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The best part of my week is looking around at my students during our in class silent reading time. As a book lover myself, I love seeing my students smile, laugh, or gasp to themselves as they read a book of their own choosing. By the end of the school year, many students tell me they have rediscovered their enjoyment of reading and ask if they can come back the following year to use my classroom library, even if I am no longer their English teacher.

My classroom library is the heart of my voluntary reading program and I am so excited to have the chance to expand and modernize it with the help of the Book Love Foundation. I want my students to be able to discover new books that align with their interests, as well as find copies of popular books they've seen all over social media. Most importantly, I want my students to find books that they see themselves in and that help them make sense of what's going on in their own lives.

Frequent voluntary reading is as important as ever for developing minds, but my students will often choose other ways to spend their limited leisure time if the books available to them are not even more engaging. I know the Book Love Foundation grant will help me put high quality and high interest books in the hands of my students every day to feed their curiosity and promote their cognitive development.

