

8/8/12 11:30 AM

- APPLICATION DEADLINE: Monday, March 12, 2012 at 5:00 pm
- Email to kathleen_sheehy@brookline.k12.ma.us
- Mail or hand-deliver to BEF, 40 Webster Place, Brookline, MA 02445

BROOKLINE EDUCATION FOUNDATION
Teacher Grant Application for 2012-2013 Academic Year
Cover Page

APPLICATION MUST BE TYPED

Project Title	YALSA's Young Adult Literature Symposium
Name of Applicant(s)	Ann Collins
School and grades/subjects you teach	BHS Librarian, 9-12
Home Telephone Number(s)	617-524-4884
Email Address(es)	Ann_Collins@brookline.k12.ma.us
Years teaching in PSB, total years teaching	8 years teaching with PSB 20 total
Amount Requested	\$907.00
Are you applying for the Charlie Baker Legacy Award?	No
Please list previous BEF grants (year, title, teacher/collaborative)	2010, Teaching Global Understanding in the 21 st Century/collaborative

I understand that, should the Brookline Education Foundation fund my grant application, I am obligated to submit a written evaluation of my project at its completion. Evaluations of projects completed during the summer will be due by December 31, 2012. Evaluations of projects completed during the school year will be due by May 31, 2013. I further understand that only educators employed by the Brookline Public Schools at the time the project is undertaken are eligible to receive funds.

Acknowledgement of Applicant(s):

Date: 3/12/12

For online submissions, please acknowledge that you have read and agreed to the above statement. x

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Project Description Section

1. **Project Summary** (1-3 sentences)

I would like to attend the annual Young Adult Library Services Association's (YALSA) annual literature symposium in St. Louis. YALSA, a division of the American Library Association, is a national association of librarians whose mission is to expand and strengthen library services to teens. Attached is a page from their website announcing the program. Complete information may be found at <http://yalitsymposium12.ning.com/>

Letter of support from Scott Moore, District Coordinator for Educational Technology and Libraries, attached

2. **Goal Statement**

What are your explicit goals for the project? What would be the best outcome for the work you propose?

- Connect with other librarians and YA literature enthusiasts
- Share my experience of working with high school students, from varied backgrounds and appreciations of reading. To share a unique view of high school curriculum at a high achieving suburban high school, especially as it relates to the growing acceptance of young adult literature
- Strengthen BHS's collaboration with Robin Brenner, the Young Adult Librarian at the Brookline Public Library, who will be attending and presenting at the symposium
- Present findings from the conference to district librarians and BHS faculty
- Purchase new YA titles for the BHS Library, funded by our budget
- Promote new titles to students and faculty

3. **Context**

a. What experiences or needs have led you to apply for this grant?

The BHS Librarians regularly work with English teachers and their classes to introduce students to new literature. Our knowledge of the curriculum and breadth of reading enables us to make connections between classic literature and young adult literature. Long before *The Hunger Games* became a phenomenon, the BHS Librarians picked up the buzz from library colleagues and read it. We quickly shopped it to individual students, teachers and classes. It's great to be ahead of the curve, but it isn't easy. I read reviews, discuss books with students, visit book stores and the Young Adult room at the public library, and attend the annual Massachusetts Library Association conference. **But, I have never had the opportunity to immerse myself in a conference where the sole topic is young adult literature.**

b. How have your education, training, and/or classroom experiences prompted the interest or need for this project?

I have taken several graduate level courses devoted to children's and YA literature. I work with BHS students, on a daily basis, either individually or in classes, to help them choose books for recreational and/or assigned reading. There has been a steady increase in the number of English and Social Studies (historical fiction)

teachers who are asking students to choose independent reading books. As school librarians, one of our roles is to provide a collection that is current, popular and well written, in order to appeal to our diverse population of student readers.

4. Project Description

Describe the structure of this grant. What is your time frame? When and where will you be working? With whom will you work? You may include copies of supporting material (e.g., conference brochure, tour itinerary).

- November 1st fly to St. Louis, attend opening evening meeting
- November 2nd-4th participate in Symposium: The Future of Young Adult Literature: Hit Me with the Next Big Thing
- Mid November: share ideas with BHS Librarians and decide which titles to order for our collection
- January: after new books have arrived, present to faculty at a library Brown Bag Lunch. Share new titles with students. Incorporate titles into book talks.
- Present titles at district wide librarians meeting
- Integrate new titles into existing genre bibliographies
- Promote titles on our library website

Symposium Description:

“YALSA’s 2012 Young Adult Literature Symposium will gather together librarians, educators, authors and publishers to explore what lies ahead for young adult literature, including trends in content, format and interaction. In an era where trends can rise and fall in the blink of an eye, how do we find the next Big Thing? How will the changing face of today’s teen drive changes in content? What, besides words, will be in the digital future of young adult literature? Can looking into the past of the genre help us determine where we might be headed in the years to come? What factors play a role in determining what will become the Next Big Thing? Join YALSA as we explore what the future has in store for young adult literature and what or who may transform it.” (<http://yalitsymposium12.ning.com/>)

5. Impact

Describe as specifically as possible the impact of the work you propose:

- On Yourself - How do you expect this project will change you as an educator? How might this work impact future professional activities?

I fully expect this project to further energize my enthusiasm for quality YA literature and to give me additional tools to help me introduce the right book to the reluctant as well as the ready, reader. As for the future, I believe this symposium may offer me the kick in the pants I need to become more involved in the work of YALSA. This may take the form of writing book reviews or starting a BHS student YALSA group.

- On Your Colleagues - What impact will your project have on your professional community either directly or indirectly?

Presenting to district librarians will facilitate sharing across grade levels and schools about our YA collections. Formal and informal conversations with BHS English teachers will help foster a deeper understanding of the young adult novel and the role it can play in a student’s development as a reader and as a person. Give mini booktalks to BHS librarians so that they may also use the best of the best in their work with classes and students.

- On Your Students - How will your students benefit from this project in the short or long term?

Shiny new books, backed by enthusiastic librarians, for all readers!

6. Evaluation and Dissemination

How will you evaluate the success of the project? For example, will you create a before and after study, conduct a survey, collect and examine work products, engage in peer observation, write personal reflections, solicit feedback from colleagues and/or parents, or design some other form of evaluation of your project?

I will write personal reflections based on conversations with students and presentations to classes. Students will be encouraged to write book reviews for our catalog. Circulation statistics for new titles will be generated.

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 Budget and Finances Section

Expense	Purpose	Cost
Consultant		
Materials and Supplies		
Travel*	Round trip airfare (fare alert has been set up to monitor change in price)	\$370.00
Conference Fee	Registration	\$350.00
Other	Double occupancy hotel room for three nights @ \$60.00	\$180.00
Substitutes**(please indicate days/hours needed; might be part of total cost)		
TOTAL		\$907.00

*** Single rooms are acceptable if preferred by the applicant.**

****The BEF's ability to pay for subs is limited; requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis.**

Please be as specific as possible.

Finances

a. Will there be additional funding from other sources? No

b. Are resources needed to continue the work of the project after the Brookline Education Foundation funding ends? If yes, please describe how these resources will be obtained. If no, please describe how the work of the project will be funded or continued after completion of funding by the Brookline Education Foundation.

The work of this project will continue and be absorbed into my everyday teaching.

c. Do you foresee any potential challenges /obstacles and, if so, what is your strategy for dealing with them should they occur?

The only challenge I foresee is not having enough time in the day to read all of the new books that I will be interested in.

d. Will you be able to complete the project if only partial funding is available? ___Yes x No

If only partial funding is available, would you be able to redesign the project? ___Yes x No

Please explain:

e. For groups of three or more educators applying together: If the BEF can fund only a subset of your group, is there a reason this would pose a problem for you? ___Yes ___No

Please explain:

- f. If you are applying for the Charlie Baker Legacy Award (fully described in the Call for Proposals), please indicate how the additional \$1,000 would extend and/or enrich your project. Please limit your response to one page.