petersburg. On May 7, 1998, they became the first team in the “modern era” to host spring training in their home city.



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

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

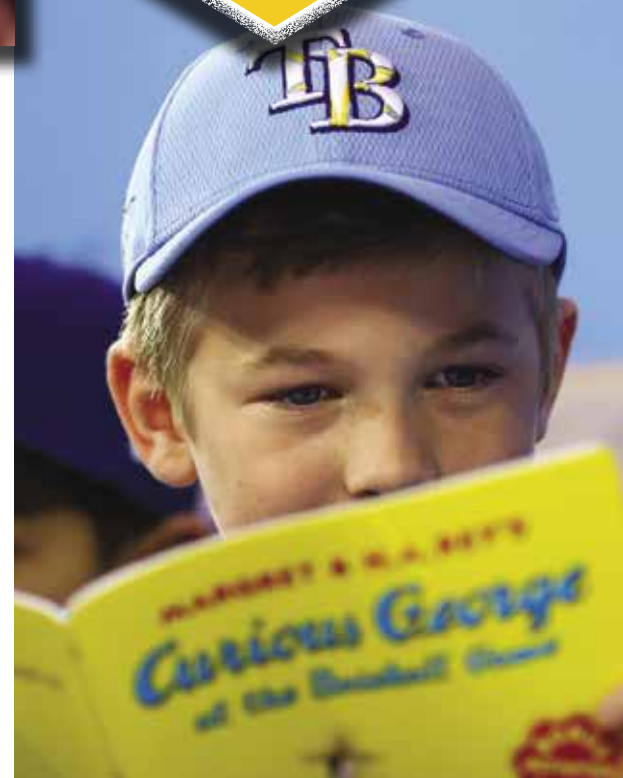
Summer is here, and it is time to sit down with a good book, magazine or newspaper and enjoy watching our Tampa Bay Rays in action. Once again, the Rays, Tampa Bay-area libraries, Suncoast Credit Union and the Tampa Bay Times Newspaper in Education program have teamed up to create a lineup of free summer 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: All Together Now. 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, you can get some great book suggestions to exercise your imagination throughout summer vacation.

Visit your local library or raysbaseball.com/reading for your game card. Once you read for 24 hours, you will receive a two-ticket voucher to an upcoming Rays home game.



Exploring 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 Summer Learning page of the Tampa Bay Times Newspaper in Education website. Go to https://nieonline.com/tbtimes/summer_learning.cfm.

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

You can find these exciting tales and more on the 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 Second Grade

