

Amy DePasquale

*Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School
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Amy DePasquale is beginning her 28th year at Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School, in Franklin, Massachusetts. Currently, she teaches a variety of college preparatory, honors and advanced placement courses in grades 9, 10 and 12. Additionally she serves as the English Department Facilitator, a SkillsUSA advisor, a Mentoring Program coordinator and the Book Club advisor. Amy's passion for reading was reignited during the pandemic when she recognized the profound social emotional benefits of reading beyond its academic and entertainment value. As a result, Amy set out to share her passion for reading with her students and change how some of her students viewed reading. To achieve this, she worked to create a

book culture in her classroom by curating a collection and displaying young adult titles to peak her students' interest. She also began the daily practice of silent sustained reading in her classes in which students have a designated time to read each day. High-interest, diverse titles coupled with time for choice reading fosters a love of reading in her students, as well as affording them time to take a few minutes to take a breath and decompress in an otherwise busy high school day.

As advisor to the student book club, Amy and her book club members strive to embrace and promote diverse reading among the student body. Each month, the members of the student book club select a book to read that is reflective of that month's theme. The book club has selected titles for Hispanic Heritage Month, Indigenous Peoples' Month, Black History Month, Arab-American Heritage Month, Asian American and Pacific Islander Month, and Pride Month. The book club creates suggested reading posters for the school for each of these months to promote diverse reading and cultural understanding. In addition to reading multicultural, the book club reads a wide variety of genres.

In her work as a teacher and advisor, Amy has witnessed the positive impact of regular, intentional, choice reading on her students. She will continue to curate her classroom library so that she can find "that" book for each of her students, the book which she hopes will ignite or sustain their passion for reading.