

# THE 2019 BATTLE OF THE BOOKS

## TIPS FOR COACHES

### WHAT IS YOUR ROLE?

- Give guidance – this is a program for 5<sup>th</sup> graders, not adults. While you are there to supervise, 5<sup>th</sup> 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, carpools, book checkout), keep up to date with any information the library needs. Costume creation should also be a 5<sup>th</sup> grader task – just remember it should be school appropriate and should not include any **battle book** references.

### 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 5<sup>th</sup> graders, encourage them to write their own questions as they read.
- Encourage 5<sup>th</sup> 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

- Adams High gymnasium – Saturday, March 9 at 2pm. You may enter the gym starting at 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**

**AHS rules). This goes for coaches as well. If we see anything that appears to give you an unfair advantage, you will be asked to put it away, off the floor. Just bring yourself.**

- There will be a folding chair with the team name attached. The team should sit in front of the chair on the floor.
- Your team will have a clipboard with 50 answer sheets and a handful of pencils. The team name is at the top, as well as a space to fill in title and author. Teams will number their own score sheets.
- Coaches 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 2pm. At the start, I will ask each coach to stand, and move two seats behind them. This way the battle is fair, and each team has adult supervision. If your team has two coaches, you may switch at the break.
- There are 50 questions total. 25 questions – a 15 minute break – 25 more questions.
- In the interest of time, the break is only 15 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 AHS rules).
- 5<sup>th</sup> 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 the team you are sitting with quiet down and pay attention. We aim to finish by 4pm at the latest.

## QUESTIONS

- There are 50 questions total.
  - We will announce, and repeat, the question number.
  - We will read the question - slowly and clearly - twice.
  - Teams will have 30 seconds to discuss (quietly) and write the answer. We will give a 5 second warning.
  - When teams are finished writing, fold the answer sheet **in half** and hold it up. No need to wave it around or shout.
  - When "time's up!" is announced, 5<sup>th</sup> graders must raise their answer sheets to be collected.
  - We will announce the answer only after all answer sheets are collected.
- 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:
  - “In which book would you find the following quote?” (Followed by dialogue or monologue from a character.)
  - “In which book would you find the following passage?” (Followed by a selection of prose or narrative.)
  - “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:
  - 2 points if they write the correct title and author
  - 1 point if they write the correct title and incorrect author or no author
  - 0 points if they write the incorrect or no title regardless of correct author
- We announce the answer after every question is handed in so teams have an idea of how they are doing.
- 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> grader.

## AWARDS CEREMONY

- Monday, March 11 at 6pm – Stoney Creek High School Auditorium

- Teams will be seated together in the front of the auditorium by ushers. Parents and coaches will sit in the back – there is very limited space, so we very much appreciate your cooperation with this seating arrangement
- Teams should come in costume (if they made one for battle).
- Each team will be called on stage alphabetically to receive a certificate and small prize – this is a great opportunity to take photos. (Tip: If they're not called in alpha order, we didn't miss them – they probably won something).
- In addition to 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 February 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - 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 every team member. The library card **MUST** belong to the participant.
- Email [betsy.rackowski@rhpl.org](mailto:betsy.rackowski@rhpl.org) with any questions.