My school is full of amazing teachers who truly care about their students, so choosing just one to discuss was incredibly difficult. The one who has made the biggest impact on my life, though, is Mrs. Haden. She taught my Honors English class last year and my AP Literature class this year, and is a huge part of the reason why I am going to school to become an English teacher myself. English and Literature have always been my favorite subjects, but the way Mrs. Haden teaches it goes above and beyond what is expected. She always makes sure each student understands what she’s teaching, even if that means she has to literally crawl on the floor to make her point (yes, she actually does this). She is the epitome of fantastic teaching and, in my opinion, is what every teacher should strive to be.

Mrs. Haden loves being an educator. It is certainly not a job that one does just for the money. She has said to our class many times that she could be doing something else in a more intensive field, where she would be making more money, but chooses not to because she believes she can really make a difference in our school. She has done this by starting a reading club at our school to keep kids reading books for their own enjoyment. Reading club has now been running for four years strong and is more successful than ever because of her efforts. Kids who were never readers outside of school now come every week to read and discuss books with the club, and it holds a book drive every year to donate books to those who need them.

Mrs. Haden is very committed to making sure her students are reaching their full potential. She is always giving me advice on what I should and shouldn’t do in my future teaching endeavors, making sure I am as prepared as I can possibly be when I’m out there in the real world. One student often gets stressed out about writing, to the point where she basically shuts down, but Mrs. Haden sits with her and talks her through everything to get her thoughts organized. By the end of the class, she is ready to write her paper and feels a million times better. Another student this year mentioned that they weren’t taking the AP test at the end of the year, and Mrs. Haden actually offered to pay their test fee because she knows that student would be successful. She knows what we can do and believes that we can do it. That is why she will do anything to help us succeed. It is this selflessness and absolute care for her students that I one day hope to mirror in my own teaching.