

Battle of the Books

Coaches Duties and Hints

First of all, thank you for coaching a Battle team. The kids simply cannot do this alone. You are like the football coach on the sidelines telling the kids how to play. The kids have to do all the work. They need some adult guidance along the way to their victory!

What does a coach do?

Step 1: You help them split up the list fairly. On a following page, there is a list of books and the reading levels to make it easier to divide the books. Each student should only have to read 10 books.

Step 2: Over the first several weeks, you don't have much to do. Just have the students checking with each other occasionally to make sure they are all reading. You might call them once a week or so and check on what book they are on and make sure they are not having any delays or troubles.

Step 3: I consider Spring Break to be the "halfway" spot for Battle. At this point each student should be at least halfway through their list. I will encourage them to use this week to catch up if needed.

Step 4: After Spring Break is when I suggest that you begin meeting with the whole team. Once a week would be more than enough and you might be able to get away with less. This is not a "have to", but it is my suggestion.

Step 5: Another piece to the Battle is the Battle Banners. Each team needs to make a banner with their team name and each member's name. There will be a contest to see which banner looks the best. The banner will be used during the battle to show which team is quizzing. You will need to help the team make their banner. More information about the banners is attached.

What to do at a meeting/how to help them prepare for the Battle:

1. Encourage each student to write a book report each time they finish a book. They can keep these in a folder for reference.
2. You can look at their book reports and come up with some questions for them. This is great practice!
3. They could look at each others reports and ask each other questions.
4. If you read some of the books yourself, you will be able to make up your own questions.
5. I highly recommend that each student get a folder/binder to keep all their book info together.
6. Have the students make flashcards for author/title of every book. This can also be used at a meeting to test them.
7. You might want to take meeting time to look over each student's reports and see if they give enough information. This information is very valuable at the end when they are done reading and needing to review.
8. Encourage each one of them to go over their book reports and their title/author cards at least once a week in addition to reading. Consistent review is much better than cramming at the end.
9. Make the meetings fun and something the kids want to come back to. Remember no stress! I don't want them stressing out over reading these books. This is a healthy competition that encourages them to read and stretch their learning. Do not pressure them unduly to perform. That will take away all learning moments. So plan some "fun time" at the end of the meeting to end on a happy note and to get them to focus during the meeting. This will also enhance their togetherness as a team and that does affect their performance. Have fun with them!

Sample Questions

I want to give you an idea of what kinds of questions we will ask at the Battle. Here are some questions from books that you may have read in your lifetime. 😊 See how many you know....

1. In which book is a character's life saved by the use of descriptive words?
2. In which book are five people invited into a factory?
3. In which book does a girl change her size by eating and drinking different things?

Well, what do you think? Hard? It is much harder when you don't have a list of 40 to pick from, but I wanted you to see what kinds of questions we will be asking. The answers are at the bottom.

1. Charlotte's Web (remember Charlotte the spider saved Wilbur the pig?)
2. Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
3. Alice in Wonderland

Now, if you only knew those answers because you watched the movie and never read the books, just don't tell me or your kids! Read the books! 😊

Battle of the Books 2008-2009 Banner Contest



You have a team name, now you need a Banner to display who you are!

The week before the Grand Battle, we will have a battle of another sort...choosing which team has the coolest banner. Banners from all of the teams will be displayed in the library and all students not participating in Battle of the Books will be given the opportunity to vote for their favorite banner. Prizes will be awarded to the team earning the most votes.

Here are the rules in a nutshell. If you have any questions, check with your campus Battle Coordinator.

1. Banners can be no larger than 4 feet long and 3 feet tall. Banners larger than this will be displayed, but will not be eligible for voting.
2. Work as a team on the design of the banner. Each team may enlist the help of their Team Coach, but at least 80% of the work and ideas should come from team members.
3. Each banner should display the team name and a design that you feel depicts the Battle of the Books, a specific title or your team name. Examples of other schools banners are at the top to spark your creativity.
4. Banners can be made out of any flexible material. This includes fabric, felt, paper, plastic, poster board or cardboard. However, keep in mind that your team banner will be displayed next to your team as you progress through each step of the Battle, so do your best to make it sturdy and durable as it is moved from place to place.
5. Each banner should be able to stand flat on an easel. If it is made out of fabric or paper and cannot stand on its own, you will need to incorporate a way to hang it, so that it can be properly displayed during the Battle.
6. Be creative! Include color and different types of media to catch people's eye. That could include anything from paint to fabric to paper to aluminum foil. The possibilities are endless!

