



# Texas Talking Book Program Youth Services

## Talking Book Program Youth Services Newsletter October 2022

It's October which means, hopefully, cooler weather and some scary fun. In this month's newsletter you will find some special events, information on the 2022 Bluebonnet Book Award, a book list with scary stories and Black Box Poetry, a podcast recommendation to get you in the spooky spirit, and a reminder for the grown-ups on voting!

Find more information and archived newsletters on our website:

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

### October is Blindness Awareness Month

Blindness Awareness Month launched in October 2009 from the Little Rock Foundation, an organization in Voorhees, New Jersey, dedicated to serving families with blind or visually impaired children. Tina and Rocco Fiorentino formed the Little Rock Foundation one year after the birth of their child, Rocco, who was born four months premature and blind. As Ambassador for the foundation, Rocco has shown the world blindness doesn't prevent people from living life to the fullest.

Blindness Awareness Month seeks to accomplish many things:

- Education: Companies around the world teach the public about good eye health and the latest research and innovations in the treatment of eye disorders.
- Inspiration: Stories are shared about blind or visually impaired people accomplishing incredible things most sighted people do not attempt.
- Advocacy: Organizations garner support for more resources, research, access, and laws that enable people with visual impairments to live fully productive lives and contribute equally to their communities.

Learn more at the National Federation of the Blind's website: <https://nfb.org>

## **Black Poetry Day: October 17**

Black Poetry Day commemorates the birthday of [Jupiter Hammon](#), the first published African American poet. His first work, the religious poem "[An Evening Thought](#)," was published in 1760 and is still reprinted today.

Black Poetry Day celebrates the rich history of Black poets from Hammon and Phillis Wheatley in the 1700s; through Langston Hughes and the poets of the Harlem Renaissance; Amiri Baraka, Nikki Giovanni, and the Black Arts Movement in the 1960s and '70s; to the present day. Visit your local library to discover the work of Inaugural poets Maya Angelou and Amanda Gorman, 22nd Poet Laureate of the United States Tracy K. Smith, National Ambassador for Young Peoples' Literature Jason Reynolds, and many more!

Some titles that fit this category appear in this month's book list.

Learn more at <https://buckslib.org/october-17-is-black-poetry-day/>

## **Bluebonnet Award Voting is Coming!**

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 nominate several titles for people in grades 3, 4, 5, and 6 to read and then vote for their favorite.

### [Link to Bluebonnet Nominee List](#)

You can watch Texas Bluebonnet Award nominee book trailer playlist on YouTube to hear more about each book to help you choose: <https://tinyurl.com/5y2pdyse>.

Read 5, then decide!

Information on how to vote coming soon; voting begins **January 1, 2023**. In the meantime, you can keep track of what you've read by downloading a reading tracker:

- Tracking List 1:  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cMKkVXKzxLVnq\\_dBwRJpYp27ykGImYur/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cMKkVXKzxLVnq_dBwRJpYp27ykGImYur/view)
- Tracking List 2, with book covers:  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wqRLpc4GJbddvgXYa1HMIUCcQIVD0ah9/view>

## Podcast Recommendation

The Magnus Archives

“Make your statement, face your fear.” A weekly horror fiction podcast examining what lurks in the archives of the Magnus Institute, an organization dedicated to researching the esoteric and the weird. Join Jonathan Sims as he explores the archive, but be warned, as he looks into its depths something starts to look back. New episodes every Thursday produced by Rusty Quill, featuring guest actors, short stories, serial plots and more.”

Rating: Clean (via Apple Podcasts)

Learn more and subscribe at <https://rustyquill.com/show/the-magnus-archives/>

## October Book List

### [October Book List Link](#)

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 interests. Call us at 1-800-252-9605 or email us at [tbp.ral@tsl.texas.gov](mailto: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](mailto: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 below link to access the “books for children” section of our bi-monthly catalog from September- October:

<https://loc.gov/nls/braille-audio-reading-materials/latest-books-in-braille-and-audio/talking-book-topics-bimonthly-magazine/talking-book-topics-september-october-2022/#books-children>

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

### **Need Anything Else? Contact Us!**

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

Email: [tbpral@tsl.texas.gov](mailto:tbpral@tsl.texas.gov)

Phone Numbers: 1-800-252-9605 or 512-463-5458

### **For the Grown Ups**

The voter registration deadline is **October 11, 2022**, for those who wish to vote in the November 8 election. If you will be 18 on or before election day, you may register!

You can download the voter registration card here: <https://www.votetexas.gov/>

**Be sure to drop it in the mail ASAP.** Texas does not currently offer online voter registration. If you only need to change your name or address for your current registration, you can do that online using the link above. Non-partisan voter and ballot information can be found here: <https://www.vote411.org/>.

Voting information for people with disabilities can be found here: <https://www.votetexas.gov/voters-with-special-needs/index.html>.

**Early Voting dates:** October 24- November 4

**Election Day:** November 8