

# MISSISSIPPI BOOK FESTIVAL

## 2024-25 TURN THE PAGE RECAP



Now in its second year, the Turn the Page initiative continued to spark imagination and a deep love of literacy by bringing a powerhouse lineup of celebrated authors directly into Mississippi classrooms. These inspiring visits created joyful, creative spaces where young readers explored the art of storytelling—and saw the power of their own voices.

During the 2024–25 school year, 23 author events were held across 9 counties, giving students the rare opportunity to connect face-to-face with award-winning and bestselling authors who have captured hearts nationwide.

This year's featured authors included:

### Marshall Ramsey

*Saving Sam!*

### Sherri Duskey Rinker

*Garbage Crew to the Rescue!*

### Nadia Salomon

*A Voice of Hope*

### Mary Annaise Heglar

*Troubled Waters;*  
*The World is Ours to Cherish*

### Allen R. Wells

*Dante Sings His Blues;*  
*Yvonne Clark and*  
*Her Engineering Spark*

### Taryn Souders

*The Mystery of the*  
*Radcliffe Riddle*

### Debbie Rigaud

*A Girl's Guide to Love*  
*and Magic*

### Kiese Laymon

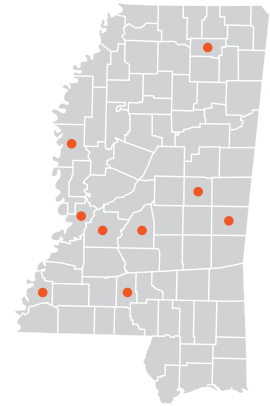
*City Summer,*  
*Country Summer*

### Jo Hackl

*Smack Dab in the Middle*  
*of Maybe*

### Maggie Wade

WLBT news anchor, who served as a “celebrity reader” with a lively reading of *The Runaway Bunny*



Each event was more than just a visit—it was a moment of connection and discovery.

Authors shared personal stories behind their books, led interactive writing workshops, and encouraged students to share their own creative ideas. Whether brainstorming plots, discussing character development, or simply listening to a story read aloud, students were immersed in the joy of reading and writing.

By bridging the classroom with the literary world, *Turn the Page* is doing more than promoting literacy—it's building a movement of young storytellers ready to dream big, write boldly, and turn the page on what's possible. Plus, more than 2,380 books were given to student participants!



QUESTIONS? CONTACT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DIRECTOR TONJA MURPHY: [TONJA@MSBOOKFESTIVAL.COM](mailto:TONJA@MSBOOKFESTIVAL.COM) / 601.278.4688