



# NEWS RELEASE

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## IRVING PUBLIC LIBRARY ANNOUNCES 1930S THEMED FAIR FOR 2014 BIG READ KICK-OFF

Good, old-fashioned free entertainment, food and books in celebration of  
*To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

**(IRVING, TEXAS)** The Irving Public Library will launch its annual community reading event, The Big Read, with a 1930s themed county fair from 1 to 4 p.m., Sept. 27 at the Jackie Townsell Bear Creek Heritage Center, 3929 Jackson Street. At the fair, the public can pick up free copies of this year's Big Read selections, *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee, and alternate novel *The Watsons Go to Birmingham-1963* by Christopher Paul Curtis. Books are available at the kick-off event and throughout the month of October while supplies last.

This year's celebration marks the launch of Irving's ninth community read series. The whole family can socialize with neighbors and enjoy good old-fashioned entertainment, face painting, bounce houses and a petting zoo while perusing tables of homemade crafts for sale. Fill up on free popcorn and home-style lemonade or purchase a hot dog and other treats from food trucks stationed onsite. During the pie walk competition, attendees can stroll for a chance to win freshly baked desserts.

World renowned dulcimer player, David Mahler, and the Ben Washington Baptist Church Choir provide the afternoon's musical entertainment. Between performances, families can attend a special story time and puppet show on the museum's second floor.

"The history surrounding the Jackie Townsell Bear Creek Heritage Museum makes it the perfect setting for this celebration," said Jan Bodnar, Big Read coordinator. "Every exhibit encapsulates the struggle to break free from the social inequality that Scout confronts in the novel."

From Sept. 27 to Oct. 28, the community will celebrate *To Kill a Mockingbird* with a full calendar of events including book discussions, an author visit, movies, and children story times.

Irving's Big Read is presented in partnership with the Friends of the Irving Public Library, Irving Heritage Society, Irving Black Arts Council, and the National Scouting Museum and in cooperation with the Irving Independent School District. The Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in

partnership with Arts Midwest.

For more information on Irving's Big Read, visit [cityofirving.org/library](http://cityofirving.org/library).

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