



BOOK LOVE

F O U N D A T I O N

Choice Inspires Reading

Mission: To promote a love of reading among children and teenagers by providing classroom libraries of highly engaging books to teachers in the United States and Canada.

The Book Love Foundation seeks teachers who demonstrate a passion for promoting a love of reading, who create a *hunger* for books by starting where students are as readers and challenging them to build an independent reading life of increasing depth, difficulty, and satisfaction. Since our foundation's beginning in 2012, we have awarded 120 library grants to classroom teachers out of approximately 1100 applications submitted. Grant awards are typically \$2000.00.

Teachers who apply for a Book Love Foundation grant must show they are already committed to the support of readers through current classroom practices such as improving access to books, matching students to books by interest, conferring regularly and purposefully to understand and support students' needs, and sharing the teacher's own contagious passion for reading. We look for teachers who have an impact on students, school, and the community.

The Book Love Foundation Board considers the needs of the school where the applicant teaches, but we also believe that nearly all schools need to improve the joy and engagement of children and teenagers with reading. We match our libraries to the teachers we believe will build sustained engagement and interest in reading for **all**

students. We seek teachers who will lead colleagues to a deeper understanding of the importance of an individual reading life that is as diverse as the students we teach. The Book Love Foundation will support teachers by donating independent reading libraries of a wide variety of poetry, fiction and non-fiction books chosen by the grant winner to meet the needs of the students he/she teaches.

Book Love Foundation

Classroom Library Grant Application 2019

Process:

1. Complete the following grant application by March 15th, 2019 and submit the application electronically to booklovefoundation@gmail.com. **All parts of the application (including letters of recommendation) must be submitted as single, multi-page PDF document titled with the applicant's first and last names (ex. Harry Potter Book Love Foundation 2018 application).**
 - We receive hundreds of applications each year, so please follow these directions **exactly as stated**. We have no employees, and we cannot ask our board members to combine and re-label your file because you didn't follow these directions. If you want a letter of recommendation considered with your application, please be sure it is included as a page in your single, correctly-labeled PDF. Likewise, *do not send a link* to your PDF. **Attach your application to the email.**
 - Go back and read the directions on **labeling your file**, please. It is easy to forget details but difficult for us to manage errors.

- We also consider digital compositions (movies) if they are posted to YouTube or are otherwise easily accessible. Please limit these to three minutes.
2. Your application will be read by at least two board members and foundation volunteers. Our board will make decisions on grants by June 1st, 2019. We receive hundreds of applications each year, so you will be notified by email of our decision by June 15th. Please be sure your email address is correct when you submit your application.
 3. Books will be delivered to grant winners as they are available. We hope to complete delivery for the start of the 2019-2020 school year.
 4. We cannot provide feedback on applications. If you are not awarded a grant this year, we encourage you to apply again in 2020.

Applicant requirements:

- Applicant **must be a full time K-12 teacher** in the United States or Canada. If your teaching position is unclear in your application, we cannot consider you for a grant. If you are awarded a grant and then accept another position in your school district this year, we will be happy for you, but the grant will be voided. Grants are not transferable.
- Applicant must demonstrate an ongoing commitment to independent reading as a regular classroom practice.
- Applicant must have started a classroom library of diverse genres and authors in order to democratize opportunity for all readers. Pictures of you and your library are encouraged as part of your application.

- Applicant must be willing to maintain the Book Love Foundation library in the applicant's classroom. The books received from this grant are not intended for a school-wide library or to be permanently divided among teachers. Creative sharing, however, is always encouraged.
- Applicant must be willing to be included in Book Love Foundation promotional materials /website and participate in research into the effectiveness of classroom libraries on student outcomes in reading. We expect grant winners to collect records and help us advance this important work. This is a partnership. If we choose you, we expect you to help us help others.
- Applicant will collect data on books read in order for us to create an ongoing list of books we recommend. We suggest using the Book Source Classroom Organizer library app for checking out books.

Please complete the following information in as concise, but thorough a manner as possible. We encourage you to **be creative** as long as you include answers to all of the questions below. We love photographs and stories—we want to know you through this application. You can organize this however you would like, but please remember, our grant readers have hundreds of pages to carefully review each year, so your entire application should not exceed 3000 words. That being said, every grant reader says reviewing your applications is inspiring. It is their favorite part about being part of the Book Love Foundation.

Part I: Who are you?

Name

Emailaddress

Years of teaching experience

Subjects and grades taught

Degrees/certifications

Describe your **current teaching role** in tweet length (280 characters or less.)

What have you been learning? Please describe significant factors in your professional development in the last five years (professional association memberships, conferences you attended, articles you have published or been influenced by, areas of personal interest in the profession, blogging, Twitter, other).

Part II: Where do you teach?

School Name:

School Mailing Address: (include street, town, state, zip code):

School Phone Number:

Private or Public School:

Urban/Suburban/Rural:

Free/Reduced Lunch Percentage:

Student/teacher ratio:

School library: Y or N

School media specialist or librarian: Y or N

This grant is given to **you** to support your work as a teacher. It is not given to the school or school district. Please be sure this is clear to your administrators before you apply. If you leave the district, the books go with you.

Part III: Your Reading Beliefs and Professional Practices

1. A classroom library of 250 books has a value of \$2000.00. Summarize why you believe it would be wise for us **to invest in YOU** with this Book Love Foundation grant. (This is a most

important question as the answer is often used during finalists' night to distinguish candidates.)

2. Highlight important books (both professional and personal) that you've read in the last few years and why they've been important in your growth as a teacher. Which journals, magazines, or periodicals do you regularly read? Why those publications?
3. How many books are in your current classroom library? Please estimate the quality of those books. What percentage of books would you estimate are out of date/low interest books versus high interest books that most students want to read? Discuss how your classroom library impacts your reading instruction. Approximately what percentage of your students have read books from your library in the past six months?
4. If money were not an issue for you, name 6-8 books you would purchase for your library today and why you would choose those books.
5. How do you assess the development of readers?
6. How do you encourage and monitor sustained engagement with reading?
7. What challenges do you and your students face in building reading lives that last beyond the classroom and beyond this school year?
8. How will you continue to build your library? Please identify any additional support (cash or in-kind) that has been or might be provided by other sources to support your work. (Years ago an applicant partnered with his town library who agreed to match the grant value if he won. Wicked cool.)

9. Is there anything else the Book Love Foundation should know about you or your application? (This is a great place for a story. As someone who has watched this process for the last five years, I can say that stories definitely have a persuasive power and do impact our decisions each year.)

Part IV: Support for You and Your Application

Please include *not more than two* recommendations from parents or colleagues or students or administrators.

By submitting your application, you agree to meet the Book Love Foundation requirements listed above and declare that all information in your application is complete and accurate.