



TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL TO HOST VIRTUAL READING ROCK STARS AND REAL READS PRESENTATIONS IN AUSTIN

Reading Rock Stars Program Will Be Held at Eight Elementary Schools on November 6 and Real Reads Will Be Held at Austin Community College on November 4 and Breakthrough Central Texas on November 11

WHAT: Texas Book Festival (TBF) is proud to bring its successful school literacy programs, Reading Rock Stars and Real Reads, to students across Austin this November.

Reading Rock Stars will take place virtually at eight Austin elementary schools on Friday, November 6. The Texas Book Festival's Reading Rock Stars presentations bring 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. The Reading Rock Stars presentations in Austin will feature 19 participating authors and illustrators, all of whom are taking part in the 2020 Virtual Festival, and TBF will donate over 4,500 books to students.

Thanks to support from sponsors, including H-E-B Tournament of Champions, ECG Foundation, and the Texas Cultural Trust and Texas Women for the Arts, the Texas Book Festival provides each student with an autographed copy of the author's book and provides the school library with a new set of books from the visiting Reading Rock Stars authors and illustrators. All presentations will be virtual this year and TBF will coordinate with each school to hand out signed copies of their books to students in Pre-K to Grade 6.

With this latest round of Reading Rock Stars, the Texas Book Festival will have coordinated more than 400 author visits and provided over 123,000 books to students in Title I schools in Dallas, Fort Worth, Rio Grande Valley, Houston, and Austin since its inception.

Additionally, TBF's newest outreach program, Real Reads, will take place at Austin Community College for Ascender students on November 4 and Breakthrough Central Texas on November 11. Real Reads works to connect teenage and young adult students with authors that resonate specifically with them. Every student receives a copy of the author's book, practices reading and writing through peer-based book study, and visits with the author through a virtual session. Before the session, in order to make the most out of their time together, students prepare thoughtful questions and key discussion points they'd like to ask the author.

Real Reads will feature Marcelo Hernandez Castillo presenting *Children of the Land* at Austin Community College - Ascender and Elizabeth Acevedo presenting *Clap When You Land* at Breakthrough Central Texas.

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

WHO:

Reading Rock Stars

Lee Merrill Byrd – *Birdie's Beauty Parlor*

Chris Barton – *Fire Truck vs Dragon*

Jon Scieszka & Steven Weinberg – *AstroNuts: Mission Two: The Water Planet*

Jerome Pumphrey & Jarrett Pumphrey – *The Old Truck*

Anika Fajardo – *What If a Fish*

Rebecca J Gomez – *Federico and the Wolf*

Anna Meriano – *Love, Sugar, Magic: A Mixture of Mischief*

Derrick Barnes – *I AM Every Good Thing*

Meena Harris – *Kamala and Maya's Big Idea*

Gianna Ruggiero – *Every Night Is Pizza Night*

Isabel Quintero & Zeke Peña – *My Papi Has a Motorcycle*

Sam Wdelich – *Chicken Little: The Real and Totally True Tale*

Raul the Third – *¡Vamos! Let's Go Eat*

Christina Soontornvat – *A Wish in the Dark*

Michael Genhart – *Accordionly*

David Bowles – *Rise of the King*

Real Reads

Marcelo Hernandez Castillo – *Children of the Land*

Elizabeth Acevedo – *Clap When You Land*

WHEN:

Friday, November 6 | Reading Rock Stars

Wednesday, November 4 | Real Reads (Ascender-Austin Community College)

Wednesday, November 11 | Real Reads (Breakthrough Central Texas)

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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.