

# Small Grant Sample-YA Literature: Diverse Voices

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*2025 Fall Grant Cycle-SAMPLE*

***Jane Applicant***

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## Grant Project Information

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### Grant Abstract\*

Provide a short summary paragraph of your grant project. For examples, see the grant summaries on our [website](#).

This grant will fund course resources and an author visit to support a new full year course offering for 12th graders entitled “YA Literature: Diverse Voices” where students will challenge the focus on normative identities in literature. The following is the course description that appears in Needham High School’s Program of Studies:

In this full-year, 12th grade English course, students will explore literary narratives written for and/or marketed to young adults. Students will read and analyze contemporary young adult (YA) novels that are diverse in authorship, protagonists, themes, and genres, with specific attention given to the voices of those who have been marginalized or ignored. Texts will include complex human dilemmas, along with compelling, disconcerting characters, and challenge readers to re-examine their understanding of the world. This is a single block, four credit course that fulfills the senior year English requirement.

### Grant Project Details\*

Describe the details of your project. How will the grant funds be used?

*Note: Grants cannot be funded without a detailed plan of action and an explanation of the budget items.*

Grant funds will be allocated towards acquiring new course titles, along with three instructional volumes aimed at enhancing students’ learning experience. I am seeking texts to aid in creating a curriculum map that fosters student empowerment and expands opportunities for students to appreciate the significance of diverse voices and experiences. The author visit funds will offer students a unique opportunity to delve deeper into themes, perspectives, and the motivations behind the work. It also provides a platform for students to ask questions, show their insights, and connect personally with the author’s message, thereby creating a richer and more meaningful learning environment.

Graphic novels serve as an invaluable resource for fostering literacy skills, critical thinking, creativity, and cultural awareness among students. When studying a work like Laura Dean Keeps Breaking Up With Me, students will be able to investigate representations of girlhood in YA literature and LGBTQIA+ representation, and Lunar New Year Love Story will allow students to investigate the challenges for refugee and immigrant families. Firekeeper’s Daughter and Saints of the Household will give students the opportunity to explore the lack of Indigenous and Latinx representation in mainstream YA literature and popular culture. Saints of the Household, written in verse, provides students with a new way into the curriculum. These texts not only provide diverse perspectives and enhance engagement but also promote accessibility because of the unique and multimodal format.

The three teaching volumes will help students gain a deeper understanding of multicultural YA literature and develop enhanced skills for critically evaluating and appreciating the complexities of diverse narratives.

Furthermore, I aim to obtain funding to facilitate an author visit with Ari Tison, author of Saints of the Household. This visit will provide a space for students to talk directly with the author to discuss Indigenous and Latinx representation, how different genres and narrative styles attract a wide range of readers, and the power of the verse novel in YA literature.

## Grant Support\*

List the names of the people who support this project or will be involved in its implementation, including their role/title.

*Note: If the grant targets more than one school, include the people at each school who support or will be involved in the grant implementation.*

[name], NHS Principal, has, along with the High School Leadership Team, endorsed this important course that will work to advance the district's work that focuses on diversity, equity, and inclusion.

[name], English Department Chair, enthusiastically supports this grant and will continue to serve as a consultant in course design, recruitment, and implementation.

[name], NHS Librarian, has been (and will continue to be) an invaluable consultant for the course vision and book list.

## Grant Timeline\*

List the timeline of activities related to your grant project, as specifically as you can.

Summer 2024: Curriculum work and design

Fall 2024: Launch course & author visit

## Project End Date\*

Enter the date when you expect that your grant project will be complete, including the ordering of any materials, implementation of the grant, and sufficient time to evaluate the results.

*Note: The project end date must be no more than **one year** from the grant deadline.*

02/01/2026

## Grant Project Information - Non-Express Grants

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### Grant Connection to NEF Mission\*

Describe why you think this project aligns with the NEF's mission to promote innovation and enrichment in the Needham Public Schools. **How is it innovative and/or enriching?** Click [here](#) for examples of what we mean by innovative or enriching.

Creating inclusive, challenging, interactive learning environments is imperative for nurturing students' intellectual, social-emotional, and interpersonal well being. This course's goal is to offer students a brave space to challenge the single stories schools and curricula have told about books, characters, contemporary issues, and cultural groups. Students will read YA literature by and about people from various populations that have been traditionally underrepresented, and in a format that is creative and an accessible way to meet the needs of learners. This course incorporates a variety of perspectives and encourages student choice with a culturally responsive approach. It serves as an excellent means to validate the identities and voices of all students.

## Grant Connection to Curriculum/Priorities\*

Describe how this project connects to the curriculum or to the school and/or district-wide priorities.

The following are the course's objectives, with a focus on the Portrait of a Needham Graduate competencies:

- Explore the history of YA literature and some of the contemporary issues within the field, such as representation and censorship, to raise questions driven by curiosity and become creative thinkers and problem solvers.
- Determine the potential that different genres and narrative styles have to attract a wide range of readers within YA and work to articulate our own ideas using a variety of communication strategies and skills.
- Read diverse YA novels through a sociocultural analytical lens and think critically about how the texts speak to representations of identity/ies, single and counter stories, stereotypes, privilege and marginalization to become socially and culturally responsive contributors.
- Analyze the characters within YA novels and how they overcome physical and emotional challenges to then reflect on our own personal choices as they relate to being responsible and resilient individuals.
- Gain a deeper understanding of YA literature's potential to validate various ways of existing in society by reading, collaborating, and leaning into self-directed learning to become empowered learners.

