Read Your Way to the Ballpark
20,000 Baseball Cards Under the Sea by Jon Buller
A Bad Case of Stripes by David Shannon
A Big Mooncake for Little Star by Grace Lin
Ava Tree and the Wishes Three by Grace Lin
The Bagel King by Andrew Larsen
Corduroy by Don Freeman
Curious George by H. A. Rey
Dear Dragon by Josh Funk
The Dragon’s Scales by Sarah Albee
Emily and the Enchanted Frog by Helen V. Griffith
The Fairy Dogmother by Maribeth Boelts
Fox Eyes by Mordicai Gerstein
Franklin’s Flying Bookshop by Jen Campbell
The Garden of Abdul Gasazi by Chris Van Allsburg
Good Rosie! by Kate DiCamillo
The Gruffalo by Julia Donaldson
Gruffen by Chris D’Lacey
Grumpy Monkey by Suzanne Lang
Harold and the Purple Crayon by Crockett Johnson
I’m a Unicorn by Mallory Loehr
In the Night Kitchen by Maurice Sendak
Jumping Jack by A.H. Benjamin
Li’l Merl and the Dastardly Dragon by Liam Barrett
The Little Red Fort by Brenda Maier
Little Witch Goes to School by Deborah Hautzig
Magic Tree House: Merlin Missions by Mary Pope Osborne
The Magician’s Hat by Malcolm Mitchell
Melia and Jo by Billy Aronson
Neck & Neck by Elise Parsley
The New Kid by A.I. Newton
Not Quite Narwhal by Jessie Sima
Pippi’s Extraordinary Ordinary Day by Astrid Lindgren
The Princess and The Pit Stop by Tom Angelberger
Purple Pickle Juice by Erica Farber
Rex by Robert Gould
Rot: The Cutest in the World by Ben Clanton
Stuart’s Cape by Sara Pennypacker
Sylvester and the Magic Pebble by William Steig
Ta-De! by Kathy Ellen Davis
The Rainbow Fish by Marcus Pfister
The Stranger by Chris Van Allsburg
The Tale of Peter Rabbit by Beatrix Potter
The Tug People by Pam Conrad
The Velveteen Rabbit by Margery Williams
The Very Impatient Caterpillar by Ross Burach
We Don’t Eat Our Classmates by Ryan T. Higgins

“Traditionally, summer reading programs are designed to encourage elementary-aged children to keep reading during summer vacation. Preventing the ‘summer slide’ continues to be the main objective of summer reading programs,” 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 2020, many libraries across the country will celebrate imagination and fantasy in their summer reading programs. The theme Imagine Your Story was chosen by library professionals to help inspire readers of all ages to dream big and believe in themselves.

The Tampa Bay Rays, Suncoast Credit Union and the Tampa Bay Times Newspaper in Education program are excited to celebrate this theme in the 13th annual Reading with the Rays: Read your Way to the Ballpark program.

Read your way to the ballpark

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: Imagine Your Story.

By reading books, graphic novels 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 participate and read their way to Tropicana Field. The reward for reading 24 hours is two tickets to Tropicana Field to see the Rays in action.

Check out this insert and the Reading with the Rays website at tampabay.com/nie/raysreading and get some great book suggestions to jog your imagination throughout summer vacation.

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.
**Fairy tales, mythology and fantasy**

The 2020 summer reading theme is wide open for the imagination. See if your child can read stories in each of the following categories:

- Once upon a time
- A hero’s journey
- Timeless tales
- Magical creatures
- A new twist on an old tale

**Escape with a good book**

Have you ever imagined having magical powers, walking with your pet mythical beast, going to a school filled with wizards and talking animals? This is the world of fantasy. In literature, there are seven topics that can be present:

- Magic, such as casting spells, superheroes flying, people being invisible
- Other worlds, such as supernatural or different universes, Middle Earth
- Universal themes, such as good vs. evil, love, friendship and perseverance in the face of danger
- Heroism, such as ordinary people in difficult circumstances or characters driven by an external force
- Special character types, such as witches, fairies and ogres
- Talking animals or talking toys
- Fantastic objects, such as a special wand, sword, pensieve or ruby red slippers

**Discovering new worlds**

On the pages of this Tampa Bay Times Newspaper in Education publication, you will see suggested reading for students in grades kindergarten through fifth grade. There are additional reading suggestions for students in grades kindergarten through 12, broken down by grade level and genre, on the Reading with the Rays website. Whether you are reading a printed book or the digital versions, between the covers of these books are action, adventure, comedy, history, fantasy and new worlds for you to explore and learn about. The universe of stories is endless. You can find these exciting stories 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.

