

Dear <<sal>>,



Victoria Parent, Monacan High School, VA

This letter comes with my sincere hope for your health and well-being in this chaotic year. I hope you have found books to console you and to carry you away from the stress of a horrific pandemic and a venomous national election. I've needed books this year more than ever. As poet Micah Bournes says, they are "nutrients for my hungry mind." As the relief of a vaccine inches closer, I remember that all great scientists are careful, close readers of information and research. We need those readers now more than ever.

The Book **Love** Foundation believes in reading that inspires discoveries, confidence, and joy in *every* child, in every classroom, every year. In the last eight years you have helped us make that vision come true for thousands of children.

The Book **Love** Foundation continues to operate solely with generous, passionate volunteers who believe in our mission and endeavor to support classroom teachers...and to do so without any compensation. Every donated dollar is given to classroom libraries.

Donations have now reached more than \$600,000 in eight years! In 2020 we funded 68 classroom libraries focused on increasing the diversity of books available to kids of all ages. Your donation supports teachers who:

- work to promote equity and inclusion in their schools and communities
- inspire students with their own passionate love of reading
- give back to the foundation by mentoring teachers, presenting their ideas at local and national conferences, creating local fundraisers to support the foundation's work, and publishing the story of their practices in education journals.



Jessica Grider, gr. 9-10, Kansas City, MO

Our foundation does not just provide access to great books, we empower teachers who know how to use them. The impact of 270 Book **Love** Foundation grant winners across North America has had a measurable impact on teaching and learning. Each year we receive more than 400 applications from those who are working to create a balance in their curriculum between assigned reading, vibrant book clubs, and reading for the love of it.

Issues of equity and inclusion are a challenge to the way things have always been done in English class, and we are committed to supporting the teachers who lead that effort. Just this week on a Zoom call with 2020 grant winners I listened to board members Clare Landrigan and Julia Torres encourage our winners as they scramble to get books to kids in quarantine.

We also support thousands of teachers across the world through our Book **Love** Foundation podcast, which will begin its 5th season as soon as we find a new producer. You will love the mix of author interviews and teacher testimonials orchestrated by Denver librarian and educational leader Julia Torres and me. Tune in on iTunes or Spotify or our web site.



Our primary fundraiser continues to be a summer book club for teachers, now in the planning stage for its 5th year. In our 2020 summer book club we had 1100 teachers and leaders from 50 states and 6 provinces who collectively supported each other through this ongoing health crisis. We welcomed 40 authors and nationally known educators to discuss the power and importance of reading and how we can address the systemic inequities in schooling. This book club brought a vital sense of community to all.

The Book **Love** Foundation generates such joy alongside ongoing teacher learning.

I have received dozens of thank you notes from students in our grant winners' classrooms—students who have discovered a love of reading after years of dormancy. They fall into books and find empathy for those who struggle. They find community with characters who overcome fear with courage and resilience. Book by book, teacher by teacher, this small foundation is helping to build a better world.

Because of *you*.

This letter is offered in celebration of your generosity. If you can continue to support us this year, we promise to use every dollar responsibly. If you must skip a year, we hope you will pass the good news of our foundation on to those you know. Your kindness can help us reach donors who will join our mission.



Rebecca Riggs, high school teacher, Houston, TX



Kelsey Stoyanova, Reeds Brook Middle School, ME

With heartfelt gratitude, I wish you good health and **book love** in 2021

Penny Kittle

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