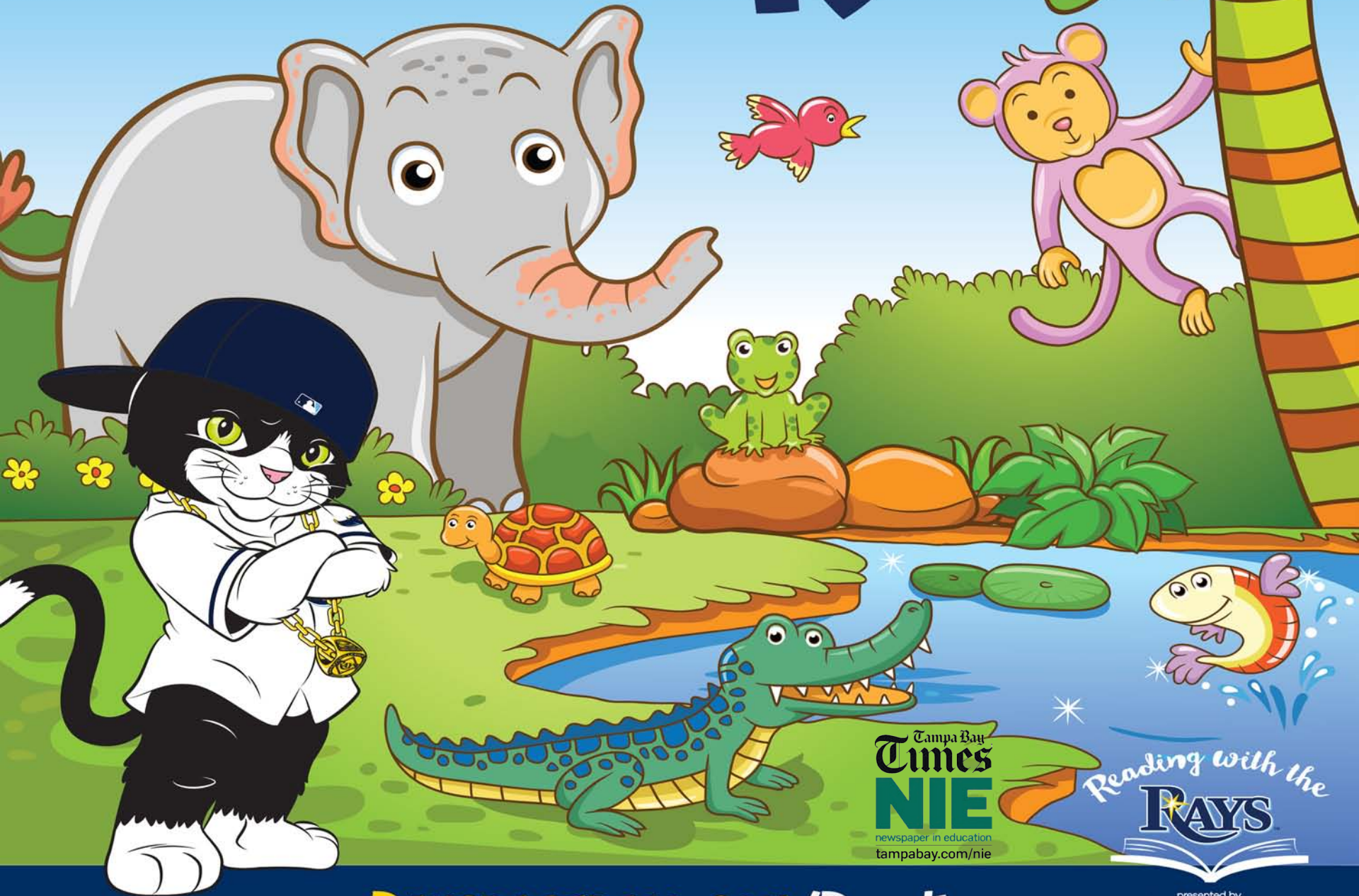


READ *your way to the* BALLPARK



Tampa Bay
Times
NIE
newspaper in education
tampabay.com/nie

Reading with the
RAYS

RAYSBASEBALL.COM/Reading

presented by
Suncoast
Credit Union

The importance of literacy

The American Library Association defines literacy as the ability to use “printed and written information to function in society, to achieve one’s goals, and to develop one’s knowledge and potential.” Development of a child’s literacy skills is essential, especially during elementary school. The National Reading Panel found that “increasing the time that children spend reading is the most important strategy for improving literacy skills in fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. Children who are not exposed to and engaged in reading as part of their daily lives are more likely to fall behind in school.” Since the 1800s, summer reading programs have been a way to encourage children to read while on vacation from school.

Sources: United States Department of Education; American Library Association



“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 2021, many libraries across the country will celebrate summer reading virtually through the theme Tails and Tales™. 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 14th annual Reading with the Rays: Read your Way to the Ballpark program.



Read your way to the ballpark

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 Tampa Bay 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: Tails and Tales. 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.

Get some great book suggestions to jog your imagination throughout summer vacation. Check out this publication and the Tampa Bay Times NIE Reading with the Rays website at tampabay.com/nie/raysreading.

Go to raysbaseball.com/reading to download your game card, so you can track your reading hours. Once you read for 24 hours, you can win two tickets to see the Tampa Bay Rays at Tropicana Field.



Journey 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 universe 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 PreK – grade 2

Big Little Hippo by Valeri Gorbachev

Corduroy by Don Freeman

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 Mordcai Gerstein

Good Rosie! by Kate DiCamillo

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

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

Not Quite Narwhal by Jessie Sima

One Red Sock by Jennifer Sattler

Frog and Friends: Party at the Pond by Eve Bunting

