



Texas Teen Book Festival Launches Texas Book Festival, Starting October 31 Through November 1

Texas Teen Book Festival to feature authors Nic Stone and Elizabeth Acevedo, Barrio Writers workshop, Annual Costume Contest, and more this year

WHAT: The Texas Teen Book Festival (TTBF) is set to kick off the 2020 Virtual Texas Book Festival on October 31 and November 1, 2020. This year's virtual event will feature two keynote speakers, **Elizabeth Acevedo** and **Nic Stone**, along with numerous panels, a Barrio Writers workshop, the Fifth Annual Costume Contest, and more.

National Book Award winner Elizabeth Acevedo will be discussing her newest novel, *Clap When You Land*, on Saturday, October 31 at 10 a.m. CT. Acevedo's novel offers a moving testament to the power of sisterhood, and this discussion will be moderated by author Natalia Sylvester (*Running*). The first 25 people to order *Clap When You Land* from the BookPeople festival store or through the CrowdCast session "Buy the Book" link will receive signed, personalized books from Acevedo herself. All others will receive signed books while supplies last.

On Sunday, November 1 at 1 p.m. CT, author Nic Stone will be in conversation about her new book, *Dear Justyce*, a highly anticipated sequel to her *New York Times* bestseller *Dear Martin*. *Dear Justyce* highlights the intersecting forces that disproportionately land young Black men in jail and challenges the so-called justice system that puts them there. Everyone who orders a copy of *Dear Justyce* through the BookPeople festival store or through the Crowdcast session "Buy the Book" link will also receive a signed copy while supplies last.

Other sessions include "The Weight of the World" panel moderated by TJ Klune (*The House in the Cerulean Sea*) and featuring authors Mike Curato and Bill Konigsberg, as well as "I'll Define Myself, Thanks" conversation with authors Kacen Callender and Yamile Saied Méndez, featuring TTBF author Tiffany D. Jackson (*Grown*).

Additionally, for those wanting to sharpen their writing skills, Texas Teen Book Festival and Barrio Writers will be offering a free writing workshop during the festival weekend. The hour-long virtual workshop is designed to help youth writers explore blackout or erasure poetry and how it can be used to express a poetic message across cultural and historical contexts. They will use a topical article regarding the pandemic to create their own poems, reflecting on their experiences during the current times. You can register for this event here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf5BGNzyZf7JTVdZ5P1l_ktLtZnAQF-3ySDrSTWiiU9MtJ3Eg/viewform.

Even though the Texas Teen Book Festival will be held virtually this year, TTBF is still excited to host its Fifth Annual Costume Contest for a chance to dress up as a favorite literary character on Halloween. To enter, one can post a picture on Instagram on October 31 with their costume and tag "#TTBFHalloween." Then, check the @txteenbookfest Instagram page on November 1 to see this year's winner. A few lucky

winners will be announced before the session “*Punching the Air*: A Conversation with Ibi Zoboi and Yusef Salaam” on November 1, and these winners will receive fun literary prizes.

Finally, Texas Teen Book Festival books like *Running* by Natalia Sylvester or *Punching the Air* by Ibi Zoboi and Yusef Salaam can be purchased at the BookPeople festival store to receive exclusive perks such as signed books, Texas Book Festival merch, activity bundles, and more. For the full list of TTBF books and more information, please visit here:

<https://www.bookpeople.com/2020-virtual-texas-book-festival>.

WHEN: October 31 - November 1, 2020

Keynote Elizabeth Acevedo: Saturday, October 31 | 10 a.m. CT

Keynote Nic Stone: Sunday, November 1 | 1 p.m. CT

WEBSITE: <https://www.texasbookfestival.org/2020-festival-schedule/>

PHOTOS: Keynote headshots and book covers [HERE](#)

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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, 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 2020 Virtual Texas Book Festival will take place from October 31 through November 15. Thanks to generous donors, sponsors, and volunteers, the Festival remains free and open to the public. Visit www.texasbookfestival.org for more information, and join the conversation using the hashtag #txbookfest on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @texasbookfest.

ABOUT TEXAS TEEN BOOK FESTIVAL

The Texas Teen Book Festival celebrates the teen reading experience by inviting fans to visit with some of the most popular and critically acclaimed young adult authors in the country. The Texas Teen Book Festival was born as the Austin Teen Book Festival in 2009, when librarian Heather Schubert partnered with BookPeople to organize a gathering at Westlake High School. Five hundred people and 16 authors attended the first year. The event continued to grow, and in 2011-2013 was sponsored by the Austin Public Library Friends Foundation. In 2014 the Fest became a program of the Texas Book Festival and was renamed the Texas Teen Book Festival. One of the largest gatherings of its kind anywhere, the annual Fest takes place in the fall. The 2020 Texas Teen Book Festival will take place virtually from October 31 to November 1, during the Texas Book Festival. For more information, see texasteenbookfestival.org.