Hey, kids!

I want you to read around the bases and hit a home run with Reading with the Rays presented by Suncoast Credit Union this summer!

Once again, Suncoast Credit Union, the Rays and I have teamed up with the Tampa Bay Times Newspaper in Education program to create a lineup of free summer reading fun. Everyone’s commitment to education in our community makes this an exciting matchup.

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 2017 Read Your Way to the Ballpark program.

By reading books and newspaper articles this summer, all students in grades kindergarten through 12 in Charlotte, Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk and Sarasota 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 two tickets to a Rays game at Tropicana Field this season to see my teammates and me in action.

Check out this insert and you’ll see what books my teammates and I have enjoyed reading. Matt Duffy, Kevin Kiermaier, Chris Archer, Alex Colomé and I all enjoyed reading while growing up and understand how it’s helped us to become the people we are today.

You can get your game cards and prizes at your local library. Summer is baseball season, and it’s also a great time to be in the library reading books and stories that interest you. Now get started reading, because I want to see you at Tropicana Field soon!

Go Rays!

Evan Longoria, Tampa Bay Rays

Soar to new heights

On the pages of this Tampa Bay Times Newspaper in Education publication, you will see suggested reading for students in grades kindergarten through five. There are reading suggestions for middle and high school students at tampabay.com/nie/raysreading. Whether you are reading a printed book or the digital version, between the covers of these books are action, adventure, comedy and new worlds for you to explore and learn about. The characters make important decisions and learn new things in each story.

You can find these exciting stories and more on the shelves of your local library. Throughout the summer, you can choose to read any books that interest you. The book lists provided are just suggestions. There are more book lists for students of all ages on the Reading with the Rays website. Go to tampabay.com/nie/raysreading and download the grade level-appropriate or genre-focused PDF.

Want to learn more about the world around you? You can read the Tampa Bay Times as part of this summer reading challenge. Reading the Times can help you earn hours to read your way to the ballpark! Within the pages of your daily newspaper, in print or online, you will find news, sports, adventures, comics, classifieds and a lot of fun things to do and read about. Of course, you also can read all of the news about your Tampa Bay Rays!

For every hour you read, you will swing the bat to advance around the bases on the game card as pictured on the next page. Every time you arrive at a base, you can pick up a reward at your local library. When you reach home plate, you will receive a voucher for two tickets to see Evan Longoria and the rest of your Rays in action.
How to Play the Game

The rules of the game are simple. Go to your local library and pick up your Reading with the Rays: Read Your Way to the Ballpark game card. See page 11 for participating library systems.

Choose your favorite books or your favorite section of the Tampa Bay Times to read over the summer. As you read, track your hours by rounding the bases and collect Rays rewards along the way. Students in grades K-12 in Citrus, Charlotte, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk and Sarasota counties are eligible to participate.

When you read enough hours to get on first base, ask your parent or guardian to initial your card and bring it to your local library. The librarian will sign your card, put a sticker on the base and give you a reading reward. Round the bases by reading a total of 24 hours this summer and receive two tickets to a Rays game!

On the back of the card, keep track of your favorite books and articles you read this summer. For more information about the Reading with the Rays program and additional book lists, go to tampabay.com/nie/raysreading.

Read Around the Bases

24 Hours Total

Read 3 Hours to get from Home Plate to First Base and receive a Rays Jelly Bracelet.

Read 5 Hours More to get from First Base to Second Base and receive a Rays Arm Sleeve.

Read 7 Hours More to get from Second Base to Third Base and receive a Rays Water Bottle.

Read 9 Hours More to get from Third Base to Home Plate and receive a Reading with the Rays Voucher for Two Tickets to a Rays Home Game.

See back of game card for redeemable game dates and order form (based upon availability).
Strength of character

Determination is an important character trait for superheroes and ordinary people. Baseball players know the importance of being determined. Did you know that having determination includes the ability to set a realistic goal or make a plan as well as sticking with that plan in order to achieve your goal? The Tampa Bay Rays players, manager and coaches know this and make sure they practice this character trait on and off the diamond.
At some point, all of us can appreciate a good superhero. A superhero is a fictional character that displays heroic characteristics and has superhuman powers. Comic book writer, editor, publisher and producer Stan Lee defines a superhero as “a person who does heroic deeds and has the ability to do them in a way that a normal person couldn’t.”

