Lindsey Olsen

If you ever walk through the hallway at Oakwood Intermediate Schools in Allendale Michigan, you will see a "Weird But True" fact that changes each and every morning. This tradition was started when I had a blank white board outside my classroom door and I needed to fill the space. Why not fill it with words? The best part for me is to see the joy on students' faces as they read the facts. Yes, READ the facts.

My name is Lindsey Olsen and I teach for Allendale Public Schools in a 4th grade classroom. I started my teaching career in 2005 and reading has always been my passion. I have two literary degrees from Grand Valley State University and teaching reading has captured my heart. There is not much better in a teacher's world than to see a student fall in love with reading. Whether it's seeing students read the "Weird But True" board, find a character they can relate to, fall in love with a series, or getting lost in a book, it brings me joy.

The Book Love Foundation Grant will benefit the 4th grade students and me as we all grow as readers. Fostering the love of reading is a foundational part of our daily routine in the classroom. The books will help grow students' knowledge on topics of social and cultural importance, mental health awareness, and create a better sense of empathy for those around them.

The Book Love Foundation is giving the students an opportunity to gain more books in the classroom library. Browsing to find the perfect book is the time when the students get to explore the books that are around them. With this grant, the students will have more choices of books that interest them, challenge them, and encourage them to become avid independent readers. The more choices and books the students can access, the greater likelihood they will find books they want to read.