A Spoonful of Frogs by Casey Lyall

A Very Big Fall by Emmy Kastner

Again, Essie? by Jenny Lacica

Berry Song by Michaela Goade

Bread and Jam for Frances by Russell Hoban

Chester Van Chime Who Forgot How to Rhyme by Avery Monsen

Chez Bob by Bob Shea

Circle Round by Anne Sibley O'Brien

Cranky Chicken by Katherine Battersby

Dear Dragon by Josh Funk

Everybody in the Red Brick Building by Anne Wynter

Federico and the Wolf by Rebecca J. Gomez

Five Hiding Ostriches

by Barbara Barbieri McGrath

Fluffy McWhiskers Cuteness Explosion

by Stephen W. Martin

Fussy Flamingo by Shelley Vaughan James

Good Rosie! by Kate DiCamillo

Grumpy Monkey by Suzanne Lang

Ice Cream Face by Heidi Woodward Sheffield

If You Ever Want to Bring an Alligator to School, Don't! by Elise Parsley

If You Give a Mouse: Time for School, Mouse! by Laura Joffe Numeroff

Invasion of the Unicorns by David Biedrzycki

Ira Sleeps Over by Bernard Waber

Ivy Lost and Found by Cynthia Lord

Kamala and Maya's Big Idea by Meena Harris

Kindergarten, Here I Come! by D.J. Steinberg

Kindness Makes Us Strong by Sophie Beer

Leo the Late Bloomer by Robert Kraus

Lil' Merl and the Dastardly Dragon by Liam Barrett

Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse by Kevin Henkes

Luli and the Language of Tea

by Andrea Wang

Mad about Meatloaf by Maureen Fergus

Mel Fell by Corey R. Tabor

Miss Nelson Is Missing! by Harry Allard

Missed Meal Mayhem by Jarrett Lerner

My Papi Has a Motorcycle by Isabel Quintero

Not Quite Narwhal by Jessie Sima

Puppy Problems by Paige Braddock

Rot: The Cutest in the World by Ben Clanton

Someone Builds the Dream by Lisa Wheeler

Sylvester and the Magic Pebble

by William Steig

Ten Beautiful Things by Molly Beth Griffin

The Cookie Fiasco

by Dan Santat and Mo Willems

The Electric Slide and Kai

by Kelly J. Baptist

The Fairy Dogmother by Maribeth Boelts

The Gruffalo by Julia Donaldson

The Kissing Hand by Audrey Penn

The Littlest Yak by Lu Fraser

The Middle Kid by Steven Weinberg

The Pout-Pout Fish: The Pout-Pout Fish Goes to School by Deborah Diesen

Strange Planet: The Sneaking, Hiding, Vibrating Creature by Nathan W. Pyle

The Very Impatient Caterpillar by Ross Burach

The Winter Bird by Kate Banks

We Don't Eat Our Classmates by Ryan T. Higgins

What if, Pig? by Linzie Hunter

What Pet Should I Get? by Dr. Seuss

What's the Weather? by Shelley Rotner

Wheels by Sally Sutton

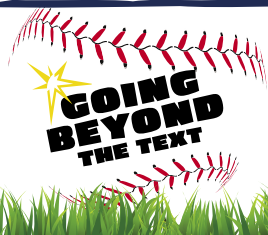
When Sophie Gets Angry — Really, Really Angry by Molly Bang

Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak

Wings by Christopher Myers

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 to ordernie@tampabay.com.



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!

These two super mascots love meeting new people and 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 downtime in their underground dugout relaxing and, of course, reading.

Did you know?

As part of the season-long celebration of their 25th anniversary, the Rays are launching a team Hall of Fame, with an inaugural class of three men who played big roles in their early years: Don Zimmer, former senior advisor; Wade Boggs, Hall of Fame third baseman and Carl Crawford, four-time All-Star left fielder.



From the depths of the Gulf of Mexico...



It was 25 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 and mustard, climbed aboard and entertained the scouts with his silly antics.

The scouts named him "Raymond," and the rest is history. Raymond accepted the invitation to become the fun-loving fuzzleball 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 foul balls. 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 and 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, Dog Man series by Dav Pilkey and *Two Hot Dogs With Everything* by Paul Haven.



... to the streets of St. Petersburg

It was the year 2010, in a city known as St. Petersburg, where 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 the land.

The scouts at Tropicana Field discovered that this cat had a secret talent: the ability to throw down the hottest scratches in all of Major League Baseball. 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 favorite 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.



Rhyming words

Raymond and DJ Kitty love to read and to sing. Did you know songs and poems have rhyming words in them? According to Vocabulary.com, "A rhyme is when the ending sounds of two words sound alike." Examples would be cat and hat, mouse and house, bat and rat. Look through the pages of the Tampa Bay Times to find as many rhyming words as you can. Don't forget to check the comic pages and advertisements. Cut out the rhyming words you find and paste them on a piece of paper. Create a poem or short story with the words. Share your creation with your family and friends.

Suggested Reading for Grades 3 through 5

Allergic by Megan Wagner Lloyd
Amari and the Night Brothers by B.B. Alston
Attack of the Not-So-Virtual Monsters
by Kim Harrington
Bad Kitty School Daze by Nick Bruel
Ben Yokoyama and the Cookie of Doom
by Matthew Swanson and Robbi Behr
Carry Me Home by Janet Fox
Caterpillar Summer by Gillian McDunn
Charlotte's Web by E. B. White
Clean Getaway by Nic Stone
Confessions of a Dork Lord by Mike Johnston
Coraline by Neil Gaiman
Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney
Distress Signal by Mary E. Lambert
Dog Man by Dav Pilkey
Dragons in a Bag by Zetta Elliott
El Deafo by Cece Bell
Fantastic Mr. Fox by Roald Dahl
Fourth Grade Rats by Jerry Spinelli
From the Desk of Zoe Washington
by Janae Marks
Guts by Raina Telgemeier
Harriet the Spy by Louise Fitzhugh
How to Test a Friendship by Theanne Griffith

Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell
J.D. and the Great Barber Battle by J. Dillard
James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl
Julieta and the Diamond Enigma
by Luisana Duarte Armendariz
Katie the Catsitter by Colleen Venable
Leonard (My Life as a Cat) by Carlie Sorosiak
Malaika and the Wheelchair
by Mary Mwangangi
Measuring Up by Lily LaMotte
Mystery on Magnolia Circle by Kate Klise
Olga and the Smelly Thing from Nowhere
by Elise Gravel
Operation Frog Effect by Sarah Scheerger
Pages & Co. Series by Anna James
Planet Earth is Blue by Nicole Panteleakos
Power Forward by Hena Khan
Save Me a Seat by Sarah Weeks
Shirley & Jamila Save Their Summer
by Gillian Goerz
Simon B. Rhymin' by Dwayne Reed
Sisters by Raina Telgemeier
Stella by McCall Hoyle
Taking Up Space by Alyson Gerber
Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing
by Judy Blume

The Beast and the Bethany
by Jack Meggitt-Phillips
The City of Ember by Jeanne DuPrau
The Fantastic Frame Series by Lin Oliver
The Fighting Ground by Avi
The First Rule of Punk by Celia C. Pérez
The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman
The Incredibly Dead Pets of Rex Dexter
by Aaron Reynolds
The Lion of Mars by Jennifer L. Holm
The Magical Reality of Nadia
by Bassem Youssef, Catherine R. Daly
The Million Dollar Race
by Matthew Ross Smith
The Mouse with the Question Mark Tail
by Richard Peck
The Newspaper Club by Beth Vrabel
The Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster
Sideways Stories from Wayside School
by Louis Sachar
"The Sword in the Tree" by Clyde Robert Bulla
The Unicorn Rescue Society Series
by Adam Gidwitz
Wings of Fire: Forge Your Dragon World
by Tui T. Sutherland

