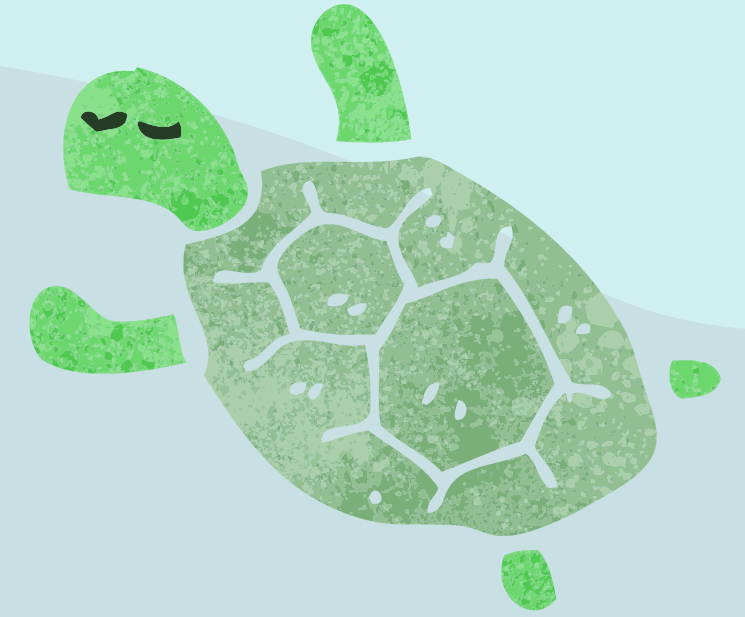


Reading for the Rivers Program



overview: This environmental literacy program involved teachers and 3rd grade students from schools with underserved populations in each of the six Virginia Beach watersheds.

In March, LRNow staff and 30 plus volunteers from the community read and discussed the book *All the Way to the Ocean*, by Joel Harper, with over 900 children. Afterwards, students decorated reusable bookbags with messages about marine debris. More than 70 books were donated to classrooms and school libraries, including several copies in Spanish.

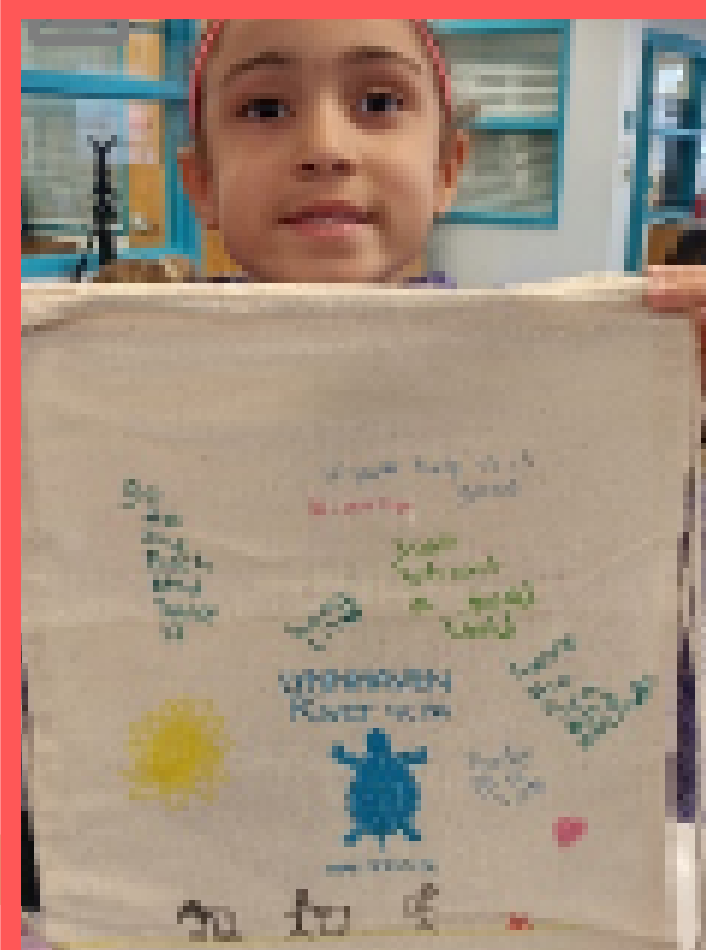
Our Goal: increase students' awareness of the problems with trash and other pollutants in our waterways, and empower them to make small changes in their everyday habits.

We wanted to connect with the Science and Language Arts SOLs being taught at the time in a memorable and meaningful way. Through discussions with students, written evaluations and discussions with the teacher's weeks after the reading we found:

1. Students remembered the book
2. Students re-read the book
3. Students used their book bags
4. Students suggested

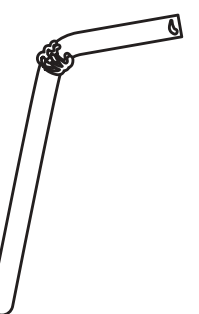


Students involved parents in a waterway clean-up. The message was spread throughout students homes.



Results: Asked to expand the program through the summer.

- Horizons Hampton Roads
- Mile High Kids and Community Development, Inc.
- city-wide summer reading programs



Impact: Early exposure to books about and experiences in nature result in life long adults with a strong stewardship ethic. Connect that with opportunities to give back and they are hooked for life!

"The loved the book & their bags! I have even had a student tell me about how he and his friend cleaned up trash outside while they were playing near the school the weekend after the presentation!" -Becky Atkins, teacher