

By: Fraser

S.C.R. No. 38

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, For countless young readers, books open a window to  
2 a realm of imagination and possibility, and in recent years, the  
3 city of Abilene has undertaken a series of unique efforts to  
4 showcase the wonders of children's literature; and

5           WHEREAS, Abilene is the home of the National Center for  
6 Children's Illustrated Literature, the only museum in Texas that  
7 exclusively collects artwork from best-selling, award-winning  
8 children's book illustrators; established in 1996, the center has  
9 curated and toured nearly 60 exhibits in close to 40 states, which  
10 are enjoyed by one million people every year; and

11           WHEREAS, Further adding to the city's whimsical charm is its  
12 extensive collection of outdoor sculptures based on characters from  
13 children's classics; while walking the length of Everman Park,  
14 visitors can encounter bronze statues in the likeness of  
15 Dr. Seuss's creations, and heroes from the works of  
16 author-illustrators William Joyce and David Shannon are brought to  
17 life in locations throughout the city; young explorers can also  
18 receive a "passport" to help them find Seymour, the character from  
19 Walter Wick's *Can You See What I See?* books, who is hidden at  
20 several arts and cultural landmarks; and

21           WHEREAS, In total, 23 pieces have been commissioned by the  
22 Abilene Cultural Affairs Council as part of its Storybook Sculpture  
23 Project, thought to be the largest endeavor of its kind in any city;  
24 each year, new additions to the project are dedicated at the

1 Children's Art & Literary Festival, a popular annual celebration  
2 that includes family-friendly activities throughout downtown  
3 Abilene; the festival is a collaborative effort of schools,  
4 libraries, churches, civic groups, and city leaders, drawing crowds  
5 of thousands from across the state and nation; and

6 WHEREAS, Literary works for children hold a cherished place  
7 on the bookshelves of Texas families, and the true greats of the  
8 genre weave captivating tales with dazzling artwork that is fondly  
9 remembered for a lifetime; by embracing and promoting an essential  
10 experience of childhood, residents of Abilene have established a  
11 delightful tradition for young and old alike, and their efforts  
12 have made the community a must-see destination for readers of all  
13 ages; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the 84th Legislature of the State of Texas  
15 hereby designate the city of Abilene as the official Storybook  
16 Capital of Texas; and, be it further

17 RESOLVED, That, in accordance with the provisions of Section  
18 [391.003\(e\)](#), Government Code, this designation remain in effect  
19 until the 10th anniversary of its designation; and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the children of our great state live happily  
21 ever after.