

Vision Grant Summary 2018

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C.S. Lewis once said, “We read to know we are not alone.” Sometimes students may feel like they are alone or that they have no one to relate to, but what they don’t realize is that there is an abundance of Young Adult literature out there with characters who are *just like them*.

Thanks to the generosity of the Foundation for Public Schools in Edgefield County, I was able to purchase a myriad of books featuring characters of color by authors of color. These books helped to diversify my classroom library so that students would be able to read something with a character or an author to whom they can relate.

I was able to restock my classroom library with the latest and greatest in Young Adult literature, particularly books that feature students of color from authors of color. The young adult novels, from authors such as Walter Dean Myers, Sharon Draper, and Marie Lu have helped to expose my students to worlds and cultures that are different from their own. For some of my students, these books have expanded their worldviews while for others they read a book with a world that is just like their own.

Throughout this school year, we have had “Page Turner Tuesdays” and “Page Turner Thursdays” where my students read silently for 20 minutes at the beginning of class. This not only helps improve their reading stamina, but it gives them time to simply read for enjoying without the worry of being tested on what they read. The new books I added to my classroom library were some of the most popular books that were checked out this year.

I am incredibly grateful for the work being done by the Foundation for Public Schools in Edgefield County and for their generosity to our students at Merriwether Middle School. A book can open a new world for a student, and I believe the addition of multicultural literature in my classroom has opened up new worlds for many of my students this year.

Thank you again for your generosity.

-Jennifer Bussey