



NORA BRADFORD

2022 BOOK LOVE
FOUNDATION RECIPIENT

PENOBSCOT, MAINE



Nora Bradford is approaching her eleventh year as an elementary school teacher. She currently teaches second grade at Blue Hill Consolidated School in Maine and holds an M.S. Ed. in Early Childhood Education from the University of Maine at Farmington, her grandmother's alma mater. As an avid reader and learner herself, developing a love of reading has always been at the center of her teaching philosophy. Over the last few years, she has become invested in the power of children's literature. Nora created an Author of the Month curriculum where each month students learn about a particular author's life and writing process as they read and explore their books. Selecting authors and illustrators that reflect the linguistic, racial, and cultural diversity of America is crucial to children noticing themes of identity, belonging, and empowerment. Access to these authors' children's books is essential for young students who live in rural Maine communities.



"ONE OF THE MANY REASONS I LOVE BEING A SECOND GRADE TEACHER IS BECAUSE I READ BEAUTIFUL AND COMPLEX BOOKS EVERY DAY. I HAVE THE PRIVILEGE TO TALK WITH STUDENTS ABOUT CHALLENGES THEY, THEIR FRIENDS, AND FAMILIES MAY FACE. CONVERSATIONS DURING AND AFTER READING A BOOK IS ONE WAY I TRY TO INCREASE UNDERSTANDING AND EMPATHY."