

# LAUREN ROMAGNOLA

## BOOK LOVE GRANT RECIPIENT



I have been teaching in New York State public schools for 17 years, working with students that range from 7th grade through 12th grade. My current role includes teaching both ELA 11 and ELA 12.

Independent Reading is a regular practice in my classroom. Students have access to a range of titles that represent diverse experiences. I am constantly adding titles to ensure that all students feel represented.

I am fortunate to work in a school that believes that reading is important to child development. In my classroom, I implement Independent Reading with dedicated times twice a week for this practice. I have a classroom library that students borrow from if they wish. If students are able to see themselves in the literature that is offered, they will be more likely to read. I have books that explore many topics.



My current classroom library is roughly 250 books in total. I have it displayed on bookshelves in my classroom and I have a QR code check-out system setup. Students are allowed to peruse and borrow the books at their leisure.

About five years ago, my department decided to try an independent reading practice. It has worked so well that I keep it going to this day. Through literacy, I believe students will grow to become more empathetic, well-rounded, and civically minded adults.