Time Soldiers: Rex by Robert Gould

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

Cork & Fuzz: The Collectors by Dori Chaconas



The Cookie Fiasco by Dan Santat and Mo Willems

The Dragon's Scales by Sarah Albee

The Fairy Dogmother by Maribeth Boelts

The Gruffalo by Julia Donaldson

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

Uni's First Sleepover
by Amy Krouse Rosenthal and Brigette 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 Whover, Owl Detective
by Jason June

Yoo-Hoo, Ladybug! by Mem Fox



Going Beyond the Text

Keeping a summer reading journal

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.

A 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.



Canus Manta Whatthefluffalus

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 new fun-loving fuzball 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.



Feline fanatic

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 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.





Featured tales

A Way with Wild Things

by Larissa Theule

Poppy loves nature, and can be found carrying on conversations with ladybugs or singing with cicadas, but good luck spotting her indoors and around people! She's a master of camouflage, always finding a way to blend into her surroundings. Some might call her a wallflower. At a party, Poppy stays out of sight. But when a very special bug lands on the cake, Poppy can't resist popping out to see it. Soon, the rest of the guests notice the beautiful dragonfly and Poppy, too. Maybe she's not a wallflower after all, but a wildflower. This poetic and evocative story celebrates the shy and introverted kids among us, as well as the other small creatures to be found if we look closely enough.



Grades: Pre-K-2

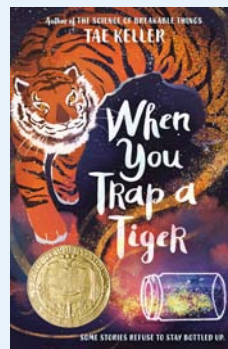
Publisher: Bloomsbury Children's Books

Book Summary: Amazon

When You Trap a Tiger

by Tae Keller

When Lily and her family move in with her sick grandmother, a magical tiger straight out of her Halmoni's Korean folk tales arrives, prompting Lily to unravel a secret family history. Long, long ago, Halmoni stole something from the tigers. Now they want it back. And when one of the tigers approaches Lily with a deal – return what her grandmother stole in exchange for Halmoni's health – Lily is tempted to agree. But deals with tigers are never what they seem! With the help of her sister and her new friend Ricky, Lily must find her voice...and the courage to face a tiger.



