

Kimberly Kutlu

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Kim Kutlu is entering her 11th year of teaching. For the past five years, she has taught English at West Morris Mendham High School in Mendham, New Jersey, where she also serves as the girls' JV tennis coach and advisor to the Music Club. In both her freshman collaborative and senior college preparatory courses, Kim is committed to reaching students who claim to “hate reading” by fostering a classroom where books are embraced, explored, and shared. She attributes her own love of reading to visits to the public library in her New Jersey hometown and cherishes memories of quiet reading time with her mother while growing up.

Kim believes all students can learn to like, if not love, reading when they are encouraged and given access to high-interest, thought-provoking books. A cornerstone of her classroom is ten minutes of daily choice reading, offering her students an escape from the pressures and distractions of everyday teenage life through storytelling. Always on the lookout for young adult titles that resonate with her students, Kim prioritizes building a diverse classroom library and believes every student should see themselves reflected in stories while also building empathy for those with different life experiences. Kim is deeply grateful to the Book Love Foundation for the opportunity to introduce even more meaningful titles to her students.