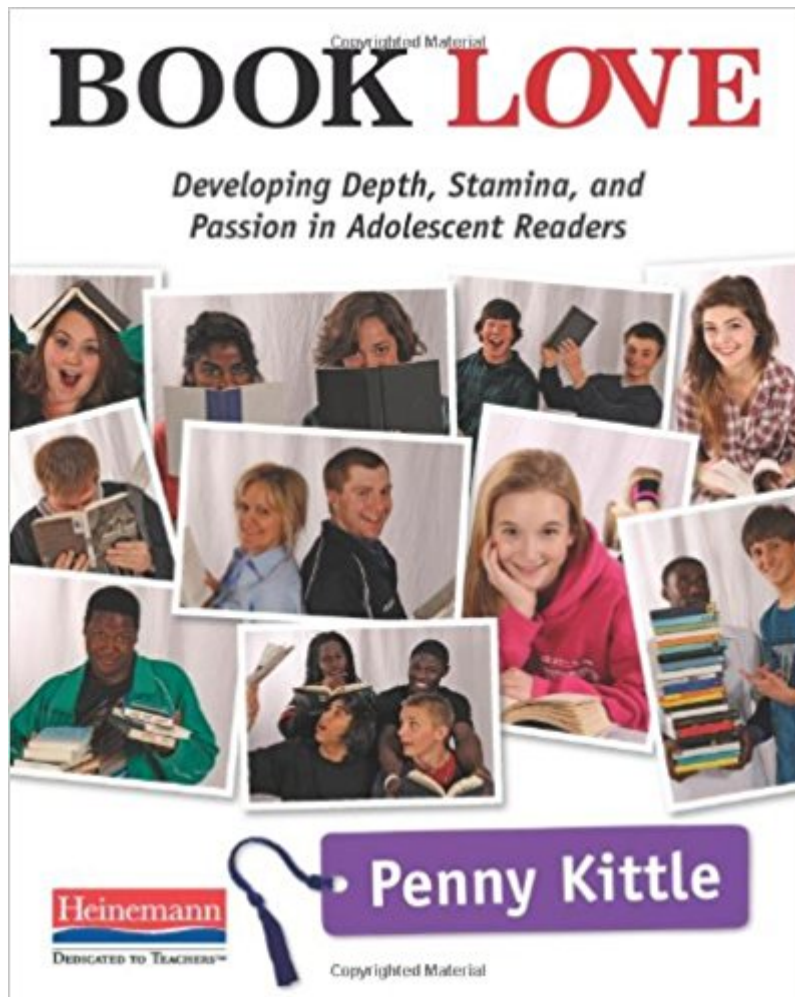


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# Book Love: Developing Depth, Stamina, And Passion In Adolescent Readers



## Synopsis

"I believe each of my students must craft an individual reading life of challenge, whim, curiosity, and hunger, and I've discovered that it is not too late in high school to lead a non-reader to reading. It's never too late."-Penny Kittle Penny Kittle wants us to face the hard truths every English teacher fears: too many kids don't read the assigned texts, and some even manage to slip by without having ever read a single book by the time they graduate. As middle and high school reading declines, college professors lament students' inability to comprehend and analyze complex texts, while the rest of us wonder: what do we lose as a society when so many of our high school graduates have no interest in reading anything? In *Book Love* Penny takes student apathy head on, first by recognizing why students don't read and then showing us that when we give kids books that are right for them, along with time to read and regular response to their thinking, we can create a pathway to satisfying reading that leads to more challenging literature and ultimately, a love of reading. With a clear eye on the reality of today's classrooms, Penny provides practical strategies and advice on: increasing volume, capacity, and complexity over time creating a balance of independent reading, text study, and novel study helping students deepen their thinking through writing about reading building a classroom library with themes that matter to 21st century kids. *Book Love* is a call to arms for putting every single kid, no exceptions allowed, on a personal reading journey. But much more than that, it's a powerful reminder of why we became English teachers in the first place: our passion for books. Books matter. Stories heal. The right book in the hands of a kid can change a life forever. We can't wait for anyone else to teach our students a love of books-it's up to us and the time is now. If not you, who? For information about the Book Love Foundation, which provides classroom libraries to deserving teachers and schools, visit [booklovefoundation.org](http://booklovefoundation.org).

## Book Information

Paperback: 192 pages

Publisher: Heinemann; 1 edition (October 26, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0325042950

ISBN-13: 978-0325042954

Product Dimensions: 7.4 x 0.4 x 9.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (30 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #16,859 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #13 in Books > Textbooks > Education > Secondary Education #66 in Books > Education & Teaching > Schools & Teaching > Certification & Development #83 in Books > Education & Teaching > Schools & Teaching > Instruction Methods > Reading & Phonics

Age Range: 11 - 17 years

Grade Level: 6 - 12

## Customer Reviews

How many times have we heard the laments of parents and teachers, "if only my kids read more"? Penny Kittle in *Book Love* tackles the problem of students who don't read, and offers English teachers tactics to combat this problem. The summative message of her book is that the first step in getting students to read is to get them to enjoy what they are reading. For a future teacher, this book is a treasure trove of ideas to get kids to enjoy reading. She begins her book by informing her readers of the accepted fact that only twenty percent of students actually read the literature they are given in class. Combining that fact with the idea that students will have to read between 200 and 600 pages in college weekly to be successful, it creates a problematic situation that lines students up to fail once they hit higher education. It is obvious that students need to get reading, and they need to do so quickly! As a pre-service English teacher, one of the thoughts that haunts my psyche, is what if the kids won't read? I love the ideas that Kittle introduces to promote reading success. First of all, she has students measure their reading speed in pages per week and then measuring how that changes over the course of the year, and then she gives interesting ideas on how to keep track of their reading. My favorite of these is have students do "roller-coaster" reading, in which they balance complex reading with enjoyable simpler reading. Every time they finish what they deem deep, difficult reading, they follow it up with shorter more lightweight piece. It keeps the kids from burning out from the harder texts, and it keeps them reading.

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