



# BOOK LOVE

F O U N D A T I O N

**Choice Inspires Reading**

**Mission:** The Book Love Foundation donates books to teachers in the United States and Canada who inspire a love of reading.

**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 200 library grants to classroom teachers out of approximately 1500 applications submitted in the last seven years. Grant awards range from \$1000.00 to \$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.

In addition, the 2020 application asks teachers to demonstrate a commitment to curate a book collection that represents our world. We are looking for teachers who increase empathy and understanding of LGBTQ, social justice, and mental health issues through inclusive collections of books as represented by the [Gracie's List](#) collection and a commitment to own voice authors. We want to support courageous teachers who are committed to this work.

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 and their school community 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.

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

## **Book Love Foundation**

### **Classroom Library Grant Application 2020**

#### **Process:**

1. Complete the following grant application by March 15, 2020 and submit the application electronically to [application@booklovefoundation.org](mailto:application@booklovefoundation.org). **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. **Penny Kittle Book Love Foundation 2020 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. In order for a letter of recommendation to be considered with your application, please be sure it is included in your single, correctly-labeled PDF. **Do not send a link to your PDF. Attach your application in your email.**
  - Go back and read the directions on **labeling your file**, please. It is easy to forget details but impossible for us to manage errors you make. Do not send your application more than once.
  - We also consider digital compositions (movies) if they are posted to YouTube or are otherwise easily accessible for our readers. Please limit videos to three minutes.
  - We are unable to read applications that are not labeled and sent correctly.
  
2. You will be notified by email of our decision by June 30<sup>th</sup>. *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 2020-2021 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 2021.

#### **Applicant requirements:**

- Applicant **must be a full time K-12 classroom 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 (like a literacy coaching position), we will be happy for you, but the grant will be voided. Grants are not transferable to other teachers.

- 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. 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 reader is inspired by reading these applications. Many say it is their favorite part about being part of the Book Love Foundation.

## Part I: Who are you?

### Name

**Email addresses** (include both HOME and WORK email addresses in case we need to notify you after the school year is over)

**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 learning network 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: Yes or No  
School media specialist or librarian: Yes or No

This grant is given to **you** to support your work as a classroom 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. 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 by board members to advocate for who we fund each year.)
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? Approximately what percentage of your students have read books from your library in the past six months?
4. Discuss how your classroom library impacts your reading instruction. What are the gaps in your current collection? What is your library missing?
5. 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.
6. How do you assess the reading growth of students you teach?
7. How do you encourage and monitor sustained engagement with reading?
8. What challenges do you and your students face in building reading lives that last beyond the classroom and beyond this school year?
9. How will you continue to build your library? Please identify any additional support (cash or in-kind donations) 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.)
10. 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 seven years, I can say that stories definitely have a persuasive power and do impact board 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. These are an important testimony to your work.