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California Teachers Association

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kindergarten Students Displaced by LA Wildfires at the Center of Annual Read Across America

*CTA President David Goldberg Read to Altadena Arts Magnet Students
for This Year's Read Across America*

PASADENA – Today, Los Angeles bilingual educator and California Teachers Association (CTA) President David Goldberg read to the Altadena Arts Magnet School Kindergarten Class, which is now being hosted by Allendale Elementary School in Pasadena after their school site was damaged in the Eaton Fire earlier this year. This year's Read Across America comes at a time when the Pasadena community is grappling with the aftermath of horrific wildfires and working to rebuild. During the event, many students expressed grief and sadness as many of them also lost their homes in the wildfire. Students were overjoyed when Goldberg read "It's Okay to Be Different" by Todd Parr. Goldberg also read a bilingual book called, "The Adventures of Connie and Diego/Las aventuras de Connie y Diego" written by Maria Garcia and illustrated by Malaquías Montoya. "The power of reading uplifts us even in the hardest of times. When children see their teachers reading to them, it brings a sense of security and unlocks the wonder of the world around them. Pasadena students deserve stability and joy," said Goldberg.

"Reading brings endless possibilities for anyone, and there is nothing greater than the joy of reading to encourage our students to keep going and know they are not alone in what they are feeling," said United Teachers of Pasadena President Jonathan Gardner. "Read Across America is a reminder of the powerful impact teachers have on our students every single day."

Missed the event? [Click here for photos and videos.](#)

Read Across America is a national year-long celebration of reading sponsored by the National Education Association and CTA, along with many of the country's leading literacy and youth groups. Educators hand-select books every year as part of the program. All of the 2024-2025 school year books can be found on the California Reads site, along with tips on how to make children better readers in eight languages, plus posters and bookmarks (cta.org/californiareads).

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The 310,000-member California Teachers Association is affiliated with the 3 million-member National Education Association.