According to Lee, “In order to be a superhero, you need a power that is more exceptional than any power a normal human being could possess, and you need to use that power to accomplish good deeds.”

Watch and listen to the following videos on YouTube and write down all of the superhero characteristics you hear and see in your summer reading journal.

- Original Spider-Man theme song: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SUTziaZlDeE
- Fleischer Studios Superman Cartoons: “The Mad Scientist”: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sjdnCC6n4xk

**Thwarting evil**

In order to perform good deeds, superheroes, as well as everyday people, must make good decisions. Learning how to make good choices is one of the most important, and often most difficult, things to learn. Making safe, thoughtful and smart decisions takes practice and skill, just like reading and playing sports.

Honesty, respect, teamwork, goal setting, dedication and commitment are important qualities. Working hard, doing your best and making good decisions are important in sports, school and life in general. According to Discovery Education, “Decision-making is the process of choosing what to do by considering the possible consequences. Having good decision-making skills helps build character for life in all facets of life.”

**Rays reader**

Alex Colomé

Favorite childhood book
*Nacho*

Favorite recent book
*The Bible*

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**BOOK SPOTLIGHT**

*The Adventures of Sparrowboy*  
by Brian Pinkney

Something mysterious is about to happen on Thurber Street. Will the events of one afternoon change Henry’s life forever? This award-winning story introduces a new superhero — Sparrowboy, a paperboy who takes the neighborhood under his wing and saves the day.  
*Grades: K-3*  
*Publisher: Aladdin Paperbacks*  
*Book Summary: Scholastic*

**BOOK SPOTLIGHT**

*How to Be a Hero (DC Super Friends)*  
by Courtney Carbone

Superman, Wonder Woman, Batman, Green Lantern and the other DC Super Friends know that it takes more than a caped costume and special powers to be a true hero. What matters most is doing the right thing! Super-heroes-in-training can learn timeless lessons from their favorite DC Super Friends in this 64-page, full-color handbook that features more than 30 stickers!  
*Grades: 1-5*  
*Publisher: Random House Children’s Books*  
*Book Summary: Barnes and Noble*
SUGGESTED READING

Graphic novels

The Adventure Chef by Eric Colossal
Akissi: Feline Invasion by Marguerite Abouet; illustrated by Mathieu Sapin
Ariol: Just a Donkey Like You or Me by Emmanuel Guibert; illustrated by Judd Winick
Awkw ard by Svetlana Chmakova
Bee and PuppyCat by Natasha Allegri and Jackson Garret; illustrated by Natasha Allegri
Bird & Squirrel on the Run! by James Burks
Chi’s Sweet Home by Konami Kanata
The City of Ember by Greg Ruth
Comics Squad: Recess! by Jennifer L. Holm, Matthew Holm and Jarrett J. Krosoczka
Diesel: Ignition
Dragons Beware! (The Chronicles of Claudette) by Jorge Aguirre; illustrated by Rafael Rosado
Dinosaurs in Action
El Deafo
Fairy Tale Comics: Classic Tales Told by Extraordinary Cartoonists edited by Chris Duffy
Fangbone! First-Grade Barbarian by Michael Rex
Frankie Pickle and the Closet of Doom by Eric Wight
Ghostopolis by Doug TenNapel
Ghosts by Raine Telgemeier
The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman
Hidden: A Child’s Story of the Holocaust by Loïc Dauvillier and Greg Salsedo; illustrated by Marc Lizano
Hilo (Series) by Judd Winick
The Last Kids on Earth by Max Brallier; illustrated by Douglas Holgate
The Last Boy by Greg Ruth
Lost in NYC: A Subway Adventure by Max Brallier; illustrated by Dan McGuiness
Lowriders in Space by Cathy Camper; illustrated by Matthew Holm and Jarrett J. Krosoczka
Missile Mouse (Series)
Sardine in Outer Space by Emmanuel Guibert; illustrated by Raul Gonzalez
Secret Coders
Sidekicks by Dan Santat
Sisters by Raine Telgemeier
Space Dumplins by Craig Thompson
The Stonekeeper (Amulet #1) by Kazu Kibuishi
Stone Rabbit (Series) by Erik Craddock
Target Practice by Mike Maihack
Theseus and the Minotaur by Yvan Pommaux
The Unsinkable Walker Bean by Aaron Renier
Warriors Manga (Series) by Erin Hunter and Dan Jolley; illustrated by Don Hudson
A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L’Engle; illustrated by Hope Larson
Zita the Spacegirl by Ben Hatke

