

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**THREE FESTIVALS PROMOTING CHILDREN'S LITERATURE  
RECEIVE GRANTS FROM BARBARA BUSH HOUSTON LITERACY FOUNDATION**

Houston, Texas (September 3, 2015) - Blue Willow Bookshop is pleased to announce that the Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation recently awarded three \$5,000 grants to festivals that promote children's literature. These grants are funded through the generous support of Phillips 66.

The three FREE festivals, sponsored by the Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation, Phillips 66 and Blue Willow Bookshop, are Bookworm Bookfest, Tweens Read and TeenBookCon. By connecting young readers and authors, librarians and language arts teachers from across Houston have come together to create an event that fosters the joy of reading.

"All three festivals are so grateful for the support of the Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation," said Dr. Margaret Hale, co-chair of the Tweens Read Festival. "With this funding, we can broaden the festival experience for young readers in greater Houston."

"By sponsoring these free reading festivals, the Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation hopes to provide *all* of our city's children and teens with the opportunity to meet or discover some of their favorite authors," stated Dr. Julie Baker Finck, President of the Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation.

**The Tweens Read Festival**, now in its fifth year, focuses on middle-grade readers. This year, the festival will take place **Saturday, October 3, 2015**, at **South Houston High School in Pasadena ISD**. Following a morning keynote from author and graphic novelist Gene Luen Yang, students will spend the day in panel discussions with 26 notable authors. The festival will conclude with a conversation between keynote speakers and Newbery Award winners Rebecca Stead and Katherine Applegate, followed by a book signing with all participating authors. The event is free, and pre-registration is encouraged. For more information and registration updates, visit [tweensread.com](http://tweensread.com), and follow @tweensread on Twitter and tweensread on Facebook. Community members who wish to volunteer at the festivals can access volunteer opportunities through [Connect4Literacy.com](http://Connect4Literacy.com).

**Bookworm Bookfest**, a morning celebrating emerging readers ages 4-8 and the authors who write for them, will take place **Saturday, February 6, 2016**, at **Spring Oaks Middle School in Spring Branch ISD**. The event will feature a dynamic keynote speaker and several engaging authors. For more information and author updates, follow @bookwormbkfest on Twitter and bookwormhouston on Facebook.

**TeenBookCon**, also known as The Greater Houston Teen Book Convention, features best-selling authors of books for teenagers. Now in its seventh year, this festival will take place **Saturday, April**

2, 2016, at Alief Taylor High School in Alief ISD. For more information and author updates, visit [www.teenbookcon.org](http://www.teenbookcon.org) and follow @teenbookcon on Twitter and teenbookcon on Facebook.



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### **About the Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation**

The Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation, co-chaired by Neil and Maria Bush, was established as a charitable organization focused on improving the quality of life for Houston residents through the power of literacy. The Foundation advocates for literacy as a fundamental right of everyone and a foundational skill towards success in life. It is founded on the belief held by Barbara Bush, former First Lady, “If you help a person to read, then their opportunities in life will be endless.” In 2013, the Bush Family created the Houston-based foundation separate from the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy, a national foundation, in response to the need to deepen the awareness of and intensify services and support for the nation’s fourth largest and most diverse city – Houston. For more information, visit [www.bushhoustonliteracy.org/](http://www.bushhoustonliteracy.org/) or follow the organization on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/bushhoustonliteracy](https://www.facebook.com/bushhoustonliteracy) and on Twitter [@bushhoustonlit](https://twitter.com/bushhoustonlit).