

# Alix Maffin-Pirie

*Kitchener, Ontario, Canada*



Alix is entering her ninth year of teaching. She has spent the last four years of her career teaching Language Arts at Chicopee Hills in Kitchener, Ontario. Alix hasn't always loved to read. In fact, it was an influential grade seven teacher who introduced her to the different worlds and stories that can open up when the right book comes along. This showed her that any reader, no matter how reluctant, can find a story that speaks to them and opens them up to the love of reading.

Now, Alix teaches grade seven herself and loves to read books that can teach her new things about the world or that can teach her new things about herself. Every day, Alix looks for new opportunities to expose her students to new books. Whether she showcases new titles with book trailer Tuesdays or by engaging her students in "speed dating" with different novels, Alix does everything she can to make sure students leave with

at least one book they truly loved in their grade seven year.

Alix understands the importance of student voice and choice when it comes to literacy. Students in her classroom participate in multiple book clubs throughout the year and she always finds time for students to read the novels that they select for themselves. Her focus for this upcoming year is on finding narratives that represent a variety of voices, cultures, and experiences so that every student can feel represented in her classroom library. She wants to focus on reading the first chapters of books on Fridays for "first chapter Fridays" to expose her students to even more narratives. Alix is so looking forward to using her grant money to find new books to engage her students and to create more life-long readers in her classroom!