

# Kerri Sharpin

*St. Marys, Ohio*



Kerri is a 25 year veteran teacher at St. Marys Middle School in St. Marys, Ohio. She gives her sixth-grade ELA students a classroom experience that encourages a love for reading and literacy. Students are given daily opportunities to independently read their self-selected reading material. Sharpin, along with her co-teacher, Jennifer Wessel, have witnessed the impact of independent, self-selected reading. Observing how self-selected reading stimulates students to freely discuss books with peers and staff members has motivated the pair to want to add current books to the classroom library. Sharpin, Wessel, and administrators at St. Marys Middle School are creating a school culture that sparks a love for reading. Along with Sharpin's drive to promote reading, her class abounds with books. The students participate in book clubs, complete book reviews, book interviews, and one pagers to promote the texts that enjoyed the most. Kerri and Jen are excited to update the

classroom library with new books that will continue to catch the students' interests with funds from the Book Love Foundation.

Sharpin realizes that working to build, improve, and sustain a classroom library is fundamental in creating a culture that motivates students to read. An excitement about new texts and titles are generated and students request new titles and book series daily. Their joy is often deflated when realizing that the classroom library lacks the desired titles. Choosing books that are current, high interest and from a variety of reading levels will be perfect in fertilizing the joy that self-selected reading can bring.