

# NOMINATE A TEACHER IN YOUR LIFE

Penguin  
Random  
House

## Teacher Awards *for* Literacy

Recognizing Innovative Projects in Support of Cultivating Literacy & Lifelong Readers

**We are proud to announce our 2018 Teacher Award Recipients**



### **AMANDA WHATLEY**

**First Place**  
**\$10,000 Grant Recipient**

**High School English Teacher**  
**UWHARRIE CHARTER ACADEMY**  
**Asheboro, NC**

High school teacher Amanda Whatley's passion for learning and teaching is apparent. She uses various evidence-based practices in her classroom to reach all learners. The **Monster Literacy Night** project is designed to engage students in literacy practices that include reading, analyzing, researching, and knowledge-sharing. The overall objective of the program is to encourage a lifelong love of reading and research in students of all ages, and to make difficult texts accessible to all students. This program earned her the First Place 2018 Penguin Random House Teacher Award for Literacy.



### **ANGIE GIBBS**

**Second Place**  
**\$5,000 Grant Recipient**

**High School English Teacher**  
**IRVINGTON PREPARATORY**  
**ACADEMY**  
**Indianapolis, IN**

Angie Gibbs is a dedicated, talented, and engaging teacher who makes a difference in the lives of her students every day, and who works hard to help students become lifelong readers by exposing them to books that reflect their own voices and life experiences. She started the **Teen Book Bag** project out of her classroom, where the students can choose a themed bag with three books and take it home to read. The slogan for her project is **Read, Return, Repeat**. This program earned her the Second Place 2018 Penguin Random House Teacher Award for Literacy.



### **CLAUDINE JAMES**

**Third Place**  
**\$2,500 Grant Recipient**

**ELA Teacher**  
**MALVERN MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**Malvern, AR**

Charismatic and creative, Claudine James definitely thinks outside the box. She develops a rapport with students, colleagues, and parents that is characterized by mutual respect. Innovative instruction can be seen in Ms. James's classroom through her interaction with students, communication, classroom management, assignments, and assessments. Ms. James's teaching expertise is extensive and provides her with a toolbox of strategies that make her a remarkable teacher. **Rewarding Readers** earned her the Third Place 2018 Penguin Random House Teacher Award for Literacy.



### **JOANNA FOX**

**Maya Angelou Award**  
**\$10,000 Grant Recipient**

**Creative Writing Visual and**  
**Performing Arts teacher**  
**BOOKER MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**Sarasota, FL**

Middle school creative writing teacher Joanna Fox earned the Maya Angelou Teacher Award for Poetry for her program **Dragon Fly Café**. The curriculum and unique environment are uniquely designed by Ms. Fox, based on a storehouse of education and experience, to create a place of safety, where students can experience a world rich with self-discovery, expressing all of their emotions through art. Her curriculum includes many opportunities for students to connect to the greater community.

**\$1,000 Honorable Mention Award: KAREN HUBERTY** DAKOTA HILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL *Eagan, MN*

**Runner-Ups will each receive a \$250 grant award for their program and Penguin Random House Book Donation:**

MARY CAMPBELL, Berewick Elementary, Charlotte, NC

ASHLEY COX, The Howard School, Chattanooga, TN

KASSANDRA CROSS, EB Comstock Middle School, Dallas, TX

JOHANNA DAY, Larchmont Charter School, Los Angeles, CA

JULIA FAULK, Choctaw Central High School, Choctaw, MS

MICHAEL POSER, Hobson Public School, Hobson, MT

DORI VALDERRAMA, Brader Elementary School, Newark, DE

MEGAN VITTITOW, Augusta Middle School, Augusta, KS

AMAL GIKNIS, Science Leadership Academy, Philadelphia, PA

BRANDON HUBBARD-HEITZ, The Howard School & Brainerd HS, Chattanooga, TN