

BRITTANY NYHUS

6th Grade Language Arts

Forest City Middle School, Forest City,
Iowa



There are two questions I routinely get asked by students and staff at our school.

Mrs. Nyhus can you help me find a book?

Do you think you'll meet your reading goal this year?

I do all that I can to incorporate reading into my classroom. A few months ago we did a “book tasting” where I invited students to check out titles they found interesting from book tubs in my classroom. Students rotated from tub to tub, making a stack to take home and read. I watched as one student who struggles to stay engaged due to many home life difficulties and distractions checked out multiple books. They brought them back after the week-long break looking for more.

Maybe those students don’t consider themselves readers yet, but hopefully a seed has been planted, and they will remember this moment of a positive reading experience in the future.

It’s fitting that one of my passions (besides teaching) is reading. I LOVE reading books, and often tell my students the best part of my job is recommending books to them. There are so many standards to cover within the English Language Arts curriculum, but I do my absolute best to give my students independent reading time throughout the week. During this time students can read whatever they choose and it is relaxing for all involved. The cornerstone of my beliefs as a reading teacher is that if students find books they enjoy, and are given time to read they will grow exponentially. I am continuously looking for ways to increase their love for reading - even those who say they despise it.

I am so grateful I get to keep putting books in the hands of readers. I am so grateful that I get to share my love of reading with my students and coworkers. Most of all I am grateful for foundations like the Book Love Foundation who enable teachers to keep sharing the love of reading with the world.