

Rachel Stanford

Chicago, Illinois



Rachel is finishing up her sixth year teaching English and Graphic Novels and Film Studies at Roosevelt High School in Chicago, Illinois. As someone who's always reading at least two books (and probably listening to two more), she has understood the power of books from a very young age, and passing that love of literature on to her students has been one of the driving forces in her teaching career. She jumps at every opportunity to expand her ever-growing classroom library, aiming to find books that mirror students' lives and experiences while also providing learning opportunities that challenge students' perspectives, imaginations, and understanding of the world.

Students in her class read at least one book per quarter for independent reading, and she loves talking with them about finding "the right book." What she loves even more is when students approach her to rave about a current book! Through this independent reading in her English classes and through the exploration of myriad graphic novels in her electives course, she hopes that all of her students can cultivate a genuine love of reading.

She is thrilled to have been awarded a 2023 Book Love Foundation grant, which will allow her to provide culturally relevant, engaging, horizon-stretching, inspiring, and all-around wonderful novels to her students. She can't wait to offer more new books to her students, many of whom have already been suggesting titles to order!