For more graphic novel titles, go to tampabay.com/nie/reading.
Discovering new words

Directions: The best way to increase your vocabulary is to read. Keep a list of new words you learn in your journal, including the words listed here. Find the following superhero characteristics in the puzzle. Next, look up the definition of each word in the dictionary and write down all of the meanings of each word in your journal. See if you can find each of the words in the Tampa Bay Times.

Adventurous, Aggressive, Authentic, Brave, Cautious, Confident, Determined, Enthusiastic, Ethical, Fierce, Gallant, Generous, Gentle, Independent, Lovable, Mysterious, Persistent, Responsible, Smart, Trustworthy

FNGIAHPGTACTSEBNSXQ SZBSEQBDNSIVRULPRMOT AALJILRECTGGUBRKAUT YJPAMMTSYEPSIAUARVP EXQCCSAPNPERTRVHNTPE RCKKIIEEOCRWEOGGQDT CEOSISHRMDBOTLFSAR SSRUNOTEYRDRSULXCRN UEJHFUDIEENMTYTXNQVN PTTSISFESILTHMEIIWVC DNNKQRDPACGYXZMUTPA EEJXYNOEPEAUTHENTICU RONEINWFNTNALLAGQCGT TFUISINGERTLDXYJRKCII VDPIMXVCBVIPIEYUEONIO ZJBTYRKIRRPONKXRJDU KLIZUAQADVVENTOURS EGENLLETEVISSERGGAVL HHUFPEECEFXXQERLIBLEWR TIZEHJVRWDTKUEGCKGCK

Magical powers

Jackson Opus is a not-so-typical student in The Hypnotists. He also is not your everyday superhero. Superheroes are featured in novels and graphic novels. A graphic novel is a story made up of comic content. Can you turn an everyday person or situation into a graphic novel? Look in the Tampa Bay Times for a photo or advertisement that catches your attention. In your journal, write down the points that are shown in the photo or ad. Write down as many details as you can so you can change your facts into a graphic novel. Be sure to include creative images, dialogue and details in your final result. Share your graphic novel with your family and friends.

What’s your favorite part about reading to your kids? Watching my kids learn and watching their interest in reading grow is great. I love watching them pick out books themselves and start to have their own favorite genre in books. I am fortunate to be able to have time to spend with my kids and share those memories of reading with them.
Sharpening skills

When a superhero must face his or her arch enemy, that superhero has to use sharp mental skills as well as their physical superpowers to overcome that villain. Being prepared is important to superheroes and ordinary people.

When baseball players take the field, people rarely think about all the time and energy the players have spent preparing to play the game. Athletes need to eat healthy foods, be self-motivated, learn how to communicate with their teammates, pay attention to all of the different things going on at once on the field, and practice, practice, practice.

Did you know the best way to learn and increase your ability to think critically is by asking questions? Writing notes in a journal or highlighting important parts of a book are great ways to sharpen your skills.

Being the bomb

Even though superheroes are fictional characters, some of their personality traits can easily be applied in our everyday lives. Superheroes are responsible, trustworthy and ethical. By helping people in danger, the superheroes also display compassion. Keep an eye out for these traits in the books you are reading over the summer and be sure to note examples in your journal.

