



3rd Grade Reading Success Matters

Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading (SCGLR)

January 2021

CELEBRATE EMBRACING OUR DIFFERENCES READING DAY WITH FAMILY!



Join **THIS BOOK IS COOL!** host Beth Duda and artist Cedric Hameed for an interactive family activity sponsored by the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading and Embracing Our Differences. Participating families will receive a copy of *Salt in His Shoes: Michael Jordan in Pursuit of a Dream* for their home library.

During this 1-hour workshop, families will explore thoughts and feelings through spoken word poetry and share ideas to create a collaborative work of art. Guests will need to have paper, a pencil, pen, or crayon, and their imagination handy!

This family-engagement activity is designed for adults and children Pre-K through Grade 3. Please invite families in your network who may be interested.

[Click here to register for the virtual event on Tuesday, March 2 from 6:30pm-7:30pm.](#)

This event is made possible thanks to the generosity of United Way Suncoast, the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, The Patterson Foundation, and Embracing our Differences.

THIS BOOK IS COOL! Free access at home or at a school near you!



During summer 2020, SCGLR launched **THIS BOOK IS COOL!**, a series of 100 webisodes designed to encourage a love of reading. More than 5,300 children and their families across the Suncoast region learned about new books, increased their vocabularies, and created works of art aligned to the books' themes. Due to its success, and because the community wanted more, SCGLR is offering guided conversations to teach families and children how to process new information from books and the world around them.

- **Track One: For the Classroom**
Aligned to State of Florida standards, educators, and students will use three books from **THIS BOOK IS COOL!** to further their English Language Arts skills. As a gift from The Patterson Foundation, each participating child will receive books to add to their home libraries.

SCGLR Engagement Team Member Karen Windon is

working with Samoset Elementary to kick off the "THIS BOOK IS COOL! in School" program in ten of the school's K-3 classrooms. This program will provide classroom teachers with resources for three TBIC! books developed around a theme of their choice. SCGLR will provide teachers with standards-aligned lesson plans, copies of the books for each child's home library, access to the incredible webisodes for each of the books, and fun activities and extensions for learning. "We hope that this will continue to foster a love of reading in the kiddos while providing resources at home to make learning exciting!"

If you are interested in exploring the possibilities, contact Karen Windon at kwindontpf@gmail.com.

- **Track Two: Family Book Circles**
During five 1-hour guided conversations, families will





[THIS BOOK IS COOL! - Salt in His Shoes](#)

explore three themes highlighted in books from THIS BOOK IS COOL! while participating in fun and interactive activities designed to nurture a love of reading and learning. As a gift from The Patterson Foundation, each participating child will receive books to add to their home libraries.

SCGLR Engagement Team Member Laurie Miller recently shared the ins and outs of creating the THIS BOOK IS COOL! Family Fun Reading Club. "We hosted a practice session to see what was working and what could use some improvement. We had a lot of aha moments and some cringeworthy ones too, but the wonderful families that joined us were engaged and the time spent felt meaningful."

If you are interested in learning more about the [THIS BOOK IS COOL! Family Fun Reading Club](#), contact Laurie Miller at lmillertpf@gmail.com.

GLIMPSE INTO STRONGER ME, STRONGER WE'S POWER OF PRESENCE

Team Candid Connects with Laughter

By Kelli Karen Smith

Editor's Note: [Click this link to view upcoming Stronger Me, Stronger We -- The Power of Presence offerings in English and Spanish.](#)

Mondays aren't usually a favorite day of the week, but for a dozen early education professionals, it was a day of connection and laughter. For five weeks, an hour each week, The Patterson Foundation partnered with Children First and K. Shea Consulting to form Team Candid. The conversations centered around Joy Thomas Moore's seven pillars of presence-Mind * Heart * Faith * Courage * Resources * Connections * Values. By sharing our thoughts, experiences, and ideas, we encouraged strengthening ties in our personal and professional relationships.

During the first conversation, the facilitators welcomed the participants and encouraged each to be comfortable. We began discussing the presence of *Mind*. We shared the importance of encouragement, being patient, and showing grace and kindness to ourselves and others. Our personal and professional lives have changed during our current climate of living in a pandemic. Despite those changes, Team Candid began to share stories and experiences that connected all of us. Every week, we looked forward to continuing our dialogue, hearing stories, and sharing insights that we experienced for guidance on the next steps of our journey.

The presence of *Heart* conversation led us to discuss appreciating the little things, being genuine, being true to who we are, and enjoying simple pleasures. Our mantra became: It's Complicated But Not Impossible, which describes how we have felt during Covid-19. We discovered that we must be present, ask questions, answer questions, show grace, notice positives, breathe, and smile.

The presence of *Courage* and *Values* helped us to create questions. What was a bright spot for you or your students this week? What was an unexpected joy? How did you or a student display courage and strength? Did you take a leap of faith? Each conversation gave Team Candid the momentum for our final meeting. Guest Artist Cedric Hameed guided participants in a spoken word exercise. Our topic was NOW, and we described now as difficult, stressful, uncertain, unpredictable, and happy. One participant shared, "Now I'm happy because I'm surrounded by a group that supports me. When life gets difficult and stressful, I can step into the now even though life is unpredictable".

Our Monday meetings are complete, and Team Candid enjoyed their experience together. We are reminded that we are capable and worthy. We can trust each other, and we are encouraged to continue conversations in the classroom, with our family, and with our community.



