

2025 Battle of the Books

Tips for Coaches

What Is Your Role?

- ❑ Point of contact for me. If I need any missing registration information or want to share any updates or announcements, I will contact you, and then you will inform the rest of the team and the parents of the 5th graders.
- ❑ Give guidance – this is a program for 5th graders, not adults. While you are there to supervise, 5th graders should be making sure they read, study, and strategize – it’s their event.
- ❑ Keep the team on track – help with time management and realistic goals
- ❑ Help source books, costumes, information – help with logistics (meetings, carpool, book checkout), keep up to date with any information the library needs. Costume creation should also be a 5th grader task – just remember it should be school appropriate and the team name or costume should not include any **battle book** references.
- ❑ I will send an email in March asking for coaches to volunteer to collect answer sheets and supervise 5th graders on battle day. Please consider helping as it makes the battle run smoothly and efficiently.

Prepare

- ❑ Help your team come up with a reading strategy
 - How many team members will read how many books?
 - We recommend each book is read by at least two team members – but this doesn’t necessarily work for every team.
 - Whatever the strategy, make sure the team members who read the books take good notes and share with the rest of the team
- ❑ Ask another parent to read the books. Come up with some sample questions.
- ❑ Share sample questions with 5th graders, encourage them to write their own questions as they read.
- ❑ Encourage 5th graders to take notes as they read – write down good quotes, take note of important scenes, get a feel for characters, understand the overall message or lesson of the book.

- Don't forget to study the bookmark – these are acceptable answers for the actual battle.

The Battle

- 📄 Hart Middle School gymnasium – Saturday, March 8 at 2 pm. You may enter the gym starting at 1:30 (teams/spectators will not be permitted entry before 1:30). You should arrive no later than 1:45. We try to have as efficient of a battle as we can.
- 📄 Teams may bring something to sit on (cushions or blankets, no chairs). **Nothing else will be permitted on the gym floor – no phones, books, notes, paper, pencils, snacks or drinks (per RHS rules). If we see anything that appears to give your team an unfair advantage, you will be asked to put it away, off the floor. Just bring yourself.**
- 📄 There will be a sign with the team name attached to the floor. The team should sit in front of the sign.
- 📄 Your team will have a clipboard and numbered answer sheet and a handful of pencils. The team name is at the top.
- 📄 Coach volunteers are the only adults permitted on the gym floor. All spectators will sit in the bleachers – feel free to bring signs and cheer!
- 📄 The battle will begin at 2 pm.
- 📄 There are 50 questions total. 25 questions – a 10 minute break – 25 more questions.
- 📄 In the interest of time, the break is only 10 minutes. I will make an announcement at 5 minutes and 1 minute before we begin again. If you have snacks or drinks you may eat them during break in the hallway (per RCS rules).
- 📄 5th graders may use the bathroom at any time. No need to ask permission.
- 📄 We need your assistance to keep the battle to a reasonable time. Help encourage teams to quiet down and pay attention. We aim to finish by 4 pm at the *latest*.

Questions

- 📄 There are 50 questions total.
 - We will announce, and repeat, the question number.

- o We will read the question - slowly and clearly - twice.
 - o Teams will have 30 seconds to discuss (quietly) and write the answer. We will give a 5 second warning.
- ☒ The answer to each question is the title and the author of the book we are referencing. Good handwriting and spelling are important – we need to know what you’re writing and we need to respect author names.
 - ☒ Questions are presented in one of three formats:
 - o “In which book would you find the following quote?” (Followed by dialogue or monologue from a character.)
 - o “In which book would you find the following passage?” (Followed by a selection of prose or narrative.)
 - o “In which book do you learn - or - are you shown - or - does the main character learn,” (Followed by a lesson or a major theme of the book in question.)
 - ☒ Trivial questions will not be asked. Character or place names will not be included in the question. We may ask questions about illustrations if they are included in the book.
 - ☒ Some questions can be tricky – it is important to listen to the whole question before answering.

Scoring

- ☒ There is a total of 100 possible points. Teams will earn:
 - o 1 point if they write the correct title
 - o 1 point if they write the correct author
- ☒ When the battle is over and all answers are collected, we take them back to the library to be scored. Scoring/scores will not be addressed at the battle.
- ☒ If there is a tie for first place, we will hold a tie-breaker before the awards ceremony on Monday night. Tied teams will be notified to arrive early.
- ☒ Scores/winners will not be announced ahead of time. Winners are announced at the awards ceremony. *(I may call you Saturday night if I think you should make sure you attend the ceremony.)*
- ☒ All scores will be posted at the end of the awards ceremony in alphabetical order. The important part of the battle is that your 5th grader had fun and read books. Please remember that the purpose of this program is to have fun and read. Scores are not a measure of success for every 5th grader.

AWARDS CEREMONY

- 📌 Monday, March 10 at 6 pm – Hart Middle School gymnasium
- 📌 Teams may bring something to sit on (cushions or blankets, no chairs). **Nothing else will be permitted on the gym floor – no phones, books, notes, paper, pencils, snacks or drinks (per RCS rules). If we see anything that appears to give your team an unfair advantage, you will be asked to put it away, off the floor. Just bring yourself.**
- 📌 There will be a sign with the team name attached to the floor. The team should sit in front of the sign.
- 📌 Teams should come in costume (if they made one for battle).
- 📌 Each team will be called up alphabetically to receive a certificate and small prize – this is a great opportunity to take photos.
- 📌 In addition to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place, we will announce the 3 winners of best costume, best team name, and best display of sportsmanship.
- 📌 We appreciate your help in trying to make the awards ceremony brief and fun. Please remind your 5th grader to listen to directions and be respectful of other teams.
- 📌 First place winners will have their names engraved on a plaque to be placed in the library in the spring.

Anything Else?

- 📌 Please make sure teams and all team information is finalized by Saturday, February 3.
 - o We need: Team name, coach name, coach contact info, school name, first and last name of every team member, and a **-valid-** library card number of at least one team member. The library card must belong to the participant.
- 📌 Attend the coach meeting on Saturday, December 14 at 11:00 am at RHPL.
- 📌 Email wendy.lehman@rhpl.org with any questions.