

**Erin Boiles**

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I've loved to read for as long as I can remember. My mother taught me when I was four and devastated that I couldn't go to school with my older sister. Since then, reading has always been my stress relief, my continual access to knowledge and history, and my passion.

As much as I love to read, I also love to learn. I obtained my bachelor's degree from Texas Tech University, my master's degree from Tarleton State University, and I am currently pursuing my doctorate from Texas Tech University. As a first generation college graduate, these accomplishments mean so much to me. They are proof that dreams really do come true--with hard work and perseverance of course. These are values I try to instill in my students.

This year will be my tenth year as a reading language arts teacher. I have taught rurally and in the suburbs. The past ten years have been spent in grades 6-10 and have been spent at schools with low income, at risk students. In addition to grit and hard work, I want to instill a love of reading in my students. The best feeling is when a self-proclaimed nonreader falls in love with a book. And that's all it takes. One book to open a world of possibilities for a student. Being a recipient of Book Love will allow me to give my students a book they WANT to read, not one that is being forced on them. When I began to allow student choice, then teaching high school really became fun! I love to see the way they become excited about reading their books, hearing them talk about them outside of class, and when they share them with me, not to mention all the skills they are developing without realizing it. Book Love will allow me to continue this during the upcoming school year, and I cannot wait to put more books into the hands of my students.

