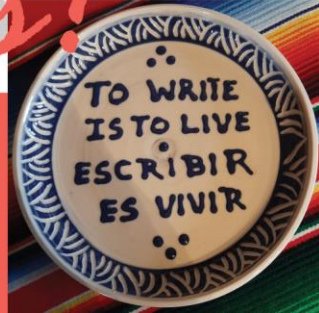




# Big Read Roswell 2021 free Events!

**Presentation  
Sunday,  
January 24, 6 p.m.**

**Workshop  
Monday,  
January 25, 10 a.m.**



[CLICK HERE](#) to register for the Sunday Presentation on ZOOM  
[CLICK HERE](#) to register for the Monday Workshop on ZOOM

*To Read is to Live / Leer es Vivir  
To Write is to Live / Escribir es Vivir*

## A Presentation by Denise Chávez

How does one become a writer? To be a writer is to love words. To be a reader. A listener. Someone who wants to understand the world and oneself.

When I was ten years old, I wrote in a little notebook: My Secret Ambition is to Be A Writer.

One of my treasure possessions is a Thesaurus that my Mother gave me when I was about ten or so. I still have it.

I began being read to by my father and mother. And then I began to read on my own and I drew pictures and they told stories. My mother saved all the drawings and I still have them

I began to copy things I liked, and I had diaries. Then I had notebooks and then I had Journals. I still have them all.

I grew up in a large family who lived in the same neighborhood. An uncle the next street over, my aunt and her huge family at the end of the block, my father's cousin down the street.

My parents divorced when I was ten. Everything happened when I was around ten. That is when I became a writer.



In a talk about creativity, Denise Chávez will discuss her life on the U.S./Mexico border and how living in the Borderlands, navigating life, culture, language, food, family, and her own development as an artist flourished. She will begin with her formative years and move to her present work as a bookseller, novelist, and Director of Libros Para El Viaje, the ongoing *Refugee Book Drive* that continues to this day. Since the summer of 2019, through her bookstore, *Casa Camino Real*, she has directed the distribution of thousands of books to refugee, migrant and asylum-seeking families on the U.S./México border near Las Cruces, including shelters in Juárez, Anapra (a suburb of Juárez), Palomas as well as in Las Cruces and El Paso, Texas.

Chávez will give short readings from her books, *The Last of the Menu Girls*, and *A Taco Testimony: Meditations on Family, Food and Culture*.

*The presentation will take around 30 minutes with a Q & A following.*

## Writing Home

### Workshop with Denise Chávez

*"Where are we really going? Always home." Novali*

The last year has been different for everyone. We have all had to adjust to our new lives, working from home, studying from home, being at home more than before. Let us think about what home means.

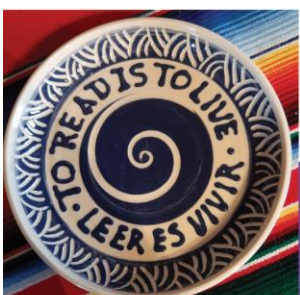
What does home mean to you? Where is Home? When do we feel at home? What is your favorite thing about home? Is it being with family? Is it your culture? Your traditions? Your language? Your food?

Sometimes our home is not home, it is being outdoors, or at your grandmother's house where you love the smell of the kitchen, or it is being with your best friend and laughing because you feel safe and loved.

My book, *A Taco Testimony: Meditations on Family, Food and Culture* is about home, my home, and growing up with Tacos? Yes, Tacos! Tacos are my Home.

Join author Denise Chávez as we celebrate who we are, where we come from and what we love!

*We will have time for sharing and questions!*



**bigreadroswell.com**