**HOW TO PLAY THE GAME**

The rules of the game are simple. Pick up your favorite books, explore your local library’s website, or browse your favorite section of the Tampa Bay Times. As you read, track your hours by rounding the bases.

When you read enough hours to get on first, second and third base ask your parent or guardian to initial your card. You can hit a reading home run when you read for 24 hours. Once you read a total of 24 hours email your completed game card to reading@raysbaseball.com.

This year when you read for 24 hours you will receive **two (2) tickets** to a Rays home game, a special Reading with the Rays **prize**, AND a **free item** from a Rays concession stand!

**HIT A READING HOME RUN! 24 HOURS TOTAL**

**Reading with the Rays**

Presented by Suncoast Credit Union

Redeemable dates, Reading with the Rays prize and concession items are subject to availability, while supplies last.
**BOOK SPOTLIGHT**

**Mia Mayhem is a Superhero!**
by Kara West

Mia is a normal eight-year-old girl until she discovers that she is a superhero! But can she learn to balance her regular life and keep her identity a secret, all while learning to use her powers?

*Grades: K-3
Publisher: Little Simon
Book Summary: Florida Association for Media in Education*

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**BOOK SPOTLIGHT**

**Annie’s Life in Lists**
by Kristin Mahoney

Fifth grader Annie thinks it’s all her fault when her parents decide to move their family from Brooklyn, NY to Clover Gap, population 8,432 and so does her brother! Annie blames her amazing memory on the move and hides her ability from her new friends. Then Annie discovers a secret hidden among papers in the attic. What really brought her family to Clover Gap and will they ever be able to call it home?

*Grades: 3-6
Publisher: Knopf Books for Young Readers
Book Summary: Florida Association for Media in Education*

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**Think about it**

What is a hero? What is a superhero? Make a list of superhero powers, such as being able to fly, to have a photographic memory, to be invisible or to talk to animals. Create a superhero who has summer superpowers. Maybe the hero can harness sunlight, turn anything into ice cream or hit home runs every time he or she is at bat.

Decide what the secret identity is for your character. Then create a real-life name and job for the character.

For example, Clark Kent is a reporter to pay his bills and becomes Superman to fight crime; Barbara Gordon is a police commissioner by day and Bat Girl by night.

Choose a setting for your story. It can be your hometown, a favorite vacation spot or a fictional fantasy land. Be sure to describe the setting, so readers will be able to picture where the hero lives.

Use the Story Cube interactive on the [National Council of Teachers of English website](https://www.ncte.org) to map out the story’s key elements, including the story’s theme, conflicts and resolution.

Share your story with your family. You also can share the paragraph and artwork with the Reading with the Rays program coordinators and earn a special Rays Reward. Check out the [Reading with the Rays website](https://www.readingwiththerays.com) for details.

**Source:** National Council of Teachers of English and International Literacy Association

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What superpowers do you think the Tampa Bay Rays players have? What is DJ Kitty’s other identity? How about Raymond? Draw a picture of a Rays player or mascot with superpowers or a secret identity.
What is a hero? Does heroism always involve physical strength, or are there other qualities that define being a hero? Can someone helping others be considered heroic? Established in April 2008, the Rays Employee Community Outreach Team (ECOT) offers Rays front office employees to serve voluntary hours to nonprofit agencies in Tampa Bay that enhance or improve the quality of life in the communities they serve. Service projects are chosen from ideas suggested by employees. In total, Rays employees have logged more than 38,500 volunteer hours split between monthly ECOT events and other ongoing projects, including Meals On Wheels, Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring program and time spent at the Ronald McDonald House. Look for articles in the Tampa Bay Times that depict everyday people helping others in the community. See how many articles you can find during a week. In a notebook, write a sentence about each article you find. Remember to count your reading hours to log for the program.
**BOOK SPOTLIGHT**

*We Don’t Eat Our Classmates*

by Ryan T. Higgins

It’s the first day of school for Penelope Rex, and she can’t wait to meet her classmates. But it’s hard to make human friends when they’re so darn delicious! That is, until Penelope gets a taste of her own medicine and finds she may not be at the top of the food chain after all.

