

Battle of the Books

2018-19 Rules

The Battle of the Books is a voluntary reading incentive program for students in grades 4-8. The purpose is simply to encourage students to read good books and have fun while competing with peers. Interested students will be divided into eight teams. Teams will be formed in November. Team meetings will begin after being contacted by team coaches.

Each Battle of the Books team will complete in one written battle and at least four oral battles. Teams will be seeded following the written battle. Teams will be re-seeded for the tournament following the pool play. The tournament is single-elimination.

The school library has multiple copies of each book for teams to use. All books must be turned in at the end of the Battle of the Books. The public library may also be a good resource.

Written Battle

The written battle will consist of 18 questions – one question from each book. Each question is worth 3 points. Correctly providing the name of the author is worth 1 additional point. Each team will be seated together at a round table. Each team will be given an answer sheet to record their answers to the written battle, as well as scrap paper and pens. The teams should feel free to bring decorations, if they want. No other materials will be allowed at the table. All teams will participate in the written battle.

Seeding (for Pool Play)

Each team will be seeded depending on their score from the written battle. The team which scores the most points will be seeded as Team 1, etc. The teams will be placed in two divisions. One division will include the teams finishing as follows in the written battle: 1st, 4th, 5th, and 8th. The other division will include the teams finishing as follows in the written battle: 2nd, 3rd, 6th, and 7th. In the event of a tie in the written battle, a coin flip will determine seeding for pool play.

Oral Battles

Each oral battle will consist of 36 questions, two questions for each book. Prior to each question, the book will be identified and the team which will be answering the question will be asked for the author's name. A spokesperson should be selected so no premature answers are provided. Answers will be time limited as the battle will be completed in 30 minutes. If the team provides the name of the author correctly, the team receives one point. If they do not provide the name of the author correctly, the other team MAY NOT receive any points for providing the name of the author. Questions will alternate between teams. Thus, one team will answer all odd numbered questions and other team will answer all even numbered questions. If the team answers their question correctly, they get three points. If they are unable to answer the question correctly, the other team has a chance to "steal the question" by answering it correctly. If the team that steals the question answers the question correctly, they receive 2 points. After a team successfully steals a question, that same team receives the next question because the question stolen would have been the other team's question.

Pool Play

During pool play, each team will have a total of three oral battles, one battle with each of the other three teams in its division. Again, the teams may bring decorations to the battles. No other materials will be allowed at the table during oral battles. The win/loss record and total points will be used to determine the seeding for the tournament.

Second Seeding (for Tournament)

Following pool play, the teams will be re-seeded based upon win/loss record from pool play and total points. The team with the best win/loss record and most total points will be seeded as Team 1, etc.. In the event of a tie after pool play, a coin flip will determine seeding for the tournament.

Tournament

The tournament is a single-elimination tournament. A team must win their battle to continue on in the tournament. All battles during the tournament are oral battles. The last two remaining teams will play the final battle.

Prizes

Each student that participates in the Battle of the Books will receive a prize. Additional prizes will be awarded (Winning team, top readers, etc.)

Schedule

Teams will form in November. Coaches will be contacted with team information so they can begin their meetings. The schedules will be sent out in November with the battle and tournament dates.

Students are encouraged to begin reading now!

Contact Linda McGregor with any questions.

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