Grades: 3-5

Publisher: Random

Book Summary: Penguin Random House

»Suggested Reading grades 1-3

A Tale of Two Sloths by Graham Annable

Animal Superpowers by Christopher Hernandez

Bad Kitty: Kitten Trouble by Nick Bruel

Bug Boys by Laura Knetzger

Dog Man by Dav Pilkey

Donut Feed the Squirrels by Mika Song

Duck, Duck, Porcupine! by Salina Yoon

First Day Critter Jitters by Jory John

Frog and Toad Are Friends by Arnold Lobel

Giant Squid by Candace Fleming and Eric Rohmann

Giraffes Can't Dance by Giles Andreae

Good Night Owl by Greg Pizzoli

Grumpy Monkey by Suzanne Lang

Hi! Fly Guy by Tedd Arnold

Little Red by Bethan Woollvin

InvestiGators by John Patrick Green

Too Many Jacks by Mac Barnett

Waiting for Wings by Lois Ehlert

We Dig Worms! by Kevin McCloskey

Humphrey's Tiny Tales series by Betty G. Birney

Hero Cat by Eileen Spinelli

Joan Procter, Dragon Doctor: The Woman Who Loved Reptiles by Patricia Valdez

Late Lunch with Llamas by Mary Pope Osborne

I Am Jane Goodall by Brad Meltzer

Lulu and the Hamster in the Night by Hilary McKay

Mercy Watson to the Rescue by Kate DiCamillo

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

Over and Under the Pond by Kate Messner

Scruffy by Peggy Parish

Sergeant Reckless: The True Story of the Little Horse Who Became a Hero by Patricia McCormick

She-Ra #2: Island of Magical Creatures by Tracey West

The Fantastic Undersea Life of Jacques Cousteau by Dan Yaccarino

The Rescue Princesses series by Paula Harrison

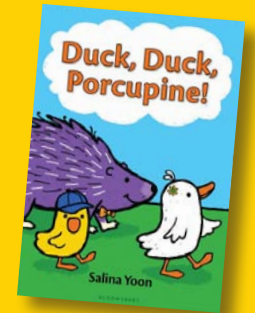
The Sticky Situation by Geronimo Stilton

The Tale of Peter Rabbit by Beatrix Potter

The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs by Jon Scieszka

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

Won Ton: A Cat Tale Told in Haiku by Lee Wardlaw



Going Beyond the Text

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 at tampabay.com/nie/raysreading.

Featured tales

Thinker: My Puppy Poet and Me

By Eloise Greenfield

Thinker isn't just an average puppy - he's a poet. So is his owner, Jace. Together, they turn the world around them into verse. There's just one problem: Thinker has to keep quiet in public, and he can't go to school with Jace. That is, until Pets' Day. But when Thinker is allowed into the classroom at last, he finds it hard to keep his true identity a secret.

Grades: 1-3

Publisher: Sourcebooks Jabberwocky **Book Summary:** Amazon



Strays Like Us

By Cecilia Galante

This is a story of a girl who finds friendship where she least expects it. From the moment Fred spots a scruffy little mutt with sad eyes, she knows she's in big trouble. Toby's in bad shape, and Fred longs to rescue him from the old man with the mile-long mean streak who lives next door. But Margery, the woman who is fostering Fred, says going over to their house is against the rules. Since Fred will only be around until her mother comes to grips with her dependence, Fred can't let herself care too deeply. Not about Toby or Margery or Delia, a new classmate whose insistent friendship surprises Fred at every turn. Because the more Fred lets this lovable band of misfits into her heart, the harder it'll be to leave them all behind.

