



The Book Love Foundation believes that a love of reading is essential. We support preservice teachers in the United States and Canada with building inclusive libraries and literacy practices to inspire and nurture a lasting love of reading in all students. We give you books so you can fall in love with authors and genres and pass it on to the students you teach.

The Book Love Foundation seeks preservice teachers who demonstrate a passion for promoting reading. You recognize the diversity of every class of students and plan to support each one in building an independent reading life of increasing depth and joy.

By submitting your application, you agree to meet the Book Love Foundation requirements listed below and declare that all information in your application is complete, accurate, and written by **YOU**, not AI.

Book Love Foundation **Preservice Teacher Grant Application 2026**

Requirements for the Book Love Foundation Preservice teacher grant:

- You **must be enrolled in a teacher preparation program** in the United States or Canada.
- You must demonstrate support for equitable literacy practices. This might include independent reading and book clubs as regular classroom practices as well as diversifying authors and titles in the core curriculum.
- The books received from this grant are not for a school-wide library or to be permanently divided among teachers. These are for you to begin building your own classroom library of engaging books. Creative sharing among friends, however, is always encouraged.
- You must be willing to be included in Book Love Foundation promotional materials/website and participate in research into the effectiveness of classroom libraries and book clubs on student outcomes in reading. We expect preservice teacher grant winners to share book talks and reviews in our online community: book-love-community.mn.co. **This is a partnership. If we choose you, we expect you to help us help others.**

- This grant is given to **you** to support your future work as a classroom teacher. Wherever you choose to teach, the books go with you.

If you meet the above requirements, please answer the following questions in as concise, but thorough a manner as possible. (Winning applications offer stories of how reading inspires and delights you.)

Thank you for your commitment to teaching.

Part I: Who are you?

Your name:

Home email:

School email:

Why do you want to be a teacher?

Why is regular, sustained reading important for all future students you will teach?

PART II: The culture of reading

1. How can a teacher build a culture of reading in their classroom? What worked for you in school? What has worked for kids you know who don't like reading?
2. What do you see as barriers that teachers face in building a love of reading? How will you work to overcome them?
3. What actions are you taking to increase just and equitable practices for all people in your school?
4. Have you experienced book bans in your school or community? Tell us your thinking about the impact of censorship on the life of a school for both students and teachers.

Part III: Your Reading Beliefs and Professional Practices

Discuss how a classroom library can impact reading instruction. How can teachers encourage and monitor sustained engagement with reading when students are all reading different books? What practices will you lean on? If you have a story of using one, here's a place to share it.

Part IV: How you will use this \$500 grant?

Please list some of the titles and/or author collections you plan to order and explain why these books might be the right fit for students you have worked with.

Part V: Video

In a video of 3 minutes or less, please tell us a story that summarizes why it would be wise for us **to invest in YOU**.

Your digital submission must be posted to Loom or YouTube. Please make sure you have checked permissions to make this video accessible to readers of your application.

Part VI: Support for You and Your Application (optional)

Please include not more than two recommendations from colleagues or students or professors. These are an important testimony to your work.

Process for submission of your application:

1. Complete the grant application by April 1, 2026, and submit the application electronically through the Book Love Foundation Grant Application Form. All parts of the application (including optional letters of recommendation) must be submitted as a single, multi-page PDF document titled with the applicant's first and last names (ex. **Your name BLF preservice teacher grant 2026 application**)
 - **We receive hundreds of applications each year, so please follow these directions exactly as stated.** We hate to do it, but we must discard applications that are not labeled and sent correctly.
 - Our applications manager will acknowledge the receipt of your application.
2. All applicants will be notified by email of grant decisions by June 30, 2026. *Please be sure both your school and summer email addresses are correct when you submit your application, so that we can contact you. Check your spam folder.*
3. Books will be delivered to grant winners as vendors have them available. We hope to complete delivery during the fall of 2026. The sooner you order, the sooner you'll receive your books.
4. We cannot provide feedback on applications. If you are not awarded a grant this year, we encourage you to apply again in 2027.