



## 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 2019 Battles scheduled?

- For grades 4-6, the battles are planned for May 6, 2019 (central), May 7, 2019 (south), and May 10, 2019 (north). The events 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 2019 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. There is a chance to steal the points if one team answers incorrectly.
- 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?**

- There are book lists for Grades 3-12. In Kern County, there are competitions for Grade 3, Grades 4-6, and Grades 6-8.

## **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](http://www.battleofthebooks.org). Please know that we use the "standard list" of book titles for each grade/grade span: 12 titles for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, 30 for 4-6 and 6-8.

## **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 of the 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 in a number of ways through discussions, activities and AR testing.
- 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.
- 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. Icebreaker 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 and discard all lunch trash.

#### **10. What about team shirts?**

- Team shirts are NOT required.
- 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 and are the responsibility of the participating schools.
- Schools are required to bring a reader, a scorer and a shepherd for every 10 students that participate.
  - Timers time the answers and keep score.
  - Readers read the questions and determine correct answers.
  - A Shepherd stays with and escorts the team. They help to manage students while staying positive.

#### **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](http://www.kernreadingassociation.org). The deadline to register schools and pay the registration fee of \$50.00 will be on Thursday, November 1, 2018.
- 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 1, 2019.

##### **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](mailto: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](mailto:battleofthebooksnorth@gmail.com)
- South County competition chair: **Sarah McDonald** at [battleofthebookssouth@gmail.com](mailto:battleofthebookssouth@gmail.com).
- Central County competition chair: **Jan Lanse** at [battleofthebookscentral@gmail.com](mailto:battleofthebookscentral@gmail.com)
- Kern Reading Association contact person: **Marilyn Fowler** at [marifowler23@gmail.com](mailto:marifowler23@gmail.com)
- 6-8 grade competition: **Lorrie Roberts** at [loroberts@kern.org](mailto:loroberts@kern.org)
- Kern County Superintendent of Schools contact person: **Teresa Twisselman** at [tetwisselman@kern.org](mailto:tetwisselman@kern.org); 661-636-4645

## Traditional/Standard 30 Book List 4-6 Grades 2018-19:

Author	Title
Applegate, Katherine	Crenshaw
Avi	The Secret School
Bulla, Clyde Robert	The Sword In the Tree
Cleary, Beverly	Ramona the Pest
Clements, Andrew	No Talking
DiCamillo, Kate	The Tale of Despereaux
George, Jessica Day	Tuesdays at the Castle
Gutman, Dan	Honus and Me: A Baseball Card Adventure
Haddix, Margaret Peterson	Running Out of Time
Harlow, Joan Hiatt	Midnight Rider
Howe, Deborah	Bunnica: A Rabbit-Tale of Mystery
Kellogg, Steven	Paul Bunyan
* Kline, Christina Baker	Orphan Train Girl
Konigsburg, E.L.	From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler
Korman, Gordon	Slacker
Lewis, C.S.	Chronicles of Narnia: Lion, Witch, & the Wardrobe
Lewis, Gill	Wild Wings
McMullan, Kate	The Story of Harriet Tubman
Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds	Shiloh
Park, Linda Sue	The Kite Fighters
Sachar, Louis	Sideways Stories from Wayside School
Seldon, George	The Cricket in Times Square
Shahan, Sherry	Frozen Stiff
Stewart, Trenton	The Mysterious Benedict Society
Stone, Phoebe	The Romeo and Juliet Code
Taylor, Theodore