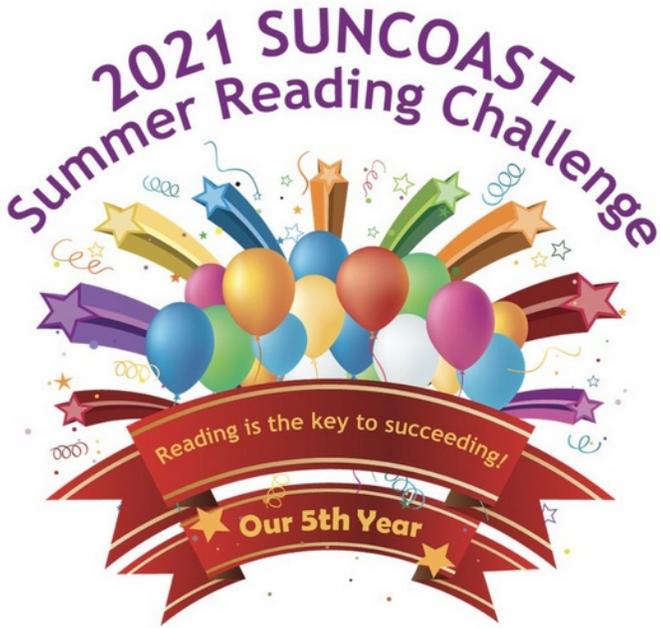


# 3rd Grade Reading Success Matters

Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading (SCGLR)  
September 2021

## THIS BOOK IS COOL! The Sequel

## #EveryDayCounts



#THISBOOKISCOOL! premiered on June 1, 2020, and since then, thousands of children from across the Suncoast region have qualified to receive free books, thanks to the generosity of The Patterson Foundation.

In [Laurie Millier's](#) recent [THIS BOOK IS COOL! The Sequel](#) blog, she shares, "Unlike most sequels, which, let's face it, are often truly terrible and completely unnecessary, this second release (only the second year of this program, what?!) of THIS BOOK IS COOL! was even better than the original. That's right! I said it. Better than the original!"

The rest of the team couldn't agree more!

During Summer 2021, to avoid the summer slide, SCGLR engaged our four-county region and partnered with 80 summer camp providers and summer learning academies to encourage a love for reading.

Why? Because nationwide, children from asset-limited families can lose an average of 2 to 2.5 months of reading skills each summer!

- In 2021, 7,811 children participated
- Of 7,811 kids, 7,323 read six or more books!

How many books did 7,811 kids actually read? Drumroll please...

This year, the Attendance Awareness Poster Contest will be held in Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota county public schools on an opt-in basis. Since the inaugural Attendance Awareness Poster Contest in 2015, nearly 200,000 posters have been created by students about the importance of outstanding attendance.

We know that there's no such thing as perfect, especially when it comes to attendance. After all, children do get sick or may need to miss school for a number of reasons, including the need to quarantine. We know missing more than 10% of the work covered in class puts children in academic danger. To hit the mark of excellence this year, consider making every day a learning day!

- Schools are encouraged to include positive messaging about the importance of outstanding attendance on their marquees, in communications to parents/caregivers, and in their daily messaging to students
- Schools are encouraged to display posters throughout the remainder of the year
- Schools are encouraged to share the winning images on their web pages, in electronic newsletters, in cards, calendars, and in correspondence
- Schools, educators, staff, parents, etc., are encouraged to use #EveryDayCounts when sharing on social media platforms to promote the contest, e.g., the creative process, the winning posters, special moments, other attendance related activities

Posters will be judged according to the following criteria:

- Use of Every Day Counts template - the Every Day Counts icon must be visible

- 184,738 Books!

While it's important that the data from iReady scores show an upward trend, it's worthwhile to note the valuable impact of connections made, of relationships built, and of memories created during the reading challenge can influence a ♥ of learning.

Click here to read [a heartwarming story of impact](#) shared by an anonymous parent.



By [Karen Windon](#)

In May, THIS BOOK IS COOL! In School was piloted at Samoset Elementary School in Manatee County. With books focusing on themes such as inclusion, diversity, and social-emotional learning, the teachers were enthusiastic about participating. Comments such as "I love your lesson plans" and "I am beyond excited to teach with these books" were inspiring to hear. The reaction from the children paralleled those of the teachers. According to one of the second-grade teachers, "The books were a HUGE hit, and the kids were delighted to use them in class then take them home."

Each lesson plan provides a quick overview of the lesson, learning intentions and success criteria, the key standard(s) for the lesson, vocabulary, assessment options, important questions for the lesson(s), and extension activities for each book.

These extension activities range from creating a puppet for retelling the story to researching the book topic to interviewing family members and friends, all with a goal of better understanding connections between the book and the child's own life.

As a gift from The Patterson Foundation, each participating child will receive books to add to their home libraries. If THIS BOOK IS COOL! In School interests you, please email [connect@gradelevelreadingsuncoast.net](mailto:connect@gradelevelreadingsuncoast.net).

- Relevance to the theme - Attendance Awareness
- Creativity and originality
- Visual clarity and appeal

Click here to view winning posters from the last contest!

- [Charlotte County Regional Poster Contest Winners](#)  
[Charlotte County School-Level Winners 2018-2019](#)
- [DeSoto County Regional Poster Contest Winners](#)  
[DeSoto County School-Level Winners 2018-2019](#)
- [Manatee County Regional Poster Contest Winners](#)  
[Manatee County School-Level Winners 2018-2019](#)
- [Sarasota County Regional Poster Contest Winners](#)  
[Sarasota County School-Level Winners 2018-2019](#)

**Radical Inclusion:  
Evolving the Way We Connect**  
by [Hannah Saeger Karnei](#), Inaugural TPF Fellow

Editor's Note: SCGLR recently reactivated its [Spanish newsletter](#) and social media channels, including, [@LeerPara3roSuncoast](#) on Facebook and [@LeerPara3ro](#) on Twitter.

[Beth Duda](#) likes to use the phrase "radical inclusion." What this means is that SCGLR doesn't just look around and think, "Well, that's enough people." We seek to connect with EVERYONE, wherever they are in Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota counties. According to data from the U.S. Census Bureau, 21% of households in Florida speak Spanish. If we only communicate in English, SCGLR is potentially missing out on 20% of the community.

We are fortunate to have stellar bilingual community engagement consultants already working with SCGLR who are brimming with great ideas for engaging with Spanish-speaking families. From [Spanish book circles](#), [bilingual family engagement nights](#), and newsletters (including COVID Response) offered in [English](#) and [Spanish](#), we are learning more every day about being radically inclusive in communications and engagement.

In retrospect, perhaps the campaign should've known we needed consistent, robust outreach in Spanish. However, if the best day to start was yesterday, the second-best day is today. Our teams are working hard to make sure that we're utilizing the best channels, content, and engagement strategies to be radically inclusive.

Questions about Spanish engagement? Please contact Connie Cuadrado at [ccuadradotpf@gmail.com](mailto:ccuadradotpf@gmail.com).

We welcome your thoughts. Contact us at [info@GradeLevelReadingSuncoast.net](mailto:info@GradeLevelReadingSuncoast.net).