



Texas Talking Book Program Youth Services

Talking Book Program Youth Newsletter - January 2023

Happy New Year! We hope this year brings you peace and joy.

If this is your first newsletter from us, welcome! This began with a small group back in October and has now been expanded to include all of our youth patrons.

If you are not interested in this newsletter, you can unsubscribe at any time using the link at the end of this email.



This newsletter features information on our new youth book club, Bluebonnet Award voting, a new book list, and youth programs from the National Federation of the Blind.

As always, please visit our website for more information, archived newsletters, and book lists!

Book Club Reminder

Our very first youth book club is coming up on February 7th. All the details are below!

For more information on upcoming book clubs, visit our website:

<https://tsl.texas.gov/tbp/youthservices>

February 7, 2023 (Tuesday)

YA Book Club. Recommended for 9th grade and older

6:00-6:45 p.m. on Zoom

LAST NIGHT AT THE TELEGRAPH CLUB by Melinda Lo

DB 104015; BR 24064

Length: 12 hours 36 minutes listening time

1954. McCarthyism and the Red Scare are genuine threats to Lily's family; her father is already at risk of deportation despite his valid citizenship. Lily, who is Chinese American, could lose everything just for dating anyone white—let alone another girl—but she could lose herself if she isn't true to her feelings. Includes supplemental material. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2021. **Unrated.**

Why we picked it:

This book has won so many awards that the print cover is barely visible! Includes the National Book Award, Stonewall Award, and Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature.

Register here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEud-ugpzksEtwCp7oI96sgEiBfL2PZYoun>

Texas Regional Braille Challenge

About Braille Challenge: Braille Challenge is the only academic competition of its kind held in January through March each year for students who are blind or visually impaired. Braille Institute developed Braille Challenge to motivate students to practice and hone their braille literacy skills, which are essential to academic and employment success.

Any blind or visually impaired student in first through twelfth grades who can read and write braille is eligible to participate in the Braille Challenge.

Contestants are divided into five categories and tested on fundamental braille skills such as:

- Reading Comprehension
- Spelling
- Speed and Accuracy
- Proofreading
- Charts and Graphs

Regional contests are proctored by volunteer Teachers of the Visually Impaired and scored locally by volunteer transcribers, based on national guidelines.

All students can compete in the preliminary Braille Challenge events, which are typically held from January through mid-March throughout the United States, Canada and now the United Kingdom but only the top 50 students (10 in each category) with the highest scores are invited for the final round – two days of competition, camaraderie, and fun!

Contest Age Groups:

- Apprentice: 1-2 grades
- Freshman: 3-4 grades
- Sophomore: 5-6 grades
- Junior Varsity: 7-9 grades
- Varsity: 10-12 grades

Texas Braille Challenge Registration Information

The Central Texas Braille Challenge 2023 application is due by **January 13, 2023**.

[Braille Challenge registration form.](#)

Hosted by: ESC Region 13 and Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired
Group testing is on March 4, 2023, at TSBVI in Austin, Texas

Bluebonnet Award Voting

For 3rd – 6th graders

The Texas Library Association offers “a unique program that encourages reading for pleasure for **students in grades 3 - 6.**” Each year a committee of librarians and teachers nominates several titles for people in grades 3, 4, 5, and 6 to read and then vote for their favorite. The nominee list is available on our website:

<https://www.tsl.texas.gov/tbp/youthservices>

Read 5, then decide!

Vote using the link below for your favorite Bluebonnet title by February 9!

<https://forms.gle/3RBjaJDM7jFHraLc8>

Votes will be tallied on February 9 and submitted to the committee on February 11.

January 2023 Book List

[LINK TO BOOK LIST](#)

This month’s book list features titles about the New Year and different celebrations!

The books listed are just a starting point. Please read whatever you and your adult think is a good choice for you, your reading level, and your interests. Call us at 1-800-252-9605 or email us at tbp.ral@tsl.texas.gov to get more suggestions!

Note: DB indicates audiobooks, and BR indicates Braille books.

How to Get Books: You can have instant access to all of the titles on the book list if you are signed up for BARD service. Link to BARD: <https://nlsbard.loc.gov> Every title on the reading lists can be found in BARD. Contact us if you are not signed up for BARD to get registered so you can download books directly to your smartphone or tablet.

Email us at tbp.bard@tsl.texas.gov or call 1-800-252-9605 to set that up.

We can also send you cartridges with your book selections by mail. Call us to adjust your service.

Catalog of New to the Collection Children's Books

Follow the link below to access our bimonthly catalog:

<https://www.loc.gov/nls/braille-audio-reading-materials/latest-books-in-braille-and-audio/talking-book-topics-bimonthly-magazine/>

Choose the most recent month, then scroll down to "Books for Children."

Helpful BARD Instructions can be found here: <https://www.loc.gov/nls/braille-audio-reading-materials/bard-access/welcome-to-bard/>

How to Search BARD Mobile for Kids' Books

Using BARD can be tricky when you're searching for a certain grade level or topic of interest for a kid. We made a little cheat sheet to help you get started. Follow the link below!

<https://www.tsl.texas.gov/sites/default/files/public/tslac/2016/08/jowusu/Finding%20YOUTH%20TITLES%20in%20BARDv2.pdf>

TBP Poetry Contest

The fifth annual TBP poetry contest is taking place and will run through January. To participate, you must be a current and active TBP patron. Poems will be judged on originality, creativity, and artistic and stylistic quality. Deadline for submissions is January 31, 2023.

Submit poems to: TBPinfo@tsl.texas.gov

PLEASE NOTE: By submitting your poem for the TBP Poetry contest, you are giving consent and permission to the Talking Book Program, its employees, and its agents to use your poem for any purpose whatsoever, including publications, advertisements, and governmental purposes, in all kinds of media and without compensation as part of the Talking Book Program Poetry Contest. These rights are not exclusive.

DIRC Corner

The National Federation of the Blind has several programs for young people. A few are listed below.

NFB Bell Academy – Braille Enrichment Literacy and Learning

A three week, nationwide, summer program for kids aged 4-12.

Fun with a concentration on games and crafts. For more information, visit:

<https://nfb.org/bell>

Career Mentoring

Pairs a successful blind adult with a blind student.

Mentees are aged 14-22 and must have an active case with the Texas Workforce Commission.

Program focuses on pre-employment and transition services. For more information, contact: Emily Gibbs: 281-968-7684, egibbs@nfbtx.org

Texas Association of Blind Students (TABS) & Student Summit

The yearly Student Summit covers a wide variety of topics and provides students with an opportunity to learn from other students and blind professionals. For more information, contact Division President: Salvador Villa, svilla@nfbtx.org

Scholarship Programs

The NFB Texas Scholarship Program application period opens on June 1 and closes on August 15. For more information visit: www.nfbtx.org/scholarships

Contact person for the Texas Scholarship Program: Lara Sowell: 936-622-2450, scholarships@nfbtx.org

The application period for the National NFB Scholarship runs from December 1 – March 31. For more information visit: <https://nfb.org/programs-services/scholarships-and-awards/scholarship-program>