



**Mission:** The **Book Love Foundation** believes that a love of reading is essential. We assist teachers in the United States and Canada with building inclusive classroom libraries to inspire and nurture a lasting love of reading.

The **Book Love Foundation** seeks teachers who demonstrate a passion for promoting a *hunger* for books. These teachers recognize the diversity of every class of readers and they challenge each student to build an independent reading life of increasing depth and joy. Since our foundation's beginning in 2012, we have awarded 270 library grants (\$590,000!) to classroom teachers out of more than 2000 applications. Grant awards in 2021 will range from \$1000.00 to \$2000.00. Books are chosen by the grant winner to meet the needs of the students he/she teaches.

Teachers who apply for a Book Love Foundation grant must demonstrate that they are already committed to the support of readers through current classroom practices such as maintaining access to a range of books, conferring regularly and purposefully to understand and support students' changing needs, and sharing their own contagious passion for reading inside and outside of their classrooms.

In addition, the 2021 application asks teachers to demonstrate a commitment to curate a book collection that represents our world. We are looking for teachers who increase empathy and understanding of LGBTQ, social justice, and mental health issues through inclusive books as represented by the [Gracie's List](#) collection. We celebrate a commitment to living poets and own voice authors. We seek courageous teachers who are committed to this essential shift in school reading.

The **Book Love Foundation** Board of Directors considers the needs of the school where the applicant teaches but understands that all schools must commit to improving the joy and engagement of all young people with reading. We seek teachers who will lead colleagues and their school community to a deeper understanding of the importance of an individual reading life that is as diverse as the students we teach.

**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 and accurate.**

# Book Love Foundation

## Classroom Library Grant Application 2021

### Requirements:

- Applicant **must be a full time preK-12 classroom teacher** in the United States or Canada. If your teaching position is unclear in your application, we cannot consider you for a grant. If you are awarded a grant and then accept another position in your school district this summer (like a coaching or curriculum position), we will be happy for you, but the grant will be voided. Grants cannot be transferred to colleagues.
- Applicant must demonstrate an ongoing commitment to independent reading and book clubs as regular classroom practices.
- Applicant must have a working classroom library. Photos of you and your library are encouraged as part of your application.
- Applicant must be willing to maintain the Book Love Foundation library in the applicant's classroom. The books received from this grant are not intended for a school-wide library or to be permanently divided among teachers. Creative sharing, however, is always encouraged.
- Applicant must be willing to be included in Book Love Foundation promotional materials /website and participate in research into the effectiveness of classroom libraries on student outcomes in reading. We expect grant winners to collect records and help us advance this important work. **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 work as a classroom teacher. It is not given to the school or school district. Please be sure this is clear to your administrators before you apply. If you leave the district, the books go with you.
- Applicant will collect data on books read in order for us to create an ongoing list of books we recommend. We suggest using the Book Source Classroom Organizer library app for checking out books.

If you meet the above requirements, please answer the following questions in as concise, but thorough a manner as possible. We encourage you to **be creative** as long as you include answers to all of the questions below. Make your application easy for our readers, many who are not teachers. We love photographs and stories, but please remember that our grant readers have hundreds of pages to carefully review each year, so your entire application should not exceed 3000 words. That being said, we are inspired by you. Thank you for giving us a window into your world.

### Part I: Who are you?

Name, Email addresses (include both HOME and SCHOOL), Years of teaching experience, + Describe your **current teaching role** in a few sentences.

**What have you been learning?** Please describe significant factors in your professional learning in the last five years (e.g., professional association memberships; conferences you've attended; articles you've published or been influenced by; areas of personal research; blogging; Twitter chats; other.)

## **Part II: Where do you teach?**

School Name:

School Mailing Address: (include street, town, state, zip code):

School Phone Number:

Private or Public School:

Urban/Suburban/Rural:

Free/Reduced Lunch Percentage:

Your average class size:

School library: Yes or No

School librarian: Yes or No

What do you see as barriers to **our mission** in **your school**? What gets in the way of every student building on a love of reading every year?

## **Part III: Your Reading Beliefs and Professional Practices**

1. Summarize why you believe it would be wise for us **to invest in YOU** with this Book Love Foundation grant. (This is a most important question. The answer is often used by board members to advocate for who we fund each year.)
2. Highlight important books (both professional and personal) that you've read in the last few years and why they've been important in your growth as a teacher. Which journals, magazines, or periodicals do you regularly read? Why?
3. How many books are in your current classroom library? What percentage of books would you estimate are out of date/low interest books versus high interest books that most students want to read? Approximately what percentage of your students have read books from your classroom library in the past six months?
4. Discuss how your classroom library impacts your reading instruction. What are the gaps in your current collection? What is your library missing?
5. If money were not an issue for you, name 6-8 books you would purchase for your library today and why you would choose those books.
6. Which assessments do you trust to measure the reading growth of students?
7. How do you encourage and monitor sustained engagement with reading?
8. What challenges do you and your students face in building reading lives that last beyond the classroom and beyond this school year?

9. How will you continue to build your library? Please identify any additional support (cash or in-kind donations) that has been or might be provided by other sources to support your work.
10. Is there anything else the Book Love Foundation should know about you or your application? (This is a great place for a story. Stories definitely have a persuasive power and do impact board decisions each year.)

## Part IV: Support for You and Your Application

Please include *not more than two* recommendations from parents or colleagues or students or administrators. These are an important testimony to your work. These recommendations must be part of the single PDF you send as your application (see below).

### Process for submission of your application:

1. Complete the following grant application by March 15, 2021 and submit the application electronically to [application@booklovefoundation.org](mailto:application@booklovefoundation.org). **All parts of the application (including letters of recommendation) must be submitted as a single, multi-page PDF document titled with the applicant's first and last names** (ex. Penny Kittle BLF 2021 application).
  - We receive hundreds of applications each year, so please follow these directions **exactly as stated**. Our employees are volunteers, and we cannot ask them to combine and re-label your application file because you sent it in separate parts. **We hate to do it, but we must discard applications that are not labeled and sent correctly.**
  - In order for a letter of recommendation to be considered with your application, it must part of your single, correctly-labeled PDF.
  - **Attach your application in your email; do not send a link to a PDF.**
  - Our applications manager will acknowledge the receipt of your application. Please do not send your application more than once.
  - We will consider digital compositions (movies) if they are posted to YouTube or are otherwise easily accessible for our readers. Put a link to the video in your application. Please limit videos to three minutes.
  - Go back and read these directions before you submit, ***please***.
2. All applicants will be notified by email of grant decisions by June 30, 2021. *Please be sure 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 2021.
4. We cannot provide feedback on applications, sorry. If you are not awarded a grant this year, we encourage you to apply again in 2022.