



General Information

1. What is Battle of the Books (BOB)?

- An opportunity for students at grades 4-6 or 6-8 to read, discuss, and quiz on a pre-determined set of book titles
- BOB exposes students to a variety of genres and authors; to books they may not normally read.

2. When and where are the 2017 Battles scheduled?

- For grades 4-6, the battles are planned for May 1, 2017, May 2, 2017 and May 5, 2017. The event will be held at the Kern County Museum/Pioneer Village, 3801 Chester Ave., Bakersfield, CA
- Timeline for battle day is 8:45am-1:00pm
- We are adding a 3rd 4-6 battle day because of the number of students in recent years.
- The 6-8 competition is planned for April 20, 2017 at Valley Oaks Charter School, 3501 Chester Ave. Bakersfield, CA.

3. How do I know whether I am a north county school, south county school or a central county school?

- The final list for 2017 will depend on which schools register for the event. A final determination will be made and you will be notified.

4. Just what is a battle?

- Students from each school are placed on mixed school teams
- Students are never one on one against each other; this is a team competition. Five points are awarded for knowing the correct title and an additional two points for knowing the correct author. Yes! There is a chance to steal
- All questions begin with, "In what book..."
- Example: In what book did a boy travel across the ocean on a piece of fruit?
- Each team has 30 seconds to give the title, 10 more seconds to give the author. A stealing team has 10 seconds to give both answers after the question has been reread.
- Each battle has 24 questions; 12 for each of the two battling teams.

5. Which grades are involved in BOB?

- 3rd grade has own list of 12 titles. These titles stay the same each year. There is no county level competition.
- 4th-6th grades standard list has 30 titles. These titles rotate every three years. This saves money from having to purchase new books each year.
- 6th-8th grades also have the standard list of 30 titles that rotate every three years.
- 9th-12th There is no county competition.

6. Where do the lists of books come from?

- Our lists of books come from American Battle of the Books. Their web site is: www.battleofthebooks.org. Please know that we use the "standard list" of book titles: 12 titles for 3rd grade, 30 for 4-6 and 6-8. Grades 9-12 have 6 different lists of books.
- A 4-6 list of books for 2016-17 can be found below.
- All lists include books above and below grade levels.

7. Do students have to read all of the books on the list?

- Kern County Battle of the Book rules call for students to read 20/30 titles on the list. This requirement leads to a standardization of the playing field for the students.
- You may choose to hold the students accountable for their reading by asking them to pass Accelerated Reader tests. Because some titles are above the students' grade level, we ask for a minimum of 60% passing.
- Some schools have the students write questions for the books they are reading. These questions are later used in practice battle sessions.
- Our experience shows members of their battle team exclude students who are not "well-read".

8. What makes our county competition unique?

- It is not a school vs. school contest. As the students are registered they are placed on teams with students from other schools. Therefore the teams may have a student from Buena Vista School, Sequoia School, Centennial School, Beardsley School, and Endeavour School!
- This develops friendships and allows for the practice of leadership skills.
- Advisors are asked to have a nametag for each student.

9. What does "Battle" day look like?

- Each student is placed onto a team. Each team has an animal name. Team members take some time to get to know each other. Ice breaker questions are provided for this purpose.
- There are six battles throughout the morning. The scoring is an accumulation of points earned from each battle. The top two scoring teams have a final battle for first and second place at the awards ceremony.
- Every student receives a certificate of participation awarded at the home school. The top teams win ribbons or medals with the top two teams winning medals.
- Each team has a sign to carry as they travel to each battle. During the battle, the captain holds the sign. The captain is the only person who can give the answer to the question for the team. The captain changes each round.
- Students bring a sack lunch to enjoy after the battles but before the awards ceremony. School teams often designate an area to meet after the last battle. Students eat with their school, not with their competition team. Every school brings their own large trash bag to hold all lunch trash.

10. What about team shirts?

- Team shirts are NOT required.
- Some schools wear their school shirt
- Some schools have team shirts printed.
- Some schools just ask their students to wear the same color shirt
- All students need to be prepared to sit on the floor or ground for their battles. Please have students dress accordingly.

11. What type of help is needed on Battle day?

- Volunteers are needed for readers, timers and shepherds
 - Timers time the answers and keep score on a fail-safe score sheet.
 - Readers read the questions as modeled above
 - A Shepherd stays with and escorts the team. They help to manage students while staying positive. The Shepherd is the team's cheerleader.

12. How does a school participate?

Grades 4-6:

- Kern Reading Association will be registering schools. Please use the registration form found at <http://ci.kern.org/StudentEvents/english> or at www.kernreadingassociation.org. The deadline to register schools and pay the registration fee of \$50.00 will be on Friday, November 30, 2016.