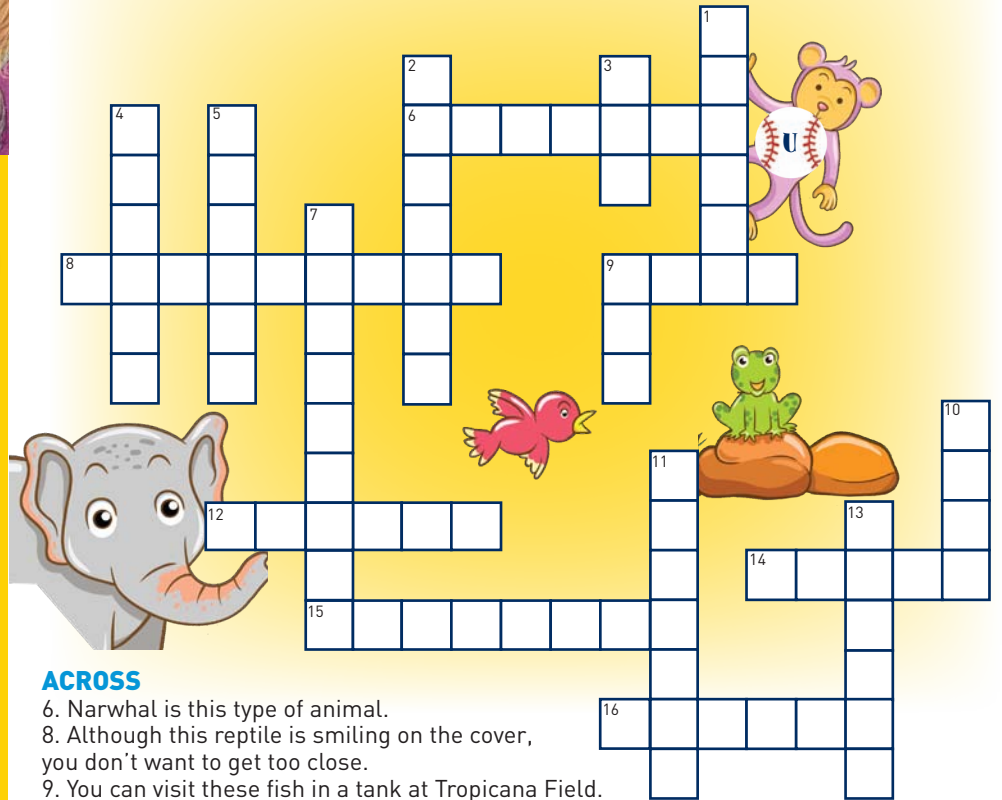
Grades: 4-6

Publisher: Scholastic **Book Summary:** Scholastic



CROSSWORD PUZZLE - Animal Tails

Directions: Words can go across or down. Letters are shared when the words intersect.



ACROSS

- Narwhal is this type of animal.
- Although this reptile is smiling on the cover, you don't want to get too close.
- You can visit these fish in a tank at Tropicana Field.
- Suzanne Lang wrote a book about this type of monkey.
- If the loading dock at Tropicana Field is open, this type of animal may fly in the stadium.
- This gray animal is on the cover of the publication.
- Raymond, the Tampa Bay Rays mascot is this type of animal.

DOWN

- This purple animal is climbing a tree on the cover of this publication.
- George is this type of monkey.
- The most popular pet of Rays players is this type of animal. Woof!
- The dog in Mother Goose and Grimm, on the Comics pages, is this color.
- DJ Kitty is this type of animal.
- You can find this giant dog in the Comics of the Tampa Bay Times.
- Clifford is a big, _____ dog.
- Ice cream is made from a product produced by these mammals.
- The Florida type of this cat is endangered.
- This is the color of Garfield the cat.



Going Beyond the Text

Fantasy and mythology

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.

