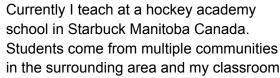
"I hate reading!"

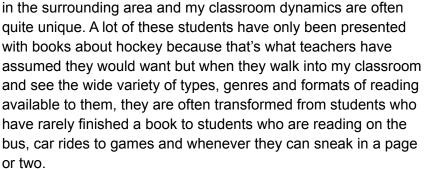
"Reading is boring and stupid."

Those are just a couple of the guranteed statements I know I'll hear on the first day of school when I start talking about my love of reading. I always reply with "you just haven't found the right book yet."

My name is Brett Legault and I have been teaching for just over nine years, and teaching, what I would consider effectively over the past five years. That was when I was introduced to the idea of choice and voice in the classroom by a peer. Since then I have started following educational leaders such as Penny Kittle, Kelly Gallagher, Pernille Ripp, and Donalyn Miller just to name a few. I quickly realized the impact that having a wide selection of books in the classroom has on students and have worked diligently to ensure I have high interest books in multiple formats so that all students, regardless of ability, can find something they enjoy.



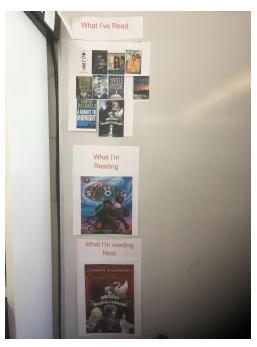




I also have an eleven year old daughter who struggled to find books that held her interest until she discovered books that featured female protagonists. Suddenly it hit me like a ton of bricks the difference it makes for readers to see themselves in the stories they are reading and since then I have endeavored to ensure that I have a diverse selection of books in my classroom

library so all students can see themselves represented in the books available to them.

"Unlike many of the teachers I have had in the past Mr. Legault didn't just pick out a book and tell me to read it. He helped me find books that were interesting to me. Mr. Legault always had a huge variety of books in his classroom with different genres or messages. Anytime there was a book that any of his students wanted to read Mr. Legault tried his best to purchase those books throughout the school year. I am so grateful that I was able to have a teacher like Mr. Legault who had a passion for reading and passed that on to his students." - Kiera, Grade 8



There is no greater joy in teaching than realizing the difference you can make in a students educational journey. I truly relish the opportunity to create life long readers and the Book Love Foundation grant will ensure I can continue to have a classroom library that helps all readers flourish.