Dog Man

by Dav Pilkey

Dog Man is a crime-biting canine who is part dog, part man and all hero! George and Harold have created a new hero who digs into deception, claws after crooks and rolls over robbers. When Greg the police dog and his cop companion are injured on the job, a life-saving surgery changes the course of history, and Dog Man is born. With the head of a dog and the body of a human, this heroic hound has a real nose for justice. But can he resist the call of the wild to answer the call of duty?

Grades: 2 and up

Publisher: Graphix

Book Summary: Dav Pilkey website



Bad Kitty: Kitten Trouble

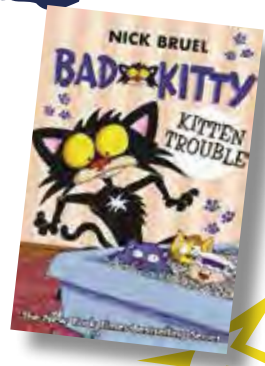
by Nick Bruel

There's terrible news in the neighborhood next to Kitty's! A conflict there is growing worse and worse. It started as an argument and has now turned into a full-fledged fight. Worst of all: The cat shelter has been destroyed. Kitty's family decides it's time to do something to help. They have an idea to foster as many displaced kittens as possible. Kitty won't mind, right? Well . . . not exactly. Kitty does seem to mind. She minds a lot.

Grades: 2-5

Publisher: Roaring Brook Press

Book Summary: Amazon



Get Ready to Read Your Way to the Ballpark

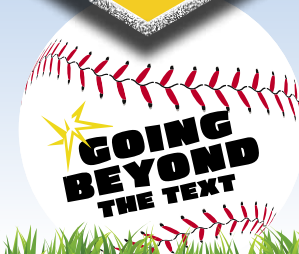
Parents, you can encourage your children to participate in the Reading with the Rays program this summer. There are suggested book titles for students on the pages of this Newspaper in Education publication. Visit the Times NIE website, https://nieonline.com/tbtimes/summer_learning.cfm, for more reading 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. You can email your story to ordernie@tampabay.com.

Did you know?

Although MLB didn't come to Tampa Bay in the form of their own team for a while, more Major League Spring Training games have been played in St. Petersburg than in any other city. The first was in 1913, when the Chicago Cubs moved their Spring Training from New Orleans to Tampa.



Understanding stories

The best way to understand the facts in a story is to identify the who, what, where, when, why and how elements of the story. Read one of the stories or a comic strip in the Tampa Bay Times. Break down the meaning of the story by noting the facts of who the story is about, what happened in the story and how, where does the story take place, when does the story take place, and why did it happen.

Mr. Tickety-Toc Clock: Goodnight Mr. Clock

by Davon Miller

The day is ending and Mr. Tickety-Toc Clock is going to bed. One day, when he accidentally sets his alarm clock at the wrong time, he realizes just how important a good night's rest is! Kids will love this book as they learn the importance of sleep in a fun way. Author Davon Miller, a St. Petersburg, Florida, native, is a young, published children's author and illustrator best known for his children's book series titled Mr. Tickety-Toc Clock. Read more about Miller at mlb.com/rays/community/reading.

Grades: K-2

Publisher: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform

Book Summary: Amazon



Katie the Catsitter

by Colleen Venable

Everyone is off at summer camp, except for Katie. She and her mom don't have enough money to send her. Unless she earns the money herself! Katie gets a job cat sitting for her mysterious neighbor Madeline. Madeline's 217 cats are not what you would call normal. And why is Madeline out at the exact time the city's famous supervillain is committing crimes? Can Katie save her friendships, solve a mystery and take care of 217 cats?

Grades: 3-5

Publisher: Random House Graphic

Book Summary: Florida Association for Media in Education



WORD SEARCH

Find these fun baseball words in the puzzle below

ANNIVERSARY	COACH	HOMERUN	STRIKEOUT
BASEBALL	FIRST	MAJOR LEAGUE	TEAM
BASE HIT	FLYBALL	MASCOT	THIRD
BAT	FOUL BALL	SECOND	TROPICANA FIELD
CATCHER	HALL OF FAME	SPRING TRAINING	

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

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: nprlibrary.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: 941-861-1110

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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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!



PROUD PARTNER OF THE TAMPA BAY RAYS

MAKING A DIFFERENCE THROUGH EDUCATION!

Over the course of the program, more than 500,000 students have combined to read for 2.85 million hours during their summer break! Over 88,000 fans experienced a Rays game for free thanks to the reading program.

LET'S MAKE 2023 A READING HOME RUN!

suncoastcreditunion.com

Federally insured by NCUA.

