



# McKenzie Randall

11TH GRADE  
ELA TEACHER

I am a fifth year teacher at a public high school in Utah. I love helping students find books that speak to them, and I prioritize choice reading in my classroom.

## In my classroom we...

- Make time for independent reading every single day
- Have access to a classroom library full of new, high-interest, diverse titles
- Discuss books with each other through conferences, book clubs, and informal conversations
- Take time to write about what we're reading
- Are always on the lookout for what to read next

## Student Quotes

- "I have so much fun in your class! I've never had an English class I've enjoyed so much before, or one that I've read so many awesome books in! I felt like I had more of a choice on what I wanted to read than I have had previously, and I really enjoy being able to talk about books I've read with peers and with you! I've been introduced to some of my favorite books this year, and am so glad to be a part of your class!" -Katie
- "Every day in class, I always look forward to our independent reading time. It gives me time to read on my own so I can forget all about the world, get a nice break from everything, and immerse myself in whatever story I'm reading. I also really like and appreciate the book recommendations that Ms. Randall does because I go through books really fast, so when I don't have something to read, I just ask her for a recommendation and almost always end up liking the book." -Luke

## Why Reading?

Ever since I was a kid, I loved to read. From Junie B. Jones to The Hunger Games, you could always find me with a book in my hand. When I got to high school, I was bombarded with required texts that didn't interest me. I longed for the freedom to once again read what I wanted to read.

As a teacher now, I never want my students' love of reading to fade. I strive to give my students choice in what they read, so that they can find books that match their interests and personality. I know that reading can change the world, and I want my students to experience that for themselves. Receiving this grant allows me the opportunity to pass this love of reading onto my students, and to give them access to books that they will enjoy!

## Ms. Randall's YA Book Recommendations

- Darius the Great is Not Okay
- In the Wild Light
- Donuts & Other Proclamations of Love
- You Should See Me in a Crown
- Patron Saints of Nothing
- Turtles All the Way Down
- All My Rage
- Okay for Now