



Kaitlynn Cooper

English Teacher & Avid Reader

One of my earliest memories at my grandparents' house is picking out a book from their reading nook: just behind the couch, we would climb up a step to reach the two shelves packed to the brim with books for us to choose from. Being encouraged to read a variety of books, try out new genres, and having a plethora of books available all the time was a defining part of my childhood. During college, I worked as a reading tutor for elementary students; watching their faces light up when they read a book aloud for themselves was incredibly rewarding, and I knew it would be just as important to empower my readers in the high school classroom.

Starting as an EL teacher, I advocated for books in a variety of languages so my students could engage with novels at their reading level. Shifting into teaching English Language Arts meant shifting my expectations of a classroom library into a broader context to serve ALL of my students. The challenge of engaging students who do not yet see themselves as readers is one I face each year, but having a classroom library with choices that reflect the diversity of my students has made this much easier. Seeking out opportunities with local bookstores, finding available grants, and advocating for student choice in reading are pieces of building that collection.

My name is Kaitlynn Cooper, and I am so honored to be a recipient of the 2022 Book Love Foundation Classroom Library Grant. On behalf of my students, and myself, thank you for supporting the Book Love Foundation!