



*Just Read,  
Florida!*

**State Board of Education**

**August 19, 2003**

# Why Third Grade?

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- **Purpose:** to ensure that students moving to 4th grade have necessary reading skills, and are ready to **Read to Learn**
- **Fact:** 4th grade text is longer and more difficult than 3rd grade text
- **Fact:** 75% of students who cannot read independently by 3rd grade will continue to struggle as a reader throughout their lives



# Narrative Text - FCAT 3rd Grade

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Peter wanted a letter of his own. He ran to get the mail each day as soon as it arrived. He waved to Mrs. Casey on her porch next door as he carried the mail to his mother. Every day his mother got mail, but there was never a letter for him.

One day Mother said, “Peter, please take this letter to Mrs. Casey. It came to us by mistake.”

Peter ran to Mrs. Casey’s yard and raced her cat, Peaches, to the porch. “A letter for you, Mrs. Casey.”

“For me? Land sakes, no one ever writes to me. Who could it be?”



# Narrative Text - FCAT 4th Grade

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Far from the evening shadows thrown by Hong Kong's tall buildings, the narrow streets of the city of Kowloon come alive under the rice moon. Food stands sell bowls of noodles, rice, and friend fish balls on bamboo sticks to factory workers strolling homeward at the end of the day.

In a small rattan cage, a cliff swallow huddles with its tiny wings tucked in around its body. For the first time in its life, the little swallow will not fly under the rice moon tonight.

The man who caught the swallow that same morning sells dried fruits and sugarcane. A young girl walking through the marketplace buys a stick of cane to chew and sees the swallow in its small cage.



# Expository Text - FCAT 3rd Grade

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Stingrays are pancake-shaped fish, and -- you'd never guess it -- they're close cousins of sharks. The smallest species (kinds) are about the size of a dinner plate. But some 14-foot (4.2-m) stingrays live in the waters near Australia. They might be too big to fit on a bedroom floor. Now that's a big pancake!

A stingray's eyes are on top of its flat body. A special eyelid closes over the top part of each eye in bright light. Next to each eye is a hole. Water flows into the holes and passes over gills, where oxygen is taken from it.



# Expository Text - FCAT 4th Grade

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In Oregon, there is a lake of incredible blue that is hidden from sight until you look over the edge of the wide rocky bowl that holds it. Called Crater Lake, it is one of the natural wonders of North America. Until about a hundred years ago, the lake was known to very few people. The Klamath people who were native to the area did not talk to strangers about the lake because it had a special meaning in their culture.

The story of the lake actually began thousands of years before, when one volcanic eruption after another created a twelve thousand foot mountain called Mount Mazama. Then about seven thousand years ago, Mount Mazama blew up. Rivers of lava flowed, and hot gases and ash were thrown into the air.



# Third Grade Reading FCAT 2003

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- 188,107 third graders took FCAT reading
- 43,024 scored Level 1 on FCAT reading
- 43,024 were eligible for Summer Reading Camps
- 40,331 students received reading remediation
- 9591 promoted with good cause exemptions\*

\* 11 districts have not reported as of 8/18/03: Alachua, Charlotte, Citrus, Collier, Columbia, Glades, Hardee, Marion, Pasco, St. Johns, Sarasota



# Summer Reading Camps 2003

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- **Measures of Success**

- **Level 1 students served in a camp**
- **% in range 251-258 who are promoted**
- **Average district % gain from March SAT/9 to end of camp SAT/9**
- **end of 2003-2004 performance for both retained and promoted children**

# Summer Reading Camp 2003

## Site Visits

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- Over 125 Camp Sites Visited
- Areas Evaluated:
  - ✓ Instructional Time
  - ✓ Instructional Materials
  - ✓ Print-rich Environment
  - ✓ Teacher Knowledge and Skills
  - ✓ Monitoring of Student Progress



# Site Visit Results...

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- Primary area needing improvement:
  - TIME
- Best practices identified and recorded for 10% of districts, such as:
  - Mentoring
  - Strategies
  - Data Analysis
  - Use of Technology in Instruction
  - Portfolios



# 2003-2004 School Year

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- **Level 1 students promoted to 4th grade:**  
**Academic Improvement Plan (AIP)**  
**targeting specific reading difficulty**
- **Retained 3rd graders:** **AIP targeting**  
**specific reading difficulty, as well as a**  
**different path of instruction from previous**  
**year**



# Contact Us !

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