- Checks should be made out to Kern Battle of the Books and mailed to Marilyn Fowler, 7809 Olcott Ave. Bakersfield, CA 93308
- Student lists are due by April 24, 2017.

Grades 6-8:

- Registration forms can be found at <http://ci.kern.org/StudentEvents/english> or by contacting Lorrie Roberts at Valley Oaks Charter School loroberts@kern.org.
- A registration fee of \$40.00 is required with checks made out to Educational Services Foundation and mailed to Valley Oaks Charter School, 3501 Chester Ave., Bakersfield, CA 93301
- Registration and school fees are due by January 31, 2016.

13. Who are the contact people for Battle of the Books?

- North County competition chair: **Katie Feldstein** at battleofthebooksnorth@gmail.com
- South County competition chair: **Sarah McDonald** at battleofthebookssouth@gmail.com.
- Central County competition chair: **Jan Lanse** at battleofthebookscentral@gmail.com
- Kern Reading Association contact person: **Marilyn Fowler** at marifowler23@gmail.com
- 6-8 grade competition: **Lorrie Roberts** at loroberts@kern.org
- Kern County Superintendent of Schools contact person: **Teresa Twisselman** at tetwisselman@kern.org

Traditional/Standard 30 Book List 4-6 Grades 2016-17

Author	Title
Babbitt, Natalie	Tuck Everlasting
Bell, Cece	El Deafo
Birney, Betty G.	The Seven Wonders of Sassafras Springs
Byars, Betsy	Wanted. . . Mud Blossom
Cleary, Beverly	Ralph S. Mouse
Cole, Joanna	The Magic School Bus: Inside the Earth
Cooney, Barbara	Miss Rumphius
Coville, Bruce	Jeremy Thatcher, Dragon Hatcher
Creech, Sharon	Ruby Holler
Curtis, Christopher P.	Bud, Not Buddy
Dahl, Roald	Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
Erickson, John R.	The Original Adventures of Hank the Cowdog
Gutman, Dan	The Million Dollar Shot
Hannigan, Katherine	Ida B...and Her Plans to Maximize Fun...
Klise K. & Klise, M. Sarah	Regarding the Fountain: A Tale, in Letters...
LaFaye, A.	Worth
Lin, Grace	Where the Mountain Meets the Moon
Lobel, Arnold	Fables
Lowry, Lois	All About Sam
MacLachlan, Patricia	Sarah, Plain and Tall
McSwigan, Marie	Snow Treasure
O'Dell, Scott	Island of the Blue Dolphins
Rawls, Wilson	Summer of the Monkeys
Robinson, Barbara	The Best School Year Ever
Rowling, JK	Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone
Ruckman, Ivy	Night of the Twisters
Speare, Elizabeth S.	The Sign of the Beaver
Wiles, Deborah	Each Little Bird that Sings
Williams, Margery	The Velveteen Rabbit
Wrede, Patricia C.	Dealing With Dragons: The Enchanted Forest...

Traditional/Standard 30 Book List 6-8 Grades 2016-17

Author	Title
Austen, Jane	Pride and Prejudice
Avi	The Good Dog
Abbott, Tony	Firegirl
Choldenko, Gennifer	Al Capone Does My Shirts
Cooney, Caroline B.	The Face on the Milk Carton
DuPrau, Jeanne	City of Ember: the First Book of Ember
O'Dell, Scott	Black Star, Bright Dawn
Farmer, Nancy	The House of the Scorpion
Freedman, Russell	Lincoln: A Photobiography
Giff, Patricia R.	Nory Ryan's Song
Hillendrand, Laura	Seabiscuit: An American Legend
Jimenez, Francisco	Breaking Through
Kadohata, Cynthia	Kira-Kira (pronounced Keera-Keera)
Larson, Kirby	Hattie Big Sky
London, Jack	Call of the Wild
Lord, Cynthia	A Handful of Stars
Lupica, Mike	Heat
Mikaelsen, Ben	Touching Spirit Bear
Morpurgo, Michael	War Horse
Nixon, Joan Lowery	Other Side of Dark
Park, Linda Sue	Project Mulberry
Paterson, Katherine	Bridge to Terabithia
Paver, Michelle	Wolf Brother
Peck, Richard	The Teacher's Funeral
Riordan, Rick	Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief
Schmidt, Gary D.	Wednesday Wars
Stevenson, Robert Louis	Kidnapped
Van Draanen, Wendelin V.	Flipped
Yep, Laurence	Dragonwings: Golden Mountain Chronicles: 1903
Yolen, Jane	Devil's Arithmetic