

CreationStation goes green

claires
day

A SIGNATURE SERVICE OF **RIL** Read for
Literacy

As part of **Creation Station Goes Green**, your child was given information about reading, science and math. ***Soooper Yooper: The Quest of the Blue Crew*** is a book written by Mark Newman that you might like to read with your child as an extension of their experience at Claire's Day.

In the book, environmental defender Billy Cooper enlists the help of a team of elite scientists – real superheroes – to combat the arrival of an ever-increasing number of invasive species and ecological dangers threatening the Great Lakes region.

Below are some questions you can ask as well as a few other ideas to get your child thinking and have fun with the book at home.

Enjoy reading together!

WHAT YOU NEED: The book: *Soooper Yooper: The Quest of the Blue Crew* by Mark Newman

OPTIONAL ITEMS:

A piece of white paper

A pen or some type of writing instrument

Crayons or colored pencils

WHAT TO DO:

READ the book together. You can **ASK** questions as your child reads. Encourage your child to **RETELL** you what they learned about the Great Lakes and invasive species as they read. Here are some sample questions:

1. Why are the Great Lakes important?
2. What is an invasive species?
3. How have many of the invasive species entered the Great Lakes?
4. What is a sea lamprey and why is it so destructive?
5. Why are scientists with different skills needed to combat invasive species?
6. Why do teams have a better chance at success than individuals?

BE SUPER SMART: **IMAGINATION & ACTION**

If you were going to be a superhero and you were going to guard our Great Lakes, what superpower would you like to have? How would it be helpful in your quest (mission) to protect our region from invasive species? Try to name five potential superpowers and the reason that each skill would be beneficial.

BE DEFENSIVE: **ILLUSTRATE A SOLUTION**

Scientists have been battling sea lamprey for more than 50 years. The vampire-like creature continues to be a problem in Lake Erie. Draw a picture of a unique tool or device that might be helpful to scientists in their continuing efforts to control sea lamprey.

DO SOMETHING MEMORABLE: **DESIGN A MNEMONIC**

A mnemonic (the first “m” is silent) is a device that aids in the retention of information. In other words, a mnemonic is a trick that helps you remember things. For example, the first letter of each word in a series can be combined to make a new word. Your student, for instance, may know HOMES as a method to remember the names of the Great Lakes (Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Erie and Superior). If you wanted to put the Great Lakes in order from the largest to the smallest, you might remember the phrase “Super Heroes Must Eat Oats” (Superior, Huron, Michigan, Erie, Ontario). Ask your student if they know a mnemonic for which way to turn a wrench to tighten or loosen a nut or bolt on an ocean freighter (“righty tighty, lefty loosey.”) See if your child can design a mnemonic to remember the names of the eight planets (for many years, people used “My Very Educated Mother Just Served Us Nine Pizzas,” but with the demotion of Pluto, it no longer works).

INVESTIGATE OTHER BOOK TITLES THAT YOU CAN READ:

The Toledo Lucas County Public Library and the school library are great places to borrow books, videos and games for at home use. Some other books related to invasive species are:

1. *Science Warriors: The Battle Against Invasive Species* by Sneed B. Collard III
2. *Zebra Mussel* by Susan H. Gray

This activity is brought to you by Sooper Yooper

Creation Station Goes Green at Claire’s Day is presented by:

