

# Stephanie Klanssek

*Emory H. Markle Middle School  
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As a recipient of a Book Love Grant, I struggle to put into words the difference these books have made for my students. One of the greatest benefits of the grant was the ability to diversify my title selection. The Booksource Digital Library provides an auditing feature, and thanks to the generous grant, I am able to offer books that represent all of my students and also provide the window, mirror, and sliding glass door books that Rudine Sims Bishop advocated for.



When I was awarded the grant, I also knew that I couldn't keep the generous gift just to my classroom, so I shared books with all three grade levels of our middle school. I still often have students visiting me from other classrooms to get the next book of a series that they are enjoying.

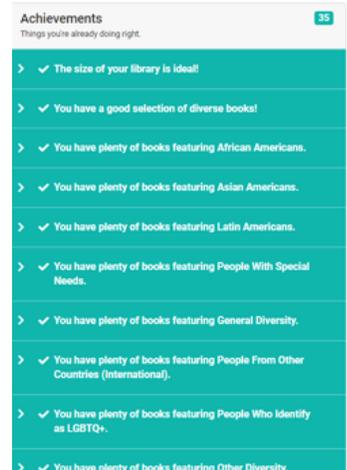
I am entering my 19th year of teaching and recently moved from seventh-grade to eighth-grade language arts. I received my undergraduate degree from Grove City College and a Master's degree as a Reading Specialist from McDaniel College. I recently started a certificate program in Equity and Excellence in Education through McDaniel College, and consider the books on my shelves the best entry points into meaningful conversations on identity and justice.

The impact of my library can best be conveyed through the words of my students:

“Your classroom library helped me grow as a person and helped my mindset be more open to new books and ideas. I now read on a daily basis over 500 pages a week and that's at the least. I love reading thanks to you Mrs. Klanssek and thanks to the options your classroom library held.”

- Bella M.

“Your classroom library really has helped me broaden my genre and book choices. I am a huge fan of dystopian, but between this year and last year, I've gotten into so many different books. Going along with that, new genres have



helped me grow my knowledge of real-world situations. I feel much more educated and I understand more things because of books, especially the ones that I have read in the past year. All of the most recent books I've read have been my favorite, and I get them all from your classroom library.”

- Morgan K.

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