»Suggested Reading grades 3-5

A Dragon's Guide to the Care and Feeding of Humans by Laurence Yep and Joanne Ryder

Because of the Rabbit by Cynthia Lord

Breaking Cat News: Cats Reporting on the News That Matters to Cats by Georgia Dunn

Bunnica: A Rabbit-Tale of Mystery by James Howe, Deborah Howe and Alan Daniel

Charlotte's Web by E.B. White

Dogs of War by Sheila Keenan

Dragon Rider by Cornelia Funke

Dragon Slayers' Academy by Kate McMullan

Dragon with a Chocolate Heart by Stephanie Burgis

Dragonbreath by Ursula Vernon

Dragons in a Bag by Zetta Elliott

Ellie's Story by W. Bruce Cameron

Flora and Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures by Kate DiCamillo

Julián Is a Mermaid by Jessica Love

Jumanji by Chris Van Allsburg

Knights vs. Dinosaurs by Matt Phelan

Lalani of the Distant Sea by Erin Entrada Kelly

Let 'er Buck!: George Fletcher, the People's Champion by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson

Lila and Hadley by Kody Keplinger

LumberJanes: Unicorn Power! by Mariko Tamaki

Makoons by Louise Erdrich

Saving Marty by Paul Griffin

Saving Winslow by Sharon Creech

Scary Stories for Young Foxes by Christian McKay Heidicker

Sled Dog School by Terry Lynn Johnson

Snazzy Cat Capers by Deanna Kent

Strays Like Us by Cecilia Galante

Stuart Little by E.B. White

Survival Tails: The Titanic by Katrina Charman

Sweep: The Story of a Girl and Her Monster by Jonathan Auxier

The Beast Player by Nahoko Uehashi

The Care and Feeding of a Pet Black Hole by Michelle Cuevas

The Dog Who Lost His Bark by Eoin Colfer

The Serpent's Secret by Sayantani DasGupta

The Tale of Despereaux by Kate DiCamillo

The Unicorn Quest by Kamilla Benko

The World According to Humphrey by Betty G. Birney

Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbitt

Tumble & Blue by Cassie Beasley

Wedgie & Gizmo by Suzanne Selfors

Woof by Spencer Quinn



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. Go to raysbaseball.com/reading to download the game card.

The library systems on this 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.

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

Citrus County Library System

Website: citruslibraries.org

Phone: 352-795-3716

Hernando County Public Library System

Website: hernandocountylibrary.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

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: pplc.us

Phone: 727-441-8408

Polk County Library Cooperative

Website: mypclc.org

Phone: 863-834-4280

Sarasota County Library System

Website:

scgov.net/government/departments/libraries

Phone: 941-861-5000

Tampa Bay Times NIE

newspaper in education
tampabay.com/nie

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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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. **Language Arts:** LAFS.K5.L.1.1; LAFS.K5.L.1.2; LAFS.K5.L.2.3; LAFS.K5.L.3.4; LAFS.K5.L.3.5; LAFS.K5.L.3.6; LAFS.K5.R.1.1; LAFS.K5.R.1.2; LAFS.K5.R.1.3; LAFS.K5.R.2.4; LAFS.K5.R.2.5; LAFS.K5.R.2.6; LAFS.K5.R.3.7; LAFS.K5.R.3.8; LAFS.K5.R.3.9; LAFS.K5.R.4.10; LAFS.K5.SL.1.1; LAFS.K5.SL.1.2; LAFS.K5.SL.1.3; LAFS.K5.SL.2.4; LAFS.K5.SL.2.5; LAFS.K5.SL.2.6; LAFS.K5.W.1.1; LAFS.K5.W.1.2; LAFS.K5.W.1.3; LAFS.K5.W.2.4; LAFS.K5.W.3.9; LAFS.K5.W.4.10 **Florida Best Standards:** 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.1.3

READING WITH THE RAYS MAKES SUMMER READING A HIT!



Suncoast
Credit Union

PROUD PARTNER OF THE TAMPA BAY RAYS

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.** Download your game card from 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 350,000 students have combined to read for 2.5 million hours during their summer break! Over 70,000 fans experienced a Rays game for free thanks to the reading program.

LET'S MAKE 2021 A READING HOME RUN

For more information, go to suncoastcreditunion.com.