

# Lauren Sieben

*New Brunswick, Canada*

Lauren is a third year Grade 7 & 8 English Language Arts teacher at Perth-Andover Middle School in rural New Brunswick, Canada. She is currently the only literacy specific teacher in her school that serves a large population of First Nations students. Her school is trying to build a better culture of reading, as in the past it has not been prioritized. Over the two years she has been a teacher at the school, she has pushed prioritizing getting new and relevant texts for the students and helping them engage with those texts.

After discussions between the school district's literacy team, administration, and literacy teachers, they have agreed to make more of a school-wide effort to get kids access to new and relevant books and to give them time to enjoy them. They are starting to add new books to update the library. They have also implemented a 20-minute soft start to the day, in which students get to have independent reading time in their homeroom. This time is completely independent for them, as they get choice in what they are reading, and how they read it. They are allowed to listen to audiobooks, read physical books, magazines, news articles, and pick whatever interests them most to read about.