



## Teachers Dream Fund Application Form (Part A)

**Applicant Name: Anne Murphy**

School: Minnie Howard

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Have you received a Teachers' Dream Fund Award in the past? No

**Project Title: Enabling Active Reading: Piloting E-Readers in the Language Arts Classroom**

Amount Requested: **\$4,995.50**

Projected number of students benefitting from project: **150-200**

Grade level(s) served by this program: **9**

Subject Areas covered: **World Literature**

Are you collaborating with other teachers, schools, or organizations? If so, please list:  
**Catherine Fleming and I would collaborate on the lessons plans and implementation of this project. Together, we teach seven sections of World Literature. The students in our seven classes would share the Kindle devices and e-books.**

Is this a cross-curricular program/project? **No**

Has your principal received a copy of this application? **Yes**

Please indicate appropriate discipline area by placing an "X" beside the category:

Science <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Technology X</b>
Art <input type="checkbox"/>	Adult Education (certificate or diploma?) <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>English Language Learners X</b>	Health and Fitness <input type="checkbox"/>
Library/Media <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Language Arts/Literature X</b>
Math <input type="checkbox"/>	Music/Fine Arts <input type="checkbox"/>
Social Studies <input type="checkbox"/>	Special Education <input type="checkbox"/>
Other <input type="checkbox"/>	

## **PART B**

**Title:** Enabling Active Reading: Piloting E-Readers in the Language Arts Classroom

**Program Summary:** While reading is often considered a lost art in today's society, so too has active reading—purposeful, involved, interactive—declined in our classrooms. This project aims to harness the benefits of e-readers for all students in order to not only

encourage and inspire reading, but to facilitate active reading and thus instill the habit of reading in a new generation of students.

### **Needs Statement:**

Our students, as digital natives, are accustomed to gathering and disseminating information via electronic platforms. Yet in our classrooms, we expect that they stow away their cellular phones and replace them with a technology so old that we forget it was once a technology: the printed book. This swap, while not uncommon, reinforces many students' preconceived notions about the irrelevance of school to their daily lives and predisposes them to dislike the paper in front of them. In order to fascinate these students, to provoke their curiosity, and to enchant their developing sensibilities, e-readers should have their own place—right beside and complementary to the print book—in the language arts classroom. While students can read some e-books on their laptops, reading on the laptop has several pitfalls: students can read for only a short span of time on the laptop's bright screen, and they often become distracted by tools, games, and applications.

E-readers offer many benefits to struggling and advanced readers alike: in addition to facilitating differentiation among students with varying lexile levels and proficiency in English, they allow to students to annotate (which students cannot do in school-owned print books); review their annotations; search for others' annotations and share theirs with others; search for quotations, characters, or ideas; borrow and read library books for free; and search for definitions and historical facts without losing their places. Furthermore, the Kindle e-reader, but not the Nook, provides a text-to-speech tool—an instructional support that allows students to process written material via multiple modalities.

In short, e-readers offer numerous benefits, many of which remain unexplored, to all students, as they improve students' reading experiences, thereby increasing both the depth and the amount of active reading among high school freshmen. With many aims in mind—including fostering active reading habits, encouraging cultural proficiency, cultivating empathy, and improving technological competence among members of the class of 2015, I am asking for Kindles and e-books to support instruction in the language arts classroom.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

#### Bringing e-readers to the language arts classroom will:

- encourage reading in and out of the classroom,
- increase the amount of written material to which students are exposed,
- facilitate active reading and annotating,
- develop students' technological competence,
- promote independence by allowing students to alter the size and appearance of the text to meet their needs, search for definitions using the dictionary, and enable the speech-to-text tool to increase comprehension,
- democratize reading and decrease the effect of socioeconomic background on achievement, in that they allow all students—not only those who have printed books at home—easy access to a growing and incredible number of books,
- prepare students for further study, because as e-readers are becoming more affordable and more prevalent, they will soon be a staple in higher education,

- and enable students to develop good reading habits at a young age, habits which make lifelong reading an achievable and reasonable goal for all.

**Measureable Outcomes:**

- Students will take a survey regarding their reading habits and interest in reading prior to receiving the Kindles and again after using the Kindles for several months.
- Students will take the SRI (Scholastic Reading Inventory) at the end of the school year, and those scores will be compared with their scores at the beginning of the year.
- Students will assess their level of interaction with the books they are reading by comparing the amount of notes they take prior to receiving the Kindles to the amount of notes they take while using the Kindles.

**Timeline:**

- Early March
  - Purchase and receive Kindles
  - Download e-books to Kindles
  - Create and administer an inventory of students' knowledge and expectations regarding e-readers
- Late March
  - In response to students' answers, design and teach a lesson on effective use and handling of the Kindle
  - Distribute Kindles and use them in the classroom setting with all classes
- Early April
  - In rotations, allow all students the opportunity to take the Kindles home to use for both school and independent reading
  - Incorporate the Kindles into the literature circle unit
  - Assess student usage rates and competency with the Kindles
  - Adjust instruction to better meet students' needs
- Late April
  - Continue using the Kindles, gradually allowing students greater freedom
  - Conduct another lesson on the e-reader in which students reflect on their reading comprehension and active reading skills prior to and after using the Kindles
- May
  - Continue to allow students to use the Kindles for independent reading
  - Promote the use of Kindles as a research tool for the World's Fair Project (a project equivalent to a final exam)
- June
  - Evaluate the effectiveness of the program and potentially apply for additional funds to expand it

**Budget Narrative and Allocation Sheet**

ITEM	NUMBER & AMOUNT	TOTAL COST
<b>Kindle Touch</b> - WiFi capability - E-ink screen - 6-inch display - Touch screen	Number of devices: 43  Cost per device: \$99	\$4,299.57

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Text-to-Speech capability</li> <li>- Free cloud backup</li> <li>- 2 months of battery life</li> </ul>		
Kindle Books	<i>Cry, the Beloved Country</i> , Alan Patton (South Africa)	\$11.99 x 3	\$35.97
	<i>The Alchemist</i> , Paul Coehlo (Brazil)	\$9.99 x 6	\$59.94
	<i>Into the Beautiful North</i> , Luis Alberto Urrea (Mexico)	\$9.99 x 4	\$39.96
	<i>Inside Out &amp; Back Again</i> , Thanhha Lai (Vietnam)	\$8.99 x 6	\$53.94
	<i>The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind</i> , William Kamkwamba (Malawi)	\$10.99 x 15	\$164.85
	<i>Habibi</i> , Naomi Shihab Nye (Palestine)	\$5.99 x 6	\$35.94
	<i>The Dew Breaker</i> , Edwidge Danticat (Haiti)	\$9.99 x 3	\$29.97
	<i>Unaccustomed Earth</i> , Jhumpa Lahiri (India)	\$9.99 x 3	\$29.97
	<i>The Housekeeper and the Professor</i> , Yoko Ogawa (Japan)	\$9.99 x 6	\$59.94
	<i>The Art of War</i> , Sun Tzu (China)	\$6.65 x 4	\$26.60
	<i>The Poisonwood Bible</i> , Barbara Kingsolver (Congo)	\$11.99 x 3	\$35.97
	<i>The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian</i> , Sherman Alexie (American Indian)	\$10.99 x 3	\$32.97
	<i>Memoirs of a Geisha</i> , Arthur Golden (Japan)	\$9.99 x 3	\$29.97
	<i>Dreaming in Cuban</i> , Christian Garcia (Cuba)	\$9.99 x 6	\$59.94

Device Cost: \$4,299.57 + Book Cost: \$695.93 = **Total Cost: \$4,995.50**

I will purchase the Kindle Touch devices and e-books from Amazon.com. There is no cost to ship the devices to Minnie Howard. I am not applying for the same funding from any other organization or group.