



# News Release

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## Texas Reading Club underway at libraries across state

**AUSTIN, Texas** - The Texas Reading Club, a program designed by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission to encourage more than 461,000 youth to read for pleasure and to promote library usage, is well underway in 775 libraries all across Texas.

In a partnership between the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) and Texas libraries, the Texas Reading Club is a summer reading program that encourages children and their families to become library users and lifelong readers. Since its inception in 1958, TSLAC as part of its planning and programming for the Texas Reading Club, has encouraged program participation by providing posters, program manuals, reading logs, bookmarks and certificates.

The 2009 statewide theme is ***Libraries: Deep in the Heart of Texas!*** This year's artist is children's book illustrator Joy Fisher Hein. The theme song is by Sue Young.

"The Texas Reading Club allows children to practice and develop their reading skills in a fun environment," said Peggy D. Rudd, director and librarian of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. "This also fosters their love of reading, the usage of libraries and gives them the opportunity to be better prepared for school in the fall."

Hundreds of libraries across Texas are hosting creative summer reading programs for their communities using the annual theme for children participating in Texas Reading Club programs. Local libraries bring the theme to life with special programming for all ages, reading incentives and prizes donated by local businesses, reading certificates, special speakers and programs and prize drawings.

In large and smaller communities, where there may be few free or inexpensive activities available, the Texas Reading Club provides free educational and fun activities during the summer months that normally last from six to eight weeks.

"Children who read, succeed," said Christine McNew, Youth Services Consultant at the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. "Studies show that children who don't read during the summer months may lose three to four months of hard-earned reading skills."

For more information, contact Christine at [christine.mcnew@tsl.state.tx.us](mailto:christine.mcnew@tsl.state.tx.us). Information, artwork, videos, online galleries and artist information can be found at <http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/ld/projects/trc/2009/index.html>.

### **ABOUT THE TEXAS STATE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES COMMISSION**

*TSLAC helps Texans find the information they seek. The people of Texas utilize TSLAC services and programs to effectively use information and materials that improve their lives, the lives of their families, and their communities. Since 1909, TSLAC has carried out a commitment of making information work for all Texans by providing history and genealogical services, federal and state government documents, electronic research, and library services to Texans of all ages who are unable to read standard print material due to visual, physical, or reading disabilities. For more information, go to <http://www.tsl.state.tx.us> or email [pio@tsl.state.tx.us](mailto:pio@tsl.state.tx.us).*

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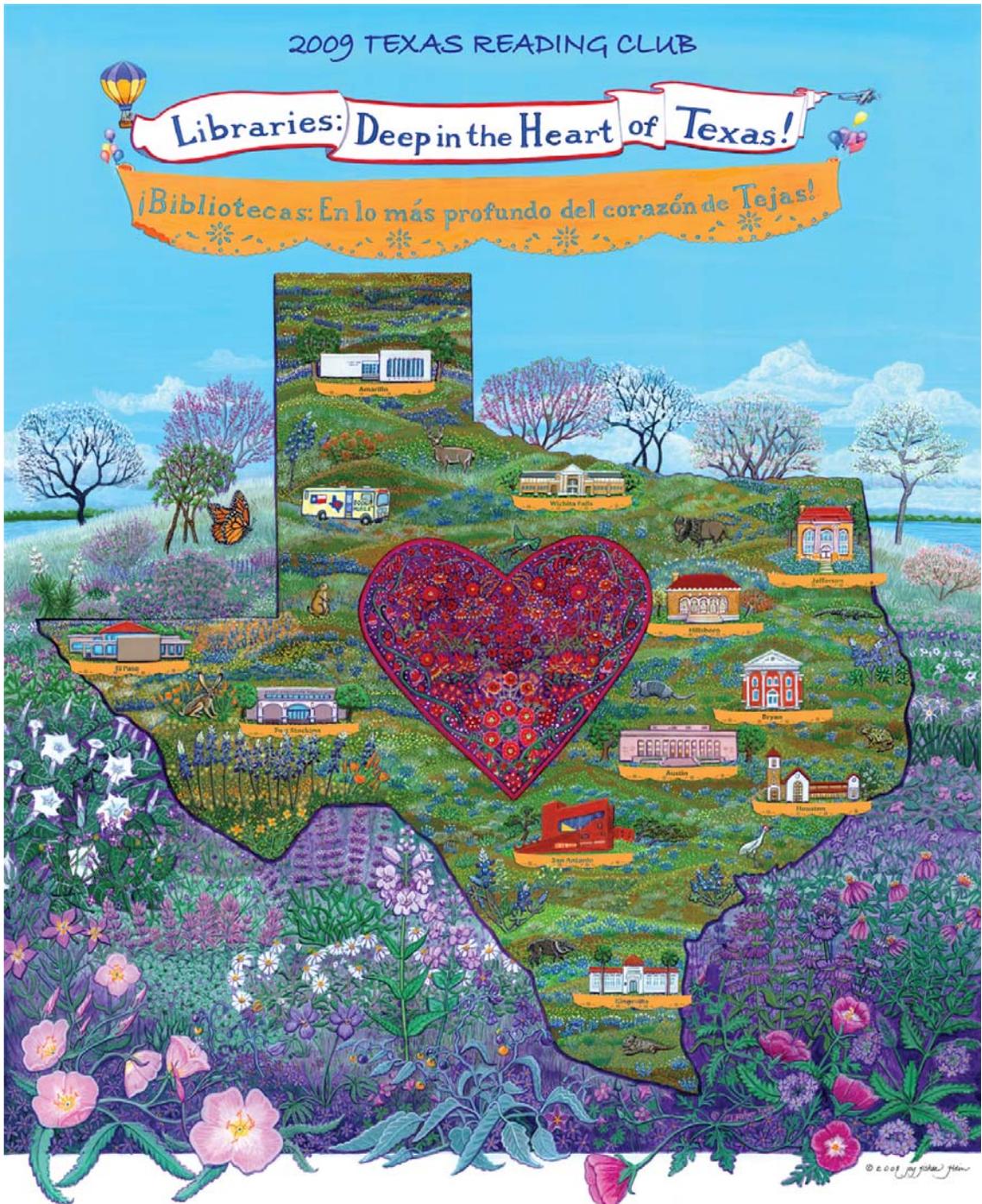
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**TEXAS STATE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES COMMISSION**

*2009 READING CLUB POSTER by Joy Fisher Hein*



The 2009 Texas Reading Club is sponsored by your local library and the Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

More information can be found at <http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/ld/projects/trc/2009/index.html>.