



Dear donor,

At the 2016 National Book Awards, lifelong civil rights activist Congressman John Lewis accepted the National Book Award for Young People's Literature for his trilogy *March*. Lewis held back tears as he recounted growing up "very, very poor" in rural Alabama, with "very few books in our home."

"I had a wonderful teacher in elementary school who told me: 'Read, my child, read', and I tried to read everything," said Lewis. "I love books."

In 1956, Lewis and his siblings and cousins went to their local library to get library cards and borrow books. They were turned away. The public library was for whites only.

Lewis went on to be one of the heroes of the civil rights movement, helping to organize the 1963 march on Washington and the Freedom Summer, a campaign to register black voters in the south. In Selma, his skull was fractured by Alabama State Troopers on the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

John Lewis has devoted his life to fighting for justice. His story begins with a teacher who said, "read, my child, read." But it also begins with not having enough books.

Kids are no longer turned away from libraries for the color of their skin, but in too many communities, a lack of funding has shuttered library doors. School libraries have suffered the same fate and classroom libraries are too often poorly stocked or nonexistent.

We don't know what 2017 holds for our nation and our world. But already, we are seeing signs that the coming years will present new challenges for young people and the people who care about them. The need to put books in the hands of students feels greater than ever.

Students who are struggling need worlds to escape into. Students who are marginalized need rich, realized stories about people who share their experiences. Young women need books that teach them that their value is derived from their minds and hearts. All students need books that show them how to be empathetic, strong, wise and independent.

We imagine a future where books are abundant and every student can find a book that sparks a lifelong love of reading. We know what we need to make this dream a reality: We need teachers committed to developing reading lives, and those teachers need books.

over, please

Since launching in early 2013, Book Love has given 35 classroom libraries, and 40 grants of \$500 to augment the libraries of teachers who are already passionate about matching students to books.

This year we received 140 applications, and awarded 10 libraries. We count on your generous support to fund as many libraries as possible. One hundred percent of individual donations to Book Love go to grants, and your gift is fully tax deductible.

As we enter this uncertain chapter of history, we hope you will consider making a gift of \$250 or \$500 to Book Love.

We cannot do this work without the generosity of supporters like you. Please, help us invest in a future with compassion, open minds, and more readers.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Penny Kittle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Penny" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Kittle".

Penny Kittle

President, Book Love Foundation

www.booklovefoundation.org

www.pennykittle.net

To give, please go online to www.booklovefoundation.org/donate, or mail your gift to: Book Love Foundation, PO Box 2575, North Conway, NH 03860-2575.

If you have any questions, please email me personally at booklovefoundation@gmail.com.