

Sherrii Weitzel

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Sherrii Weitzel teaches 10th and 12 graders at Whitmer High School. Starting her 11th year of teaching, she considers herself a reader, writer and lifelong learner. She wants to change the apathy teens feel surrounding reading (and hopefully foster a love of reading) so she shares books that are written for high school students. Books that sound like them. Books that are relatable and accessible to teen readers. By letting them choose their books it gives them the agency to find books they like again, even if they haven't read a book in 3 years. Students pick books, set a goal for the year and then get started. If they hate a book, they break up with it. If they hate the next one we keep the process going. For reluctant readers, she does book talks,

especially recommending her favorite YA authors, like Jason Reynolds.

Sherrii wants her students to see themselves in the books they read but also sees reading as an invitation into other perspectives and experiences different than ours. She believes that giving students time to read in class is essential to get them to read outside of class. She also hopes that by sharing beautiful writers that her students can use their work for inspiration in their own writing. With these books she will continue to diversify her library and work with students to find their new favorite book, author, or genre. Recommending books is her love language and she cannot wait to have more choices for her students this year.