



TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL TO DISTRIBUTE MORE THAN 4,200 BOOKS TO 6 RIO GRANDE VALLEY TITLE I ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS FOR READING ROCK STARS PROGRAM

AUSTIN, TX (February 27, 2024) – On February 29 and March 1, Texas Book Festival (TBF) will kick off its annual Reading Rock Stars (RRS) Program in the Rio Grande Valley. Nine celebrated children’s authors will present their latest books to students in six Title I schools throughout the Rio Grande Valley as part of this two-day program.

The Reading Rock Stars literacy program enlivens books for children by bringing authors to schools to share stories that ignite curiosity and excitement among young readers and provide memorable experiences to support a lifelong love of reading, writing, and creativity. To celebrate the dynamic bilingual community in the Rio Grande Valley, we are thrilled to feature many bilingual authors and books in both Spanish and English in all of our partner schools.

Author visits are the culmination of several weeks of planning on the part of students, educators, and programmers and end with each student taking home a signed copy of the author’s book. Since 2001, TBF has donated 171,446 books to children across Texas through this initiative. The Texas Book Festival Reading Rock Stars Program in the Rio Grande Valley is presented by H-E-B Read 3 and is sponsored by the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

- Stainke Elementary School (Donna ISD)
- Singleterry Elementary School (Donna ISD)
- Dr. R.E. Margo Elementary School (Weslaco ISD)
- PFC Mario Ybarra Elementary School (Weslaco ISD)
- Canterbury Elementary School (Edinburg CISD)
- Rayburn Elementary School (McAllen ISD)

PARTICIPATING AUTHORS

- e.E. Charlton-Trujillo - *Lupe Lopez: Reading Rock Star!* / *Lupe Lopez: ¡Estrella de lectura!*
- Diana Lopez - *Los Monstruos: Felice and the Wailing Woman* / *Los Monstruos: Felice y La Llorona*
- David Bowles - *Ancient Night* / *Noche Antigua*
- Adriana Camacho-Church - *Grandma, Where Will Your Love Go?* / *Abuela, adónde irá tu amor?*
- Michael Genhart - *Spanish Is the Language of my Family* / *El español es la lengua de mi familia*
- Jasminne Mendez - *Aniana del Mar Jumps In* / *Aniana del Mar se avienta*
- Raul the Third - *¡Vamos! Let's Go Read*
- Monica Brown - *El cuarto turquesa* / *The Turquoise Room*
- Carmen Tafolla - *Warrior Girl*

For media coverage inquiries, please contact Texas Book Festival Communications & PR Coordinator Jose Rodriguez at Jose@texasbookfestival.org.

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ABOUT TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL

With a vision to inspire Texans of all ages to love reading, 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 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 2024 Texas Book Festival will take place from November 16–17, with events taking place in downtown Austin and at the Texas Capitol, featuring renowned authors, panels, book signings, and activities. Thanks to generous donors, sponsors, and volunteers, the festival remains free and open to the public. Learn more at texasbookfestival.org or follow along on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [X](#) @texasbookfest.