



MRS. REBECCA DECKER

BRICK MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

ELA TEACHER GRADES 11-12

A note from the teacher:

My personal belief as an educator is that I do not want to ever trade the engagement of my students for works of literature that I love. I want to involve myself in works of literature that my students love and find a way to marry current literature to works in the curriculum. I work every day to create a classroom where I can mesh choice reading and book clubs with core texts. My overall goal for my students is to make them readers, giving them time and opportunity to find novels where they are the focus, and pages that showcase characters just like them, and at times most importantly, characters that are nothing like them.

A note from a former student

Mrs. Decker has the most love I've ever seen in a person for reading. I believe that because she is so open about her adoration for the topic, she shines it onto anyone else she expresses it to. This is exactly what she has done for me. Her room is filled with hundreds of books. These books range from every genre you can think of. There is something for everyone, even those that are not as interested in reading. She opened so many more doors for me by listening to my interests and giving me works of literature that correlated to those interests. Mrs. Decker will open more minds to the reading world. With this grant, I am fully confident she will select books that are of interest to so many more students and change their perspectives on reading. From, Abby Fuchs



Book Club Goals:

- Allow student choice
- Apply standards we have practiced throughout the unit
- Hold a discussion of the book in weekly meetings
- Gain a broader understanding of the world

My goal as an ELA teacher:

This isn't just about pages or words or books; this is about my students finding reflections, examples, and paths, however imperfect, that resemble their own. This is about finding characters that are just like my students in the pages. It is my belief and my message that every student deserves to have these moments, and access to books to find them. I cannot count the number of times students, juniors and seniors in high school, finish a book for the first time while they are sitting in my classroom. I have had a part in creating readers.