


**Tomás Rivera Book Award:**

20 Years of  
Excellence in  
Mexican American  
Children's & YA  
Literature



Jesse Gainer  
Tomás Rivera Book Award  
Texas State University

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Tomás Rivera & Chicana/o Literature**

- "I would like to see all of the people together. And then, if I had great big arms, I could embrace them all."  
• Tomás Rivera, ...*y no se lo tragó la tierra*
- Counter-Stories—of marginalized and oppressed people that challenge dominant, racist stereotypes and assumptions prevalent in mainstream society (e.g. media, schooling, texts)
- Chicano Literature triple mission:  
"to represent, to conserve that aspect of life that the Mexican American holds as his own, and at the same time destroy the invention of others of his own life. That is—conservation, struggle, and invention."  
Tomás Rivera

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Tomás Rivera Book Award**

- Mission—to expand the legacy of Dr. Tomás Rivera
- Highlights exceptional quality children's and young adult literature that respectfully and authentically reflects the Mexican American experience
  - Conservation
  - Struggle
  - Invention
- 20 years of great books...

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Searching and Remembering

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Discovery and Invention

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Volition/Agency

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Community

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**More Information:**

[www.riverabookaward.org](http://www.riverabookaward.org)

**Contact:**

Jesse Gainer  
[JesseGainer@txstate.edu](mailto:JesseGainer@txstate.edu)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---