

Teacher Vision Grant Summary
2018-2019 School Year
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To begin, I would like to thank the Foundation for Public Schools in Edgefield County for all of the work they do to support our students, teachers, and schools. Your commitment to our children's education is invaluable.

This year, I received a grant to purchase more books for my classroom library. I focused on adding nonfiction titles to my catalog of books. I did this for several reasons. First, students will be heavily assessed on their nonfiction reading skills on the SC READY and English 1 EOC tests. The nonfiction standards always contain the most questions on those assessments, so when students read nonfiction books during their independent reading time, it really helps solidify the instruction I give in class.

Second, nonfiction is always one of the genres that students say they don't like. They think of nonfiction writing as only consisting of boring essays and excerpts from textbooks. They don't realize that there is a whole plethora of entertaining nonfiction literature to be discovered. My students have been surprised to find that they actually enjoy reading books about real people, real events, and real life. The lessons to be learned from these stories are meaningful in a way that fiction books cannot always encapsulate. When a student reads a book about how a mountain climber made it to the top of Mount Everest, they see real life examples of perseverance, dedication, hard work, and grit. When they read the story of one girl beating the odds to get her education, they realize the opportunity and privilege they have to live in a country where education is fundamental right.

Of all the titles I purchased this year, there have been a few that have stood out as being class favorites. These titles include *I Am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai, *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown, and *The President Has Been Shot!* by James L. Swanson. I have included pictures of how my classroom library has grown over the past few years. Most of the books added to my library have been funded through grants from the Foundation. I cannot even begin to express how grateful I am that the Foundation has empowered me to put countless books into the hands of my students. Every Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, we enjoy 20 minutes of independent reading, and I can see how my students' engagement and love for reading has grown. Sometimes they even beg me to let them read for the entire class period! Again, I am so grateful for the generosity of the Foundation and its contributors.

Thank you again for all you do for our students and schools.



My classroom library at the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year.



My classroom library for the 2018-2019 school year.