



The Book Love Foundation believes that a love of reading is essential for all students, all grade levels. We assist teachers in the United States and Canada with building inclusive classroom libraries to inspire and nurture a lasting love of reading. In 2022 we expanded our grants to include those specific to building book clubs, and now in 2024, we have added a third grant for preservice teachers.

The Book Love Foundation seeks teachers who demonstrate a passion for promoting a *hunger* for books. These teachers recognize the diversity of every class of readers and they challenge each student to build an independent reading life of increasing depth and joy. Teachers who apply for a Book Love Foundation grant *must demonstrate that they are already committed to the support of readers* through current classroom practices such as maintaining access to a range of books, conferring regularly and purposefully to understand and support students' changing needs, and sharing their own contagious passion for reading inside and outside of their classrooms.

The Book Love Foundation Board of Directors considers the needs of the school where the applicant teaches, while also considering that all schools must commit to improving the joy and engagement of young people with reading. 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.

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 Grants

Teri Lesesne Book Clubs Grant Application 2024

The Book Love Foundation Teri Lesesne Book Clubs Grant is in honor of beloved scholar and educator Dr. Teri Lesesne, Professor Emeritus of Library Science, Sam Houston State University, who was more colloquially known as Professor Nana or the Goddess of YA Literature. Both of those titles captured her passions beautifully: she adored her grown children and grandchildren and was always a champion of books for kids and teens.

Teri believed deeply in having inclusive books in classrooms, in giving kids choice in what they read, and in the promise that the right book given at the right time to the right kids will help

them discover the joy and power of reading. Teri, long a supporter of the Book Love Foundation, would be touched that grants now carry her name; but what would mean more to her is that books received through this grant make their way into kids' hands. "Just let them read," Teri was fond of saying. Now, with the Teri Lesesne Book Clubs Grant, that will be a reality for more students.

Requirements for Book Love Foundation Book Clubs grant:

- Applicant **must be a full time preK-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 summer (like a coaching or curriculum position), we will be happy for you, but the grant will be voided. Grants cannot be transferred to colleagues.
- Applicant must demonstrate a commitment to independent reading and book clubs as regular supported classroom practices.
- Applicant must have the start of a working classroom library.
- Applicant must be willing to maintain the Book Love Foundation library in their classroom. The books received from this grant are not 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 and book clubs 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.**
- 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.

If you meet the above requirements, please answer the following questions in as concise, but as thorough a manner as possible. Make your application easy for our readers, many of whom are not teachers. We love photographs and stories, but please remember that our grant readers have hundreds of pages to carefully review each year, so your entire application should not exceed 4000 words, including recommendations. Every year we are inspired by you. **Thank you** for being a teacher and for giving us a window into your world.

Part I: Who are you? Where do you teach?

What is your name?

What are your email addresses at HOME and SCHOOL?

How many years have you been teaching?

Explain your **current teaching role** in a few sentences, including the grade level(s).

School Name:

School Mailing Address: (include street, town, state, zip code):

School Phone Number:

How does your school define itself? (e.g., private, public, or public charter, independent, freedom school):

Is your setting urban, suburban, or rural?

What is the free/reduced lunch population? If your school does not keep these statistics, please describe the demographics of your student population.

Your average class size:

Do you have a school library?

Do you have a certified school librarian?

If there is a library but no librarian, please explain how your school supports library programming.

PART II: The culture of reading in your school

1. Does your school have a schoolwide culture of reading? Explain your answer through these two lenses:
 - a. What are the intentional moves various interest groups (e.g., administrators, school support staff, librarians, other teachers, parents) make to support and maintain it?
 - b. How are you building a culture of reading in your classroom?
2. What do you see as barriers to **our vision in your school**? What gets in the way of every student building a love of reading every year?

3. What are you doing to increase empathy and understanding of LGBTQIA+, social justice, and mental health issues in your classroom and with colleagues?

Part III: Your Reading Beliefs and Professional Practices

1. Please describe significant factors in your professional learning in the last five years (e.g., professional association memberships; conferences you've attended; articles you've published or been influenced by; areas of personal research; blogging; Twitter chats; your personal learning network, etc.)
2. Describe your current classroom library. 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 classroom library in the past six months?
3. Discuss how your classroom library impacts your reading instruction. How do you encourage and monitor sustained engagement with reading?
4. What are the gaps in your current collection? What is your library missing?

Part IV: How you will use this \$1000 grant

1. How will you spend \$1000? Please list some of the titles and/or author collections you plan to order and explain why these books are the right fit for your students.
2. Please share your plan: time, standards, and assessments. Give us an example of your plans for one week of instructional time during book clubs.
3. What do you anticipate will be the learning outcomes that will come from this book clubs' study?

Part V: Video

In a video of 3 minutes or less, tell us a story from your teaching and summarize why you believe it would be wise for us **to invest in YOU** with this Book Love Foundation grant. (Many applicants film this in their classrooms to give us a window into their world.) Your video must be posted to Loom or YouTube and hyperlinked in your grant application document. Please make sure you have checked permissions to make this video is accessible to readers of your application.

Part VI: 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. These

recommendations **must be part of the single PDF you send** as your application (see below).

Process for submission of your application:

1. Complete the following grant application for one of the three grant types by April 1, 2024 and submit it through the [2024 Book Love Foundation Grant google form](#).

All parts of the application (including letters of recommendation) **must be submitted as a single, multi-page PDF document titled with the applicant's first and last names** (ex. **Penny Kittle BLF Book Clubs 2024 application**)

- We receive hundreds of applications each year, so please follow these directions **exactly as stated**. Our readers are volunteers, and we cannot ask them to combine and re-label your application file because you sent it in separate parts. **We hate to do it, but we must discard applications that are not labeled and sent correctly.**
 - In order for a letter of recommendation to be considered with your application, it must be part of your single, correctly labeled PDF. (Yes, we said this already.)
 - You will receive an email with a copy of the google form you submitted. Please review for accuracy and edit if changes are required, but please do not send your application more than once.
 - Go back and read these directions before you submit, **please**.
2. All applicants will be notified by email of grant decisions in June and no later than June 30, 2024. *Please be sure your school and summer email addresses are correct when you submit your application, so that we can contact you. Check your spam folder if you haven't heard anything by June 30, 2024.*
 3. Books will be delivered to grant winners as vendors have them available. We hope to complete delivery during the fall of 2024. The sooner you order, the sooner you'll receive your books.
 4. We cannot provide feedback on applications, sorry. If you are not awarded a grant this year, we encourage you to apply again in 2025.
 5. If you have questions, please send them to application@booklovefoundation.org. Emails are not checked regularly, so please wait patiently for a response.