



TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL BRINGS READING ROCK STARS AND REAL READS PROGRAMS TO DALLAS/FORT WORTH SCHOOLS FEBRUARY 6-7, 2020

Texas Book Festival Returns to DFW Area for Seven School Visits, Presenting Nine Authors and Donating 3,434 Books to Title I Students

On February 6 and 7, Texas Book Festival returns to the Dallas-Fort Worth area to visit six Title I schools as part of the Festival's annual Reading Rock Stars program and one high school as part of the Real Reads program. Throughout the two days, nine nationally-acclaimed children's authors will visit each school and present to students, a culmination of weeks of each school's preparation for the program. Additionally, TBF will gift each student a copy of the visiting author's book.

TBF will donate 3,319 books to classrooms at Tolbert Elementary, Frank Guzick Elementary, N.W. Harlee Early Childhood Center, Rosemont Park Elementary, Bill J. Elliot Elementary, and Meadowbrook Elementary and 115 books to students at Skyline High School. With this latest round of Reading Rock Stars, the Texas Book Festival will have given more than 114,000 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 Title I 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, Central Market, 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.

This year's Reading Rock Stars DFW authors include Julissa Arce, who will be giving students a copy of *Someone Like Me*, the true story of Arce's childhood as an undocumented immigrant in Texas; and Vanessa Brantley Newton, whose children's book *Just Like Me* highlights short stories celebrating girls of all backgrounds, cultures, and beyond.

Arce will also present her book for the Real Reads program at Skyline High School, made possible by the AT&T Foundation.

“This year’s Reading Rock Stars DFW lineup is simply outstanding! Our readers had the opportunity to explore not only fun and engaging stories but ones that are culturally responsive and inclusive of their community wealth,” says School & Community Programs Coordinator Lucy Vélez. “We are extra appreciative of Julissa Arce who participated in both Reading Rock Stars and Real Reads programs. Her bold narrative opens many opportunities for agency and dialogue for our readers. ¡Gracias, Julissa!”

For more information on the Texas Book Festival and its Reading Rock Stars and Real Reads literacy programs, please visit www.texasbookfestival.org.

WHO:

Kat Zhang
Naibe Reynoso
Julissa Arce
Raquel Oritz
Vanessa Brantley Newton
Lamar Giles
Mac Barnett
Duncan Tonatiuh
Traci Sorrell

WHEN: February 6-7, 2020

WHERE:

Tolbert Elementary
Frank Guzick Elementary
N.W. Harlee Early Childhood Center
Rosemont Park Elementary
Bill J. Elliot Elementary
Meadowbrook Elementary
Skyline High School

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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 2020 Texas Book Festival Weekend will take place November 7 - 8. Thanks to generous donors, sponsors, and 1,000 volunteers, the Festival remains free and open to the public. Visit www.texasbookfestival.org for more information, and join the conversation