Have Fun! Reading is a blast and can take you anywhere you want to go!

Title List

<u>Book Title</u>	<u>RL</u>	<u>Genre</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>pgs</u>
Boxcar Children, The	2.1	Fiction	Gertrude Warner	154
What are you so grumpy about?	2.2	Picture Book	Tom Lichtenheld	34
Freedom's Wings	3	Historical Fic	Sharon Dennis Wyeth	105
Sarah, Plain and Tall	3.4	Fiction	Patricia MacLachlan	58
Judy Moody Declares Independence	3.6	Humorous Fic	Megan MacDonald	144
Milkweed	3.6	Historical Fic	Jerry Spinelli	208
Bats at the Library	4	Picture Book	Brian Lies	30
Carry On, Mr. Bowditch	4.1	Biography	Jean Lee Latham	251
Ella Enchanted	4.2	Fantasy	Gail Carson Levine	238
39 Clues: The Maze of Bones	4.5	Realistic Fic	Rick Riordan	220
Granny Torrelli Makes Soup	4.5	Humorous Fic	Sharon Creech	141
Kenny and the Dragon	4.5	Humorous Fic	Tony DiTerlizzi	151
Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt	4.5	Picture Book	Deborah Hopkinson	33
Whipping Boy, The	4.5	Fiction	Sid Fleischman	90
Gabriel's Horses	4.6	Historical Fic	Alison Hart	149
Penderwicks, The	4.6	Realistic Fic	Jeanne Birdsall	262
Cay, The	4.7	Historical Fic	Theodore Taylor	137
Holy Enchilda	4.7	Humorous Fic	Henry Winkler	158
Miraculous Journey of Edward, The	4.9	Fiction	Kate DiCamillo	198
Afternoon of the Elves	5.1	Humorous Fic	Janet Taylor Lisle	122

Family Under the Bridge, The	5.1	Realistic Fic	Natalie Carlson	123
Invention of Hugo Cabret, The	5.1	Historical Fic	Brian Selznick	533
Mrs. Piggle Wiggle	5.2	Humorous Fic	Betty MacDonald	118
Peter and the Starcatchers	5.2	Fantasy	Ridley/Pearson	452
Raising Dragons	5.4	Fantasy	Bryan Davis	399
Tuck Everlasting	5.4	Realistic Fic	Natalie Babbitt	148
Weedflower	5.4	Historical Fic	Cynthia Kadohata	257
Messenger	5.5	Fantasy	Lois Lowry	169
Julie of the Wolves	5.6	Historical Fic	Jean Craighead George	170
Redwall	5.6	Fantasy	Brian Jacques	351
Book of the King, The	5.7	Fantasy	Jerry Jenkins/Chris Fabry	160
Lion, Witch and the Wardrobe, The	5.7	Fantasy	C.S. Lewis	206
Island: Shipwreck	5.9	Realistic Fic	Gordon Korman	129
Tennyson	6	Historical Fic	Leslie Blume	207
Wizard of Oz, The	6	Fantasy	L. Frank Baum	171
Talkin' About Bessie	6.1	Picture Book	Nikki Grimes	48
Memories of Anne Frank	6.7	Biography	Alison Leslie Gold	135
Single Shard, A	6.7	Historical Fic	Linda Sue Parks	152
Ben and Me	6.9	Historical Fic	Robert Lawson	113
Adventures of Tom Sawyer, The	7.5	Realistic Fic	Mark Twain	319

* The column that says "RL" (means Reading Level) is what you are looking at when dividing up the books. The smaller the number, the easier the book. It works like this: 2.1 means 2nd grade 1st month; 7.5 means 7th grade 5th month. That gives you a clue as to the difficulty of the book. The genre is the type of book and then the page numbers can help you divide the books also. The amount of pages basically goes along with the reading level.