



## TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL BRINGS READING ROCK STARS AND REAL READS PROGRAMS TO DALLAS/ FORT WORTH TITLE ONE SCHOOLS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2019

*Texas Book Festival Returns to DFW Area for Four School Visits, Presenting Eight Authors and Donating 1,930 Books to Title I Students, and Launching New Real Reads Program in Dallas*

**WHAT: The** Texas Book Festival will host its **Reading Rock Stars** program in four local Dallas/Fort Worth Title I elementary schools February 7 - 8, and also introduce its new Real Reads program at Skyline High School in Dallas. This event, which will bring nine nationally-recognized children's and YA authors to corresponding grade levels, is the culmination of months of school preparation. TBF will gift each student a copy of the presenting author's book as part of its mission to promote literacy and reading across the state of Texas.

**The Texas Book Festival is will donate a total of 2,060 books** to students and classrooms at **Thomas Tolbert Elementary, Rosemont Elementary, Bill J. Elliott Elementary, and Meadowbrook Elementary**. With this latest round of Reading Rock Stars, the Texas Book Festival will have given more than 101,992 books to students in Title I schools across Texas since the program's inception.

The Texas Book Festival's Reading Rock Stars literacy program brings books to life for children in low-income schools by inviting authors and illustrators into classrooms with entertaining presentations that inspire students to read, write, and create. Thanks to generous support from sponsors—including H-E-B: Tournament of Champions, M.B. & Edna Zale Foundation, Central Market, Ruth and Steven Hodge, The Miles Foundation, The Ryan Foundation, and The Sid W. Richardson Foundation—the Texas Book Festival gives each student an autographed copy of their author's book and provides the school library with a new set of books by the visiting Reading Rock Stars authors. After each presentation, the author personally hands an autographed copy of their book to each student.

**Texas Book Festival is also thrilled to introduce its new Real Reads literacy program** in Dallas. Modeled on the successful Reading Rock Stars program and with funding from the AT&T Foundation, Real Reads aims to inspire the love of reading in Texas middle and high school students from underserved groups. Giving students space to read and talk about challenges affecting their lives which they can see reflected in the chosen books, this Real Reads event will feature author Erika Sánchez, discussing her award-winning book *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter* with 125 Dallas high schoolers.

"Just as with Reading Rock Stars program, Real Reads is more than a presentation or school visit," says Lea Bogner, Outreach Manager for Texas Book Festival. "It's a student-led close read of a current, relevant book, and a focused, personal conversation with an author."

The author session not only focuses on writing craft and storytelling, but also gives students a forum to share their concerns and triumphs, and the opportunity to hear the author's personal story of overcoming their own struggles. Following the session, each Real Reads students will be given their own autographed copy of the book. Texas Book Festival plans to give 130 books in total during this visit.

For more information on the Texas Book Festival and its Reading Rock Stars and Real Reads literacy programs, please visit [www.texasbookfestival.org](http://www.texasbookfestival.org).

**WHO:** Real Reads: [Erika L. Sánchez](#)

Reading Rock Stars:

[T.R. Simon](#)

[Raúl Gonzalez / Raul The Third](#)

[Kelly Starling Lyons](#)

[Arree Chung](#)

[Patricia Valdez](#)

[Juana Medina](#)

[David Barclay Moore](#)

[Emma J. Virján](#)

**WHEN:** Real Reads: Thursday, February 7  
Reading Rock Stars: Thursday, February 7 - Friday, February 8, 2019

**WHERE:** Real Reads: Skyline High School

Reading Rock Stars:

Thomas Tolbert Elementary (February 7)

Rosemont Elementary (February 8)

Bill J. Elliott Elementary (February 8)

Meadowbrook Elementary (February 8)

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### **ABOUT TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL**

With a vision to inspire Texans of all ages to love reading, the Texas Book Festival connects authors and readers through experiences that celebrate the culture of literacy, ideas, and imagination. Founded in 1995 by former 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 Texas Teen Book Festival, the Reading Rock Stars Title I elementary school program, the Real Reads Title I middle and high school program, grants to Texas libraries, and year-round literary programming. The Festival is held on the grounds of the Texas Capitol each fall and features more than 275 renowned authors, panels, book signings, cooking demonstrations, and children's activities. The 2019 Texas Book Festival Weekend will take place October 26 - 27. Thanks to generous donors, sponsors, and 1,000 volunteers, the Festival remains free and open to the public. Visit [www.texasbookfestival.org](http://www.texasbookfestival.org) for more information, and join the conversation using the hashtag #txbookfest on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @texasbookfest.