



The Book Love Foundation believes that a love of reading is essential. We support teachers in the United States and Canada with building inclusive libraries and literacy practices to inspire and nurture a lasting love of reading in all students. We give you books so you can fall in love with authors and genres and pass it on to the students you teach.

The Book Love Foundation seeks teachers who demonstrate a passion for promoting reading. You recognize the diversity of every class of students and plan to support each one in building an independent reading life of increasing depth and joy.

The Book Love Foundation seeks teachers who will lead colleagues and their school community to a deeper understanding of the importance of reading authors and the experiences of people as diverse as the students we teach.

By submitting your application, you agree to meet the Book Love Foundation requirements listed below and declare that all information in your application is complete, accurate, and written by YOU, not AI.

Book Love Foundation

Teri Lesesne Book Clubs Grant Application 2026

The Book Love Foundation Teri Lesesne Book Clubs Grant is in honor of beloved scholar and educator Dr. Teri Lesesne, Professor Emeritus of Library Science, Sam Houston State University, who was more colloquially known as Professor Nana or the Goddess of YA Literature. Both of those titles captured her passions beautifully: she adored her grown children and grandchildren and was always champion of books for kids and teens.

Teri believed deeply in having inclusive books in classrooms, in giving kids choice in what they read, and in the promise that the right book given at the right time to the right kids will help them discover the joy and power of reading. Teri, long a supporter of the Book Love Foundation, would be touched that grants now carry her name; but what would mean more to her is that books received through this grant make their way into kids' hands. "Just let them read," Teri was fond of saying. Now, with the Teri Lesesne Book Love Grant, that will be a reality for more students.

Requirements for Book **Love** Foundation Book Clubs grant:

- You **must be a full time preK-12 classroom teacher or librarian** in the United States or Canada. If you are awarded a grant and then accept another position in your school district this summer (like a coaching or curriculum position), we will be happy for you, but the grant will be voided. Grants cannot be transferred to colleagues.
- You must demonstrate support for equitable literacy practices. This will include independent reading and book clubs as regular classroom practices as well as diversifying authors and titles in the core curriculum.
- You must have at least the start of a working library. The books received from the Book **Love** Foundation grant are not to be permanently divided among teachers. Creative sharing, however, is always encouraged.
- You must be willing to be included in Book **Love** Foundation promotional materials and participate in research into the effectiveness of classroom libraries and book clubs on student outcomes in reading. We expect grant winners to collect records and help us advance this important work. **This is a partnership. If we choose you, we expect you to help us help others.**
- This grant is given to **you** to support your work as a classroom teacher. It is not given to the school or school district. Please be sure this is clear to your administrators before you apply. If you leave the district, the books go with you.

If you meet the above requirements, please answer the following questions in as concise, but thorough a manner as possible. Winning applications offer stories of how reading inspires and delights you and your students.

Thank you for your commitment to teaching and for giving us a window into your world.

Part I: Who are you? Where do you teach?

Your name:

Home email:

School email:

How many years have you been teaching?

Explain your **current teaching role** in a few sentences.

School Name:

School Mailing Address: (include street, town, state, zip code):

School Phone Number:

How does your school define itself? (e.g., private, public, or public charter, independent, freedom school):

Is your setting urban, suburban, or rural?

What is the free/reduced lunch population? (If your school does not keep these statistics, please describe the needs and demographics of your student population.)

Your average class size:

Do you have a school library?

Do you have a certified school librarian?

PART II: The culture of reading in your school

1. How can a teacher build a culture of reading in their classroom? What worked for you in school? What has worked for kids you know who don't like reading?
2. What barriers do you face in implementing book clubs in your school? What gets in the way of every student building a love of reading every year?
3. What actions are you taking to increase just and equitable practices for all people in your school?
4. Have you experienced book bans in your school or community? Tell us your thinking about the impact of censorship on the life of a school for both students and teachers.

Part III: Your Reading Beliefs and Professional Practices

1. Please describe significant factors in your professional learning in the last five years (your mentors; professional association memberships; conferences you attend; articles or podcasts you tune into; areas of personal research; social media; your personal learning network, etc.)
2. Describe your current library. What percentage of books would you estimate are out of date/low interest books versus high interest books that most students want to read? Approximately what percentage of your students have read books from your library in the past six months?
3. Discuss how book clubs impact your reading instruction. Tell us stories from your experiments with this practice.
4. What are the gaps in your current classroom library? What are you missing?

Part IV: How you will use this grant

Please list some of the titles and/or author collections you plan to order and explain why these books are the right fit for your students.

Part V: Video

In a video of 3 minutes or less, please tell us a story from your teaching and summarize why you believe it would be wise for us **to invest in YOU** with this Book **Love** Foundation grant. (Many applicants film this in their classrooms to give us a window into their world.)

Your digital submission must be posted to Loom or YouTube. Please make sure you have checked permissions to make this video accessible to readers of your application.

Part VI: Support for You and Your Application

Please include not more than two recommendations from parents or colleagues or students or administrators. These are an important testimony to your work.

Process for submission of your application:

1. Complete the grant application by April 1, 2026, and submit the application electronically through the Book **Love** Foundation Grant Application Form. All parts of the application (including letters of recommendation) must be submitted as a single, multi-page PDF document titled with the applicant's first and last names (ex. **Your name BLF Book Clubs 2026 application**)
 - **We receive hundreds of applications each year, so please follow these directions exactly as stated.** We hate to do it, but we must discard applications that are not labeled and sent correctly.
 - You will receive an acknowledgment receipt of your submission.
2. All applicants will be notified by email of grant decisions no later than June 30, 2026. *Please be sure your school and summer email addresses are correct when you submit your application, so that we can contact you. Check your spam folder.*
3. Books will be delivered to grant winners as vendors have them available. We hope to complete delivery during the fall of 2026. The sooner you order, the sooner you'll receive your books.
4. We cannot provide feedback on applications. If you are not awarded a grant this year, we encourage you to apply again in 2027.