

1095 Columbia Road  
Johnston, SC 29832  
April 28, 2020

Foundation for Public Schools in Edgefield County  
P.O. Box 28  
Edgefield, SC 29824

Dear Foundation Members:

Thank you most sincerely for providing funds for “Take Fifteen for History Literacy.” The high-level picture books were a hit with the students, and they enjoyed and learned from the activities that accompanied each book. For each book, I designed a choice board that includes vocabulary, reading comprehension, research, and writing activities. Using these, so many individually personalized lessons emerged as students worked on the activities they chose. Each week, they chose a different book and activity. The program required a great deal of advanced preparation, but the effects proved to be worth the effort.

In February, I presented the concept for “Take Fifteen for Literacy History” at the Palmetto State Literacy Conference. The session was a hit, and there were actually people sitting on the floor to attend as seats were filled. Some emailed me after the conference for ideas and materials to use with their students.

Along with this letter, I am attaching the slide show I used at the conference and a list of books purchased with the funds you provided. The slide show will give you a better understanding of what went on in the classroom and serves as the summary. I hope you will take a moment to view it.

I am so grateful for this opportunity as the students not only enjoyed it, but also learned so much about history while improving their reading and writing skills. My only regret is that, for this year, I will not be able to see any improvements on the Measures of Academic Progress and the SC READY assessments; however, I did see the improvements in my classroom, especially when it came to using MLA format to cite their work and in their general reading skills, and I plan to use the books again throughout the next academic year.

Again, thank you so much for the opportunity to implement a new strategy. My students and I both received the benefits.

Sincerely,  
Laurie Prince  
J-E-T Middle School