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I graduated from Boston College in 1998 with a BA in English, and in 1999 with a M.Ed in Secondary Education. I have been teaching ever since. I have instructed ninth grade through college, and currently teach 9th, 11th and 12th graders at Trumbull High School in Trumbull, CT.

After presenting at the 2014 Annual Convention, my colleagues wandered into a session that Penny was running and my independent reading journey took off from there. We returned from the convention and immediately implemented the program into our classrooms, calling it the Trumbull High School Reading (R)evolution (@THSReadRev). The Book Love Foundation Mini Grant helped me to put titles on the shelves and into the hands of my students. Three years later, our English department has expanded to include approximately nine classroom libraries and has made independent reading

an integral component of our freshmen curriculum. The program's evolution has not always been easy, and we openly chronicled our successes and struggles over the years. I can't believe it took me so long to find Penny and Book Love, and I can't imagine ever going back to teaching without independent reading!

Some highlights of this journey include: skyping with authors Andrew Smith, Nicola Yoon, and Kimberly McCreight; offering PD to 100 educators around Connecticut about how to start independent reading in their classrooms; presenting at NCTE15, CRA15, and NCTE17 with other Book Love Foundation Grant winners; and participating in the 2017 Book Love Summer Book Club. However, my favorite moments come from seeing the change that has happened in my classroom and witnessing how independent reading has positively influenced my students. I love that they love to read, I love that they self-select and recommend books to each other and to me, and I love that they are reading thousands of pages each year. I have included some pictures from journal entries, reading ladders, and book stack shots from the last few years. I think they speak for themselves. I hope you enjoy!

