



Announcing the Fifth Annual

Alabama Book Festival Student Readers Group

The Outreach/Education Subcommittee of the Alabama Book Festival Planning Committee invites high school students and university undergraduates to participate in the fifth annual Student Readers Group. This program for the Alabama Book Festival selects one Alabama-related book per year for participants to read prior to meeting the author and discussing the book at the festival on April 21, 2018, at Montgomery's Old Alabama Town. The Student Readers Group seeks to engage students in Alabama's culture, literature, and history by encouraging the reading of books that connect to or discuss the realities of living in the state.

We are pleased to announce *Fake ID* by Lamar Giles and *The Education of Margot Sanchez* by Lilliam Rivera as this year's selections. Book descriptions can be found below.

Participants in the Student Readers Group should be currently enrolled in a public or private high school, in an accredited home-school program that places him or her in grade 9-12, or in an accredited college as an undergraduate. There is no fee for participating. We also invite teachers to involve their classes in this program, and we encourage extracurricular groups and individual students to participate as well. A virtual professional development session on the program will be offered to teachers who respond about participation.

We ask that students and/or teachers notify the program's coordinator, Jessica Platt (jplatt@alasu.edu) or the co-coordinator, Jina DuVernay (jdavernay@alasu.edu), of their intention to come to the meetings. Program updates will be posted on the Facebook page of the Alabama Book Festival. We ask that all student participants read the books before the Alabama Book Festival. For more information about the Alabama Book Festival, visit www.alabamabookfestival.com.



NICK PEARSON IS HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT...

"My name isn't really Nick Pearson. I shouldn't tell you where I'm from or why my family moved to Stepton, Virginia. I shouldn't tell you who I really am, or my hair, eye, and skin color. And I definitely shouldn't tell you about my friend Eli Cruz and the major conspiracy he was about to uncover when he died—right after I moved to

town. About how I had to choose between solving his murder with his hot sister, Reya, and "staying low-key" like the Program has taught me. About how moving to Stepton changed my life forever. But I'm going to..."



After "borrowing" her father's credit card to finance a more stylish wardrobe, Margot Sanchez suddenly finds herself grounded. And by grounded, she means working as an indentured servant in her family's struggling grocery store to pay off her debts. With each order of deli meat she slices, Margot can feel her carefully cultivated prep school reputation slipping through her fingers, and she's willing to do anything to get out of this punishment. Lie, cheat, and maybe even steal...Margot's invitation to the ultimate beach party is within reach and she has no intention of letting her family's drama or Moises—the admittedly good looking but outspoken boy from the neighborhood—keep her from her goal.



Lamar Giles writes novels and short stories for teens and adults. He is the author of the 2015 Edgar® Award Nominee *Fake ID*, a second YA thriller *Endangered*, a third, currently untitled YA novel from HarperCollins, as well as the forthcoming YA novel *Overtuned* from Scholastic Press. Lamar is a founding member of

We Need Diverse Books. He resides in Virginia with his wife.



Lilliam Rivera is a 2016 Pushcart Prize winner and a 2015 Clarion alumni with a Leonard Pung Memorial Scholarship. She has been awarded fellowships from PEN Center USA, A Room of Her Own Foundation, and received a grant from the Elizabeth George Foundation. Her next young adult novel, *Dealing in Dreams*, is

forthcoming from Simon & Schuster on March 2019.