Hi! I am Kate Gallego, teacher of 3rd and 4th grade at Beyond the Books. I started my career in education over 10 years ago but have always had the mindset and heart to be a teacher as long as I can remember. I graduated from Montclair State University in 2013 with my degree in Early Childhood Education. While studying to become a teacher, I worked at the on-site daycare as an early education assistant and gained hands-on experience from many of my mentors. After graduating I took a job at a private preschool as the lead teacher and was promoted to assistant director. I then got married to my husband Juan and we had our twin girls, Maya and Ella. I was fortunate enough to be able to stay home with my children for many years but it also meant I had to leave the classroom for a bit. Once the twins were older and in school themselves I got a job as a Kindergarten teacher in Marlboro. I loved being back in the classroom! Then we were surprised with another little one to love, our son Maximo! I decided to extend my leave with him for longer during Covid and now I'm ready to come back better than ever. My girls just finished 3rd grade and are entering 4th, so I am super prepared! I'm excited to start fresh and create new beginnings with each and every one of you. I am so excited and thankful for this learning journey that we are about to embark on together!