## Project Budget

Fill in the project budget below with all planned expenses. (NEW! The grant budget is now embedded in the grant application.)

### Budget Instructions:

1. Enter each budget item under the appropriate category (see descriptions below).
2. Describe each item, including the cost breakdown, and the total amount (see examples below).
3. The category subtotals and total grant budget will be calculated automatically.
4. If you have more items than the budget space allows, summarize the items in the budget and upload a detailed breakdown/invoice in the File Attachments section below.

### Category Definitions:

- **Stipends** - A stipend is an hourly or daily fee paid to an individual for their time. Examples include NPS teacher curriculum development time, outside guest time, or support staff time (a/v, custodian, installer).
- **Materials** - Resources or supplies such as books, games, manipulatives, consumable materials, building materials, handouts, or software. Make sure to include shipping costs.
- **Equipment** - Technology, electronics, outdoor equipment, storage, or durable items. Make sure to include shipping costs.
- **Fees** - The total cost of bringing an outside guest (performer, speaker, author, musician, artist, etc.) to Needham if they don't break down their hourly/daily rate. This section can also include other fees such as: police/fire details, honoraria, admission/tour fees, non-PD training, and subscriptions.
- **Professional Development** - Professional development fees include tuition, registration, economy travel using NPS guidelines, and associated materials.
- **Other** - All other expenses that don't fit in the previous categories.

### Budget Examples:

- **Stipends** - Social Studies teacher- curriculum development time // 2 days at \$205/day // \$410
- **Materials** - Lego Animal Set // 5 at \$26 each // \$130
- **Equipment** - Shure SM58 microphones // 9 at \$99 each // \$891
- **Fees** - Visit fee for Author Jane Smith // \$300 per workshop x 5 workshops // \$1500
- **Professional Development** - Conference Registration fees for 3 people // \$400 early-bird registration fee x 3 // \$1200
- **Other** - Freight shipping // \$499
- **Large Orders** - Materials // 95 picture books // See separate invoice // \$2555 (note: attach an invoice showing the book titles and number of copies of each in the File Attachment section below)

*Note: Make sure to include all relevant expenses, such as shipping costs. Once a grant is awarded, the funding amount is final.*

Budget Category	Item Description	Cost Breakdown	Item Amount
Stipend 1			
Stipend 2			
Stipend 3			
Stipend 4			
Stipend 5			
Subtotal: Stipend Category			
Material 1	Laura Dean Keeps Breaking Up With Me by Mariko Tamaki	55 copies at \$14.43	\$793.65
Material 2	Lunar New Year Love Story by Gene Luen Yang & Leuyen Pham	55 copies at \$13.48	\$741.40
Material 3	Firekeeper's Daughter by Angeline Boulley	55 copies at \$11.73	\$645.15
Material 4	Saints of the Household by Ari Tison	55 copies at \$18.29	\$1,005.95
Material 5	Engaging with Multicultural YA Literature in the Secondary Classroom: Critical Approaches for Critical Educators by Ricki Ginsberg and Wendy Gleen	1 copy at \$56.95	\$56.95
Material 6	Teaching Culturally Sustaining and Inclusive Young Adult Literature: Critical Perspectives and Conversations by R. Joseph Rodriguez	1 copy at \$56.95	\$56.95

<b>Material 7</b>	Young Adult Literature and Adolescent Identity Across Cultures and Classrooms by Janet Alsup	1 copy at \$56.95	\$56.95
<b>Material 8</b>			
<b>Material 9</b>			
<b>Material 10</b>			
<b>Subtotal: Materials Category</b>			3357
<b>Equipment 1</b>			
<b>Equipment 2</b>			
<b>Equipment 3</b>			
<b>Equipment 4</b>			
<b>Equipment 5</b>			
<b>Equipment 6</b>			
<b>Equipment 7</b>			
<b>Equipment 8</b>			
<b>Equipment 9</b>			
<b>Equipment 10</b>			
<b>Subtotal: Equipment</b>			

<b>Category</b>			
<b>Fees 1</b>	Ari Tison (Saints of the Household— author visit)	one workshop at \$500	\$500.00
<b>Fees 2</b>			
<b>Fees 3</b>			
<b>Fees 4</b>			
<b>Fees 5</b>			
<b>Subtotal: Fees Category</b>			500
<b>Professional Development 1</b>			
<b>Professional Development 2</b>			
<b>Professional Development 3</b>			
<b>Professional Development 4</b>			
<b>Professional Development 5</b>			
<b>Subtotal: PD Category</b>			
<b>Other 1</b>			



Other 2			
Other 3			
Subtotal: Other Category			
Total Grant Budget			3857

### Amount of Funding Requested?\*

Enter the Total Grant Budget amount from above, **ROUNDING UP** to the next whole dollar (e.g., \$3,514.35 should be rounded up to \$3,515).

*Note: This amount can be up to \$5,000 for Regular, Express, and Repeat Small Grants, up to \$3,000 per school for Multi-School Grants, and up to \$15,000 for Large Grants.*

\$3,857.00

### Used NPS-Approved Vendors\*

Are the goods or services in your budget available from NPS-approved vendors?

*Note: If not, understand that it can take additional time to complete the procurement process. Please factor this additional time into your project timeline and be aware that any requested goods or services may change to meet the NPS Business Office procurement procedures.*

Partially

### Non-NEF Funding

OPTIONAL: The NEF encourages you to seek funding from additional sources, particularly for items we do not fund. Enter a description of any additional sources and the amount of funding that has been secured.

Non-NEF Funding Source Description	Non-NEF Funding Amount