## **Atefa Rastagar**

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they may not have encountered before.

I teach English, and at the heart of what I do is helping students build a genuine love for reading. It is not just about meeting curriculum goals—it is about giving them space to find books they connect with and stories they care about. I make time in class for independent reading because I believe that choosing your own book, settling in, and simply reading is powerful.

We do book clubs where students lead the way. I want them to ask questions, share ideas, challenge each other, and view reading as something social and dynamic. I am always on the hunt for new titles that speak to them—whether that means adding short stories or incorporating diverse voices

My classroom is not just a place to read—it is a place to fall in love with reading. I aim to make that happen by building a library that reflects my students, by celebrating their reading milestones, and by creating space for curiosity. Watching them grow into thoughtful, enthusiastic readers is one of the most rewarding aspects of this work—and it is the reason I continue to do it.