Marc Achtziger

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Marc Achtziger has been teaching English at W.C. Mepham High School in Long Island, New York for 24 years. A graduate of Teachers College, Columbia University and a participant in their Reading and Writing Project workshops, Marc is a lifelong reader and workshop teacher committed to helping students find the stories that speak to them. He believes every student deserves the chance to discover a book that feels like it was written just for them. Whether recommending novels in verse like *Louder Than Hunger* and *The Poet X*, or guiding his AP Language and Composition students through the work of writers like Anthony Doerr and Hanif Abdurraqib, Marc knows that character and theme become more powerful when students can see themselves—or others—in the pages.

Marc has created a reading and writing workshop community within his district, welcomed teachers and administrators into his classroom for model lessons and Q&A, and presented at the LILAC Conference and national literacy events. He's proudest of the reading lives his students have built: tracking books on Goodreads, reflecting through the Ideal Bookshelf project, and sharing reflections that show deep empathy, perspective, and pride in their own growth.

While he's managed to build a small library of about 50 books, only a fraction meet the diverse and high-interest needs of his students. Many borrow from public libraries or persuade their parents to order titles online because the classroom supply can't keep up. Marc is thrilled to receive the Book Love Foundation Grant to expand his library and continue cultivating a space where every student can find a book that transforms how they see the world—and themselves.