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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!



her beatings and wanted nothing more than to get an education. Knowing that a teenager could survive this changed the way I see other characters and people.

3. I loved Independent Reading this year. I felt as if it was a perfect time to just have a few minutes to relax and do something that I ~~enjoyed~~ ^{now enjoy}. It gave me a break from learning and stress and overall I really appreciate having it. This year I have read 26 books including two that I reread because I liked them so much. This quarter very much.

3.a Total Books: 16 books
Total Pages: 5469 pages *Wow!*

3b. I definitely improved as a reader. In middle school I never read unless it was required. I think I've read more books ~~than~~ this year than I



lovely had to pass what I was reading, ^{mostly} at the exact book this quarter. *Only!*

This year I have read 80 books, about 22,855 pages. I think there has been a bell curve in my reading level. Towards the middle of the year I read more books and they were ~~more difficult~~ ^{more difficult} to sit down and read for 15-20 minutes which is hard for some people to do. Now that I've realized that there are so many books out there, I get more & more excited reading a new book. I'm not at the point where I could read a whole book in one day, but I hope that I will be there soon. Reading at least 10 minutes

on soil within different areas within the Audubon Society in Fairchild it was crazy to think that I was using the same method to extract soil and collect data as a 3-time Fulbright award winner. That's just insane. She also had a way with connecting knowledge. Life of a tree ends up being similar in the course of events as a person. I really

in your world is so amazing. Really, it is important to have identified the. One thing we can always do is to be cautious. I loved it so much I just bought a copy for myself and for Mrs. Gibson so she can experience how cool this book was.

Another book that I read was 'A Walk with a Crime' by Trevor Noah. He grew up in South Africa but continues to find something upbeat to note. He can find humor in everything.