**Grades:** PreK-1  
**Publisher:** Disney-Hyperion  
**Book Summary:** Florida Association for Media in Education

**BOOK SPOTLIGHT**

*Dragon with a Chocolate Heart*

by Stephanie Burgis

Aventurine is a feisty young dragon who tries to go on adventures/huntings with her family, but they keep telling her she is too young and not ready. She disagrees and is going to prove it! This spunky dragon gets tricked into drinking hot chocolate and then transforms into a human girl. Her desire for chocolate takes her on a whole new adventure into the human world!

**Grades:** 3-7  
**Publisher:** Bloomsbury Children’s Books  
**Book Summary:** Florida Association for Media in Education

**Going beyond the text**

Reading books and exploring fairytales, 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.
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 tampabay.com/nie/raysreading for more reading suggestions for students of all ages, as well as some extra activities.

All students in grades kindergarten through 12 are eligible to participate in the Reading with the Rays program. Check out the details on Page 2 of this publication. Check out the Tampa Bay Rays Summer Reading website.

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 by going to the main library web page.

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: 352-754-6043

Hillsborough County Public Library Cooperative
Website: hpcl.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: pascollibraries.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

Dial a Ghost by Eva Ibbotson
The Doll People (series) by Ann M. Martin and Laura Godwin
The Fairy-Tale Detectives (Sisters Grimm #1) by Michael Buckley
The False Prince (The Ascendance Series, Book 1) by Jennifer A. Nielsen
The Fire Within: Book 1 by Chris D'Lacey
Lumberjanes: Unicorn Power! by Mariko Tamaki
First Day of School Forever by R.L. Stine
Ghostville Elementary: Ghost Class (series) by Marcia Thornton Jones
Grimm Legacy by Polly Shulman
Grow Up, Dad! by Narinder Dhami
Jumanji by Chris Van Allsburg
Makoons by Louise Erdrich
Me and Marvin Gardens by Amy Sarig King
Messenger Bag by Jillian Powell
Mighty Jack and the Goblin King by Ben Hatke
My Rotten Life by David Lubar
National Parks of the U.S.A. by Kate Siber
The Parker Inheritance by Varian Johnson
The Quest Begins (Seekers #1) by Erin Hunter
Real Friends by Shannon Hale
Rocket to the Moon! Big Ideas That Changed the World #1 by Don Brown
Sanity & Tallulah by Molly Brooks
Sarai and the Meaning of Awesome by Monica Brown and Sarai Gonzalez
Scary Stories for Young Foxes by Christian McKay Heidicker
Sisters of Glass by Naomi Cyprus
Some Places More than Others by Renée Watson
The School for Good and Evil by Soman Chainani
The Seer of Shadows by Avi
The Serpent’s Secret by Sayantani Dasgupta
Sled Dog School by Terry Lynn Johnson
Stella Diaz Has Something to Say by Angela Dominguez
Stargazing by Jen Wang
Stuart Little by E.B. White
Superstar by Mandy Davis
Survival Tails: The Titanic by Katrina Charman
Sweep: The Story of a Girl and Her Monster by Jonathan Auxier
Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing by Judy Blume
Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbitt
Tumble & Blue by Cassie Beasley
The Unicorn Quest by Kamilla Benko
Upside-down Magic by Sarah Mlynowski, Lauren Myracle and Emily Jenkins
Warning from the Waves by Justine Smith
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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 earn two free tickets to a Rays game!

HOW IT WORKS:
A- Download your game card from raysbaseball.com/reading
B- Pick up your favorite books
C- Start reading!

YOU KNOCKED IT OUT OF THE PARK LAST YEAR!
Last year, more than 44,700 students participated. That’s more than 355,320 total hours of reading in one summer! Over 10,000 fans experienced a Rays game for free thanks to the reading program.

LET’S MAKE 2020 EVEN BETTER!
For more information, go to suncoastcreditunion.com.