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This year's theme, "Invent the Future! READ!," emphasizes ways in which reading expands young minds and encourages children to use their imaginations to envision the future in which they will be creative and contributing adults. It also reminds young people that reading can be great fun.

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For more information, please contact ld@tsl.texas.gov.

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Brian Floca, Illustrator

Biographical Information

Brian Floca was born and raised in Temple, Texas. He graduated from Brown University in 1991, and currently lives and works in New York City.

He is the author and illustrator of *Five Trucks*, a fall 1999 Main Selection of the Children's Book-of-the-Month Club, and *The Frightful Story of Harry Walfish*. He has illustrated many books, including *Luck with Potatoes* by Helen Ketteman and *Sports! Sports! Sports!* edited by Lee Bennett Hopkins. Mr. Floca also illustrated several novels by Avi, including *Poppy*, a winner of the Boston Globe/Horn Book Award for fiction, *Poppy and Rye*, *Ragweed*, and *City of Light*, *City of Dark*, a *Publishers Weekly* Best Book of the Year.

Brian Floca is currently working on his third picture book as author and illustrator, and on Avi's fourth and final book of "Tales from Dimwood Forest." Both will be published in the spring of 2000.

Books Written and Illustrated

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Books Illustrated

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- Avi. *Ragweed*. Avon Camelot, 1999.
- Brimmer, Larry Dane. *Lightning Liz*. Children's Press, 1998.
- Enderle, Judith Ross. *Where Are You, Little Zack?* Houghton Mifflin, 1997.
- Gurian, Michael. *From Boys to Men: All About Adolescence and You*. Price, Stern, Sloan, 1999.
- Gurian, Michael. *Understanding Guys: A Guide for Teenage Girls*. Price, Stern, Sloan, 1999.
- Hopkins, Lee Bennett, ed. *Sports! Sports! Sports!: A Poetry Collection*. HarperCollins, 1999.
- Ketterman, Helen. *Luck with Potatoes*. Orchard Books, 1995.
- King-Smith, Dick. *Jenius: The Amazing Guinea Pig*. Hyperion, 1996.
- King-Smith, Dick. *King Max*. Troll, 1997.
- King-Smith, Dick. *Mixed-Up Max*. Troll, 1998.
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- Sayco, Larry. *The Ultimate Yo-Yo Book. 20 Great Tricks and Tips!* Putnam, 1998.
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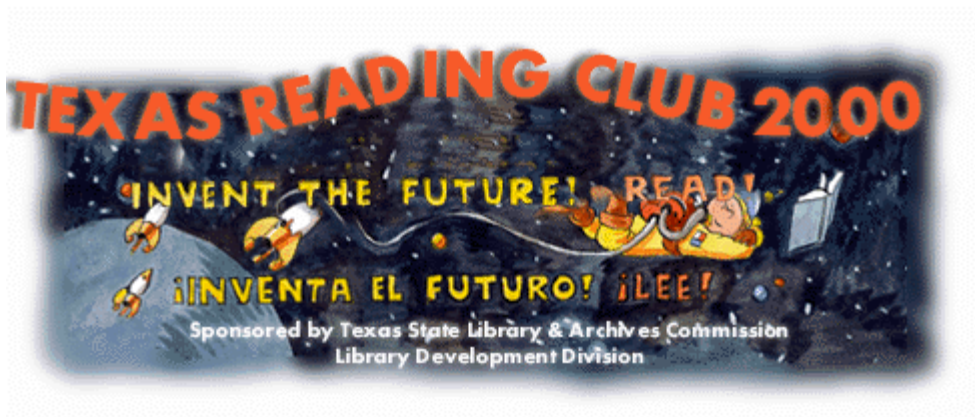
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Texas Reading Club Theme Song

Inventing the Future; Whenever We READ!

By Sally Meyers

Tom Green County Library

(Sung to the Tune of "We're 'Gonna Shine Tonight, We're 'Gonna Shine!")

[Listen to the Song](#) 

Sung by the Second Grade Class of Crockett Elementary

San Angelo, Texas

("Real Player" is required to listen to the audio files.

It is available for free from <http://www.real.com>)

We're reading in the library,

We're reading in the car,

We're reading in a spaceship,

Heading towards a star.

We're reading of the past

And that plants a seed;

Inventing the future,

Whenever we READ!

We're reading of the past and that plants a seed;

Inventing the future whenever we read.

Cowboys riding across our country's face,

Soon become astronauts riding into space.

We're reading of the past and that plants a seed;

Inventing the future whenever we read.

Reading of sailors on an unknown sea,

They built America, a land for you and me.

We're reading of the past and that plants a seed;

Inventing the future whenever we read.

Reading of Edison, inventors long ago,

Now there's software to teach us what we know.

We're reading in the library,

We're reading in the car,

We're reading in a spaceship,

Heading towards a star.

We're reading of the past

And that plants a seed;

Inventing the future,

Whenever we READ!

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