



# TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL

For more information, contact:  
Allison Baron, 682-551-7172  
[allison@brendathompson.com](mailto:allison@brendathompson.com)

November 30, 2015

## Reading Rock Stars brings books to life for kids in Houston, Dec. 3

*Famed children's authors to entertain kids, donate signed books*

### **WHAT**

Eight famous authors will visit three Houston schools to present their books to kids and give each student a signed copy of their book. Media are invited to cover the presentations at Crockett Elementary School.

The Texas Book Festival's Reading Rock Stars literacy program brings books to life for children in low-income schools. The authors will present their literary works in an entertaining fashion, and the Texas Book Festival gives each student an autographed copy of their book and provides the school library with a new set of books.

### **WHO**

- 500 students grades pre-K through fifth at Crockett Elementary
- Children's book authors **James Luna** (*The Place Where You Live*), **Don Tate** (*Poet*), and **Nikki Loftin** (*Wish Girl*)
- Lois Kim, executive director of the Texas Book Festival
- Crockett's principal Claudia Chavez-Pinto, and librarian Geetha Thomas

### **WHERE**

Crockett Elementary School, 2112 Crockett Street, Houston, TX 77007

### **WHEN**

**Thursday, Dec. 3, from 8- 11:15 a.m.**

8:00- 8:30 a.m.	James Luna	Pre-K and K	Library
8:00- 8:45 a.m.	Don Tate	2 <sup>nd</sup> grade	Cafeteria
8:45- 9:15 a.m.	James Luna	1 <sup>st</sup> grade	Library
9:00- 9:45 a.m.	Don Tate	3 <sup>rd</sup> grade	Cafeteria
9:30- 10:15 a.m.	Nikki Loftin	4 <sup>th</sup> grade	Library
10:30- 11:15 a.m.	Nikki Loftin	5 <sup>th</sup> grade	Library

*\*Note: book distribution and signing will take place directly after authors' presentations.*

## **VISUALS**

Authors handing excited students signed copies of their books one by one; colorful banners and welcome signs for authors plastered all over the school walls; kids of all ages wearing festive paper hats and cheering during presentations; book-themed decorations, illustrations, and streamers throughout the cafeteria and library; carts full of brand-new, signed books; and more.

## **INFO**

<http://www.texasbookfestival.org/welcome-reading-rock-stars/>.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Texas Book Festival brings books to life for young readers through Reading Rock Stars, a dynamic program in which selected authors from across the country are invited to present their works to students in economically disadvantaged public schools. At the end of the presentations, each child receives an autographed copy of the book, and a set of books is also given to the school library.

Since 2001, the Texas Book Festival has given more than 65,000 books to kids at Title I schools in Texas through its Reading Rock Stars program. For many children, it is the first book they have ever owned.

With support from H-E-B's Tournament of Champions and Read 3 programs, the Texas College Savings Plan, The Wright Family Foundation, the ECG Foundation, the Tecumseh Foundation, the University of Texas- Rio Grande Valley, and other generous donors, Reading Rock Stars is now serving Austin, the Rio Grande Valley, and Houston. The Texas Book Festival makes a three-year commitment to each school it accepts, bringing in different authors and new books each year.

Monica Brown, Reading Rock Stars author, says: "The festival does not send authors to speak to the children of privilege, rather to the children of hope—all from Title 1 schools. And the event is about more than just one day—it is about the lead-up to the event. Committed teachers and librarians build excitement in the students through creative activities, art and writing projects, guiding them to find their own voices and put their dreams into words."

"To own an \$18 picture book is a luxury the vast majority of children in the world can't afford, but the Texas Book Festival makes sure thousands of children do, in Austin and the Rio Grande Valley," Brown says.

###

## **About the Texas Book Festival**

The Texas Book Festival celebrates authors and their contributions to the culture of literacy, ideas, and imagination. Founded in 1995 by first lady Laura Bush, Mary Margaret Farabee, and a group of volunteers, the nonprofit Texas Book Festival promotes the joys

of reading and writing through its annual Festival Weekend, the one-day Texas Teen Book Festival, the Reading Rock Stars program, grants to Texas libraries, youth fiction writing contest, and year-round literary programming. The Festival is held on the grounds of the Texas Capitol each fall and features more than 280 renowned authors, panels, book signings, live music, cooking demonstrations, and children's activities. Thanks to generous donors, sponsors, and 1,000 volunteers, the Festival remains free and open to the public. [www.texasbookfestival.org](http://www.texasbookfestival.org)