



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 2018 Battles scheduled?

- For grades 4-6, the battles are planned for April 30, 2018 (central), May 1, 2018 (south), and May 4, 2018 (north). 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
- The 6-8 competition date is not yet finalized. The event will be held 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 2018 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 2017-18 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. Each school is required to bring volunteers to the event
 - 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 1, 2017.

- 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, 2018.

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 30, 2018.

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 2017-18 ::

Author	Title
Applegate, Katherine	The One and Only Ivan
Christopher, Matt	Ice Magic
Davies, Jacqueline	Tricking the Tallyman
DiCamillo, Kate	Because of Winn-Dixie
Dowell, Frances	Phineas L. MacGuire...Erupts!: The First Experiment
Fleischman, Sid	By the Great Horn Spoon!
Fleming, Candace	Boxes for Katje
Flournoy, Valerie	The Patchwork Quilt
Fritz, Jean	What's the Big Idea, Ben Franklin?
Grabenstein, Chris	Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library
Hahn, Mary Downing	Time for Andrew: A Ghost Story
Hobbs, Valerie	Sheep
Jones, Kelly	Unusual Chickens for the Exceptional Poultry Farmer
King-Smith, Dick	Harry's Mad
Korman, Gordon	Masterminds
L'Engle, Madeleine	A Wrinkle in Time
Levine, Gail Carson	Ella Enchanted
Lowry, Lois	Number the Stars
Manes, Stephen	Be a Perfect Person in Just Three Days
Orr, Wendy	Nim's Island
Palacio, R.J.	Wonder
Paulsen, Gary	Hatchet
Pennypacker, Sara	Clementine
Roberts, Willo Davis	Scared Stiff
Ryan, Pam Munoz	Esperanza Rising
Sachar, Louis	There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom
Scieszka, Jon	Knights of the Kitchen Table
Wilder, Laura Ingalls	On the Banks of Plum Creek
Wiles, Deborah	Love, Ruby Lavender
Winthrop, Elizabeth	Castle in the Attic

Traditional/Standard 30 Book List 6-8 Grades 2017-18 ::

Author	Title
Alcott, Louisa May	Eight Cousins
Avi, Greg	City of Orphans
Bauer, Joan	Stand Tall
Bond, Nancy	A String in the Harp
Boyne, John	The Boy in the Striped Pajamas
Burgan, Michael	Breaker Boys: How a Photograph Helped End Child Labor
Creech, Sharon	Walk Two Moons
Curtis, Christopher Paul	Bud, Not Buddy
Dowd, Siobhan	The London Eye Mystery
Freedman, Russell	Becoming Ben Franklin: How a Candle-Maker's Son Helped Light the Flame of Liberty
George , Jean Craighead	On the Far Side of the Mountain
Giff, Patricia Reilly	Pictures of Hollis Woods
Hansen , Joyce	Dear America: I Thought My Soul Would Rise and Fly
Holm, Jennifer	Our Only May Amelia
Houston/Houston	Farewell to Manzanar
Hunt, Irene	The Lottery Rose
Lasky, Kathryn	Guardians of Ga'hoole 02: The Journey
L'Engle, Madeleine	Ring of Endless Light
Park, Linda Sue	A Single Shard
Paterson, James	Middle School: The Worst Years of My Life
Philbrick, Rodman	The Young Man and the Sea
Shahan, Sherry	Death Mountain
Sloan, Holly	Counting by 7's
Smith, Roland	Elephant Run
Snyder, Zilpha Keatley	The Egypt Game
Soto, Gary	Baseball in April
Taylor, Mildred D.	The Land
Tolen, Stephanie S.	Surviving the Applewhites
Van Draanen, Wendelin	Sammy Keys and the Hotel Thief
Woodson, Jacqueline	Feathers

