

**Gretchen Stulock (she/her), Teacher Librarian**

Ms. Stulock has taught English for a decade and recently decided to shift her attention to her passion – libraries! This is her 6th year at Castle View and she loves how innovative and creative the faculty and students are at CV.



**Fill in the blank... reading is:** essential for building and maintaining democracy!

**Favorite genre:** Literary fiction! I love a contemporary novel that has gorgeous prose, stylistic features that I can reference in my AP Literature class, and whose characters are relevant, relatable, and flawed.

**Most underrated resource libraries offer:** Douglas County School District and Libraries provide so many incredible databases for students. Our students have access to some of the most reputable research resources available.

**What books are on your nightstand right now?** I keep my "To Be Read" (TBR) books on their own bookcase, so my nightstand has some of my "comfort" books. Right now that stack includes: *The Art of Gathering* by Priya Parker, *Gmorning, Gnight!* by Lin Manuel Miranda, *Goodbye, again* by Jonny Sun, *For Every One* by Jason Reynolds, and *The Lives We Actually Have: 100 Blessings for Imperfect Days* by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie.

**One book that changed your worldview?** Despite being a literature teacher, I love reading nonfiction. I'm into investigative journalism and stories about whistleblowers – there's something thrilling about a story about power and justice. A favorite recently was the exhaustively researched *Empire of Pain: The Secret History of the Sackler Dynasty* by Patrick Radden Keefe. It chronicles the rise and fall of the Sackler family and their direct role in the American opioid epidemic. It was gripping and an incredible piece of research.

**Favorite podcasts:** For news: *The Daily* from The New York Times. For comfort: *Home Cooking* by Samin Nosrat and Hrishikesh Hirway. For learning: *Here's Where It Gets Interesting* by Sharon McMahon. For reflection: *Unlocking Us* by Brené Brown.

**Favorite bookstore:** Locally, the Tattered Cover! But when I travel, this is one of my favorite ways to see a city. A few years ago, friends and I planned a "bookstore" tour of Chicago and it was a fantastic way to see different neighborhoods.

**Something students might not know about me:** I'm a huge foodie. I love gardening and cooking! I love spicy food. I don't have pets but have a lemon tree named Penelope and a lime tree named Ramon.

**Abbi Bay (she/her), Library Assistant**

Mrs. Bay worked in the counseling office for 6 years at CVHS and is now back in the building in the library! She is so happy to be back, and is thrilled to be working in the library. Reading is her passion and this role is a dream come true.



**Favorite genre:** YA, romance, literary fiction, and sometimes mystery! I've recently also gotten back into reading fantasy, which was intimidating for me but has been fun to try again.

**Fill in the blank... reading is:** for me, both an escape and a mirror. When I need a break from my own life, reading offers me a healthy form of escapism, where I can learn about new things or just enjoy a story that makes me happy. It's also a way for me to reflect on myself, when I see myself in fictional characters and how that helps me process things in my own life.

**What books are on your nightstand right now?** *Alone With You In The Ether* by Olivie Blake, *Hello Beautiful* by Ann Napolitano, *The Man Who Died Twice* by Richard Osman (the second in a series that I love!) and *Flamer* by Henry Holt (a graphic novel I've heard great things about!)

**First book that made you fall in love with reading?** When I was 13 I read *The Truth About Forever* by Sarah Dessen and it completely opened up my world. I was always an avid reader as a kid (Judy Blume and Beverly Cleary were my favorites) but when I read *The Truth About Forever* it renewed my love of reading. I've read that book countless times since then and it's my ultimate comfort story.

**One book that changed your worldview?** *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi. It's a story that covers an enormous span of time, and examines the history of enslavement and its systemic effects even years down the road. It was an incredible read and I still think about it constantly, even now years after I first read it.

**Favorite reading atmosphere:** My ideal reading atmosphere is a comfy chair in the late afternoon with nothing but the 2005 *Pride and Prejudice* score playing in the background. But my typical reading atmosphere is just in my bedroom, reading by the light of my kindle, where I've stayed up way too late to finish a book.

**Favorite literary character:** Emma Woodhouse from *Emma* by Jane Austen, and Peeta Mellark from *The Hunger Games*!

**Favorite bookstore:** I love the Tattered Cover, and more recently I've been shopping at Sudden Fiction in downtown Castle Rock!

**Favorite podcasts:** This American Life, Criminal, Normal Gossip, and Game of Roses!

**Something students might not know about me:** I own a handmade jewelry business called By Bay Jewelry and all of the jewelry is named after literary characters!



## **Gillian Blake (She/Her), Library Specialist**

Mrs. Blake is an avid reader and is excited to join the CVHS library team! She enjoys working with young people, which has been a common theme throughout her past work experience in social services, Girl Scouts, and with community college students. Mrs. Blake spends her time skiing with her family and reading while hanging out with her pets.



**Favorite genre:** High Fantasy, Historical Fiction, and Mysteries. Diving into a high fantasy world is my favorite way to spend my time reading. They can be a lot to take in and retain though, so I like to take breaks in between series by reading mysteries, thrillers, historical fiction, and any other recommendations before starting the next epic story.

**Most underrated resource libraries offer:** Alternative formats to information. Alternative formats (audio, large print, e-books, etc.) can help facilitate success during the learning process by supporting individual learning styles and preferences.

**Fill in the blank... reading is:** for everyone and enables the exploration of information.

**Something students might not know about me:** I have dual citizenship with Ireland! My Dad was first generation American and after my family was reacquainted with aunts, uncles, and cousins in Ireland my parents applied for dual citizenship. My Mom now spends half the year at her home in Ireland and we travel to visit every few years.

**What books are on your nightstand right now?** While most of my reading is in eBook format, I always keep a stack of physical books by my bed that I read simultaneously. Right now, those books consist of: *The Storyteller: Tales of Life and Music*, by Dave Grohl; *The House in the Cerulean Sea*, by TJ Klune; and *The Ten Thousand Doors of January*, by Alex E. Harrow.

**First book that made you fall in love with reading?** When I was about 13 years old, I found a random paperback copy of *Watership Down* by Richard Adams in a bookstore. My Dad's best friend (a ferocious reader) gifted it to me for my birthday resulting in my love of reading and the fantasy genre.

**One book that changed your worldview?** *Shogun* by James Clavel changed my worldview for two reasons. The first is that this book is complicated and lengthy, requiring patience to fall into the story and the rhythm of the writing, but pays off in the end. Second, it is a story about two very different cultures colliding, demonstrating how differing perspectives can build knowledge and understanding.