BOOK SPOTLIGHT

**Spider-Man: Attack of the Heroes** by Rich Thomas

Peter Parker spends a lot of time juggling school, friends and living the life of the superhero called Spider-Man. He is usually pretty good at balancing it all, but when high school quarterback Flash Thompson starts bullying him, Peter must find a way to control his powers. To make matters worse, Daredevil, Nova, the Thing and Iron Man start acting strange and causing mischief throughout New York City, and it is up to Spidey to save the day. But when Flash finds himself mixed up with all the superheroes gone bad, can Peter save his No.1 enemy and stop the attack of the heroes?

Grades: 2-5
Publisher: Marvel Press
Book Summary: Amazon

BOOK SPOTLIGHT

**Captain Underpants** by Dav Pilkey

George and Harold have created the greatest superhero in the history of their elementary school — and now they’re going to bring him to life! Meet Captain Underpants! His true identity is so secret, even he doesn’t know who he is!

Grades: 2-5
Publisher: Random House Children’s Books
Book Summary: Amazon
Both Matt Duffy and Kevin Kiermaier like to read nonfiction books. What kind of books do you like to read? Do you like fiction or nonfiction, or do you prefer informational texts such as newspaper and magazine articles? What can you learn from reading different types of books? What can be learned from reading the *Tampa Bay Times*? Look through the articles, cartoons, advertisements and photos in the *Times*. Cut out headlines, words, photos and images that unlock some secrets. Create a collage with the words and images you have collected. On the back of the collage, explain, in a fully developed paragraph, what the items shown represent and what you have learned. Use specific examples to highlight your points. Share your collage with your family and classmates.

Evan Longoria and the rest of the Rays featured in this publication all exhibit the character trait of compassion, empathy and philanthropy. You can add these three terms to your vocabulary list and look up their meanings. Compassion, empathy and philanthropy go hand in hand, especially when it is time to make important decisions. Members of the Rays exhibit these three traits by giving to the Rays Baseball Foundation as well as their own foundations, which give back to the community. Compassionate people have an understanding of points of view and beliefs different from their own. Compassion gives people a feeling of excitement, instead of sadness, when other people have successes.
One summer's day, 10-year-old India Opal Buloni goes down to the local supermarket for some groceries— and comes home with a dog. But Winn-Dixie is no ordinary dog. It's because of Winn-Dixie that Opal begins to make friends. And it's because of Winn-Dixie that she finally dares to ask her father about her mother, who left when Opal was three. In fact, as Opal admits, just about everything that happens that summer is because of Winn-Dixie.

Grades: 4-7
Publisher: Candlewick
Book Summary: Amazon

When her home in Brooklyn goes up in flames, brave Scarlett won't give up until her kittens are safe. See the story unfold as Scarlett the fearless feline risks her life to save her family.

Grades: 2-5
Publisher: Ran Picture
Window Books
Book Summary: Amazon

One summer's day, 10-year-old India Opal Buloni goes down to the local supermarket for some groceries—and comes home with a dog. But Winn-Dixie is no ordinary dog. It's because of Winn-Dixie that Opal begins to make friends. And it's because of Winn-Dixie that she finally dares to ask her father about her mother, who left when Opal was three. In fact, as Opal admits, just about everything that happens that summer is because of Winn-Dixie.

Grades: 4-7
Publisher: Candlewick
Book Summary: Amazon

Who are those caped crusaders dancing, running and having fun? It's the Tampa Bay Rays supermascots: Raymond and DJ Kitty! Raymond and DJ Kitty love meeting new people and saving the world from wild pitches and dreaded hot dog shortages. When they're not making Tropicana Field a better place, they spend their down time in their underground dugout relaxing and reading.

Raymond

Raymond loves baseball and reading. His other hobbies include belly dancing, hugging, eating hot dogs, doing flips, playing full-contact shuffleboard, playing 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 Gerald L. Holmes, and Two Hot Dogs with Everything by Paul Haven.

DJ Kitty

Music and reading go together. Listening to poetry is pretty cool, and it is DJ Kitty's favorite thing to do. Some of his 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 Prodigy and Jump by the Movement. Some of DJ Kitty's favorite books are the Cat in the Hat books by Dr. Seuss, The Cricket in Times Square by George Selden and Hip Cat by Jonathan London.

