

Rebecca Riggs

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My name is Rebecca Riggs, and I am in my 4th year of teaching. I was raised near Houston, TX and I teach on the other side of Houston now. I attended Louisiana State University to receive my Bachelors of Arts in English with a concentration in secondary education. While at LSU, I was able to be in a special program called Humanities Amped for my student teaching where students were empowered to be activists in their community and to use their literacy to affect change. Being part of this special program has shaped me and my teaching in more ways that I can count. I am fiercely passionate about my students becoming lovers of reading and writing; I am also passionate about them learning to take those skills to transform the world in the way that only young people can. Learn more about Humanities Amped [here](#).

I started my career at Klein Cain High School in its inaugural year, and it is still where I teach today. I taught 10th grade ELA for the first three years, and now I teach 11th grade ELA. Throughout my time, I have learned so much about choice reading, conferring, and helping students learn to love to read. In my first year, I was able to help my beloved student, Sha'Drian, to learn to love reading again. She is the spark that led to me receiving the Book Love Grant after my first year. I will forever be grateful for all she has taught me about being a teacher. Since her time in my class, I have helped dozens of students become readers with the assistance of the books I received from my grant. What started as a library with maybe 50 outdated books is now 1,000+ strong and surrounds my students in our classroom each day in the many bookshelves I have had to joyously purchase over the years.

In addition to the affects in my classroom, many of my colleagues have been affected by this investment as well. In the teams I was a part of, we prioritized choice reading and many of the teachers began to build their own class libraries after seeing how the practice helps students in all areas of their literacy development and their character development. We even attended one of the 180 Days trainings together as a team to learn more. From that training, this grant, and all of Penny Kittle's books, I have also led campus-wide professional development and district-wide professional development to teach others what I have learned. In response to the success of those trainings, I was also invited to be part of our curriculum refresh team where we re-built or district curriculum around the new, more workshop-focused standards in our state. This grant and Penny Kittle's teaching has positively affected thousands of students at our school

and also in our district. We will be forever grateful for the investment in learning that this Foundation and Penny have given us.

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