Pam Villanueva

"I just want my students to pick up a book they can't put down."

Age: 63
Location: Brunswick, ME
School: Brunswick Junior High School
Job Title: Language Arts Teacher

As a teacher at Brunswick Junior High School, Pam is passionate about getting her students hooked on reading. She sets aside fifteen minutes at the beginning of every day for silent reading —— but her seventh and eighth-graders are always telling her they need a new book that "isn't, like, boring." She tries to help, but with the number of students she teaches each year, it's impossible for her to keep every kid's tastes straight and give out good recommendations. Coming from rural Maine, she's wary of the technology and social media addiction of kids these days, so she doesn't want to introduce Goodreads or Facebook favorite books into class time. Too much technology will suck the focus away from reading!

Pam's Goals:
Pam needs a system for finding book recommendations for her students. She wants to be able to use it herself (without having to call Mike from IT to come help her figure out where to click). The kids should also be able to use it themselves outside her class if they want. Many of her students don't have long lists of favorite books or genres -- they just know a few books they liked -- so if she can find a system that can make recommendations based on that, then silent reading time can be as fun for the students as it is for her.