Showing compassion

Compassion can be a complicated character trait for some people. There are examples of compassion all around us, though. Look through the pages of the Tampa Bay Times to find an article, a photo and a cartoon that show a person or character being compassionate. In your journal, write down why this character or person is compassionate. As an additional activity, write about a character in one of the books you are reading that is compassionate.

Write a blog or Facebook post about what you have learned and share the information with your friends, family and classmates.
Fiction and nonfiction

DJ Kitty and Raymond love reading books, but they also like reading about people in their community. Choose one of your favorite book characters and place that character in your 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 character does in the situation presented in the article. Illustrate your story and share it with your classmates and family.

Going beyond the text

Shazam!
Parents, you can encourage your children to participate in the Tampa Bay Times Newspaper in Education Reading with the Rays program this summer. There are suggested book titles for elementary school students on the pages of this Newspaper in Education publication. Visit tampabay.com/nie/raysreading for more reading suggestions for elementary, middle and high school students. Students in grades kindergarten through 12 are eligible to participate in the Reading with the Rays program.

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.

Your local libraries also have some great book lists and recommendations. The following library systems are proud partners of the Reading with the Rays program. You can find out more about your library’s summer programs online.

Read about your library’s calendar of events, kids’ and teens’ programs, and special events by going to the main library Web page.

Newspaper in Education

The Tampa Bay Times 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.

Teachers, 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.

Teachers, you can order copies of the Tampa Bay Times or additional copies of this publication 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.

Language Arts:
- LAFS.K12.L.1.1; LAFS.K12.L.1.2;
- LAFS.K12.L.2.3; LAFS.K12.L.2.4; LAFS.K12.L.3.5;
- LAFS.K12.L.3.6; LAFS.K12.R.1.1; LAFS.K12.R.2.4;
- LAFS.K12.R.2.5; LAFS.K12.R.3.7; LAFS.K12.R.3.8;
- LAFS.K12.R.3.9; LAFS.K12.R.4.10; LAFS.K12.SL.1.1;
- LAFS.K12.SL.1.2; LAFS.K12.SL.1.3; LAFS.K12.SL.2.4;
- LAFS.K12.SL.2.5; LAFS.K12.SL.2.6; LAFS.K12.W.1.1;
- LAFS.K12.W.1.2; LAFS.K12.W.1.3; LAFS.K12.W.2.4;

Credits

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Cover design and spotlight photos by the Tampa Bay Rays

Tampa Bay Times NIE
Reading with the Rays website:
tampabay.com/nie/raysreading

New York Times NIE
Reading with the Rays website:
tampabay.com/nie/raysreading

Charlotte County Library System
Website: charlottecountyfl.com
Phone: 941-625-6470

Citrus County Library System
Website: citruslibrarieys.org
Phone: 352-795-3716

Hernando County Public Library System
Website: hernandoCountylibrary.us
Phone: 352-754-4043

Hillsborough County Public Library Cooperative
Website: hcpicc.org
Phone: 813-273-3652

Manatee County Library System
Website: mymanatee.org/library.html
Phone: 941-748-5555

New Port Richey Public Library
Website: nprlibrary.org
Phone: 727-853-1267

Pasco County Library Cooperative
Website: pascolibraries.org
Phone: 727-861-3040

Pinellas Public Library Cooperative
Website: pplic.us
Phone: 727-441-8408

Polk County Library Cooperative
Website: mypolc.org
Phone: 863-834-4280

Sarasota County Library System
Website: scgov.net/library/system
Phone: 941-861-5000
Readers Hit Home Runs, Too!

The Rays want you to knock it out of the ballpark this summer by reading your favorite books and participating in Reading with the Rays. It’s simple. The more you read, the more bases you round and the more prizes you collect. When you reach home plate, you get two tickets to watch the Rays at the ballpark!

Suncoast Credit Union

Suncoast Credit Union is a proud sponsor of Reading with the Rays. As a supporter of educational efforts in the Tampa Bay area, we know financial literacy is an important concept for growing children. Learn more about teaching your child money saving tips and good spending habits at suncoastcreditunion.com.

For more information about Reading with the Rays visit tampabay.com/nie/raysreading