

Member Spotlight – Brooke Eisenbach

The Bio: I've been an educator for 17 years (and counting), first as a middle school ELA teacher and now a teacher educator within the undergraduate education program at Lesley University where I teach courses in middle and high school education, young adult literature, general education and serve as practicum supervisor for pre-service ELA teachers. I also conduct research and engage in writing that centers on the middle level learner experience in virtual learning, as well as the role of adolescent literature in expanding adolescent mental health literacy. I co-authored *Developing adolescent literacy in the online classroom: Strategies for all content areas* and have a forthcoming co-edited text *Fostering mental health literacy through adolescent literature*.

A Favorite Book: I wish I could provide a single title, but the truth is I am absolutely enamored with the power of voice and story shared throughout contemporary adolescent literature. I love everything from graphic novels to realistic fiction to memoirs to poetry (and everything in between)! I am drawn to the recent work of #OwnVoices (see the work of Corinne Duyvis), #WeNeedDiverseBooks (see We Need Diverse Books nonprofit organization) and #Disrupt Texts (see the work of Tricia Ebarvia, Lorena Germán, Dr. Kimberly N. Parker and Julia E. Torres) as a means of encouraging teachers to implement diverse titles, identities and experiences within the ELA classroom. I also engage preservice teachers in reading and reflecting upon the work of Bettina Love, Ghody Muhhammad, Cornelius Minor and Alex Shevrin Venet in considering their work in antiracist education and trauma-informed practice in the classroom.



An Influence: I can still remember the first day I attended a Middle School Education course at the University of South Florida as an undergraduate more than 20 years ago. The course professor, Dr. Pat Daniel Jones, radiated passion for middle level education. I wholeheartedly believed I wanted to teach high school, but that all changed in 14 weeks as Pat shared her wisdom, joy and belief in the potential that lies within each young adolescent learner. Now, I seek out ways of sharing my belief in the power of middle level education with future teachers.

A Go-to Strategy: Strategies shift from course to course and semester to semester. However, a constant is the desire to model pedagogical approaches and tools that my preservice teachers can adapt and modify. We break down each activity and discuss ways they might be able to make it work for the students in their classroom space.

Something Personal: I love kickboxing! A few years ago, I was searching for a way to keep my body active and relieve stress in a healthy and productive way. I discovered cardio kickboxing. It gets me off the couch and moving. You should try it!