

Colleen Kiley

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Hello, my name is Colleen Kiley and I love reading and writing beside my middle and high school students in Bristol, Vermont. I grew up in Vermont, attended the University of Vermont for undergraduate work, and earned my bachelor's degree from The Bread Loaf School of English in Middlebury, Vermont. You might say I'm a bit obsessed with Vermont and need to branch out. The truth is, I've spent quite a bit of time traveling and studying outside of the state, but Vermont is where I belong. I value community and close relationships, both of which I've built in my ten years at Mount Abraham Union Middle and High School.

The Book Love approach to teaching has taught me to use books as a tool for building relationships. As my relationships with individual students grow, our classroom community grows. Students can't help but shout out about their favorite book or request to give their own book talk. Students slip into my classroom before school or between classes to request a new book. Post-it notes are left on my desk: I loved this, do you have the next one in the series? I love the positive learning culture that has grown out of allowing students to read independently.

Book Love didn't just change how I teach, it reshaped my career and even my life. The year I won the grant, the number of books I read doubled. In most English department meetings, someone pokes fun at me for talking about Penny Kittle. But it's all in good fun, and most of our English department has adopted aspects of choice reading into their curriculum. I am so grateful to be a part of the Book Love community.

A few Student Testimonials & Pictures:

"I've learned that it's not about how many pages that you read, or how fast you read, but what you take away from the book and if you enjoy reading it."





- “I’ve noticed that my mood changes when talking and discussing reading. I like it much more now and I’m becoming a very patient reader and a patient person. Before I could never sit and read for more than 20 minutes at a time, now I can read for an hour. I hope to push myself to read longer than that.”

- “I’ve learned that no matter how busy life gets, I can always spare at least 10 minutes to read.”

- “I’ve learned that reading isn’t just about reading. It’s also about thinking . . . It’s really easy to read a book actually, but it takes a growth mindset to think about it and understand it.”

- “After this class I will continue reading. Reading is good for the mind, and can calm people down. It will make me even more patient than I am now. Reading

helps me write as well . . . Now that I’ve been reading more, writing is not a problem for me.”

