

THE LITERACY DEN

THE LITERACY NEWSLETTER OF MINOR HIGH SCHOOL



TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Meet **Dr. Delesa Dean Roberts!** Dr. Dean Roberts is a 10th and 11th grade English teacher at Minor High. During a recent classroom visit, she was teaching a book study. Throughout the process, she had the students to keep journals, watch related educational videos, and had class discussions. When asked about the importance of teaching novels, Dr. Dean Roberts stated that "it was not easy in this blended learning environment but necessary." She mentioned that "books can show students a different perspective, reading broadens their horizons, and it helps them to make connections between the past and the present." Dr. Dean Roberts taught "Stamped" by Ibram Kendi and Jason Reynolds as an anchor text to expose students to different perspectives. Her goal was not only to expose students but to encourage them to be change agents and advocates of justice for not only themselves, but others as well.

KEY ARTICLE

As daunting or impractical as it may seem, a novel study may be a great way to engage students while promoting literacy during blended learning. Check out this article: [Remote Learning Idea #1: Novel Studies for Secondary Students](#) (click title).



POWER RESOURCES

This year has come with financial strain for many. For many educators who desire to teach a book, there's hesitancy because families simply may not be able to purchase them. Fear not! Use these free resources:

1. <https://www.hoopladigital.com/>
2. <https://soraapp.com/welcome> (Available in Jefcoed Classlink)

DR. NELSON'S ADVICE

I believe now is an opportune time to utilize books in the current blended learning environment. There are many benefits to reading books, many of which students are currently seemingly deprived of. Academic benefits include: increased vocabulary, increased comprehension, stronger background knowledge, and the ability to make connections. Personal benefits include: reduction of stress, increased empathy for others, and improved cognition. Assigning a well-planned book study can be impactful for students. However, simply encouraging students to read is just as important. As we encourage our students, let's remember the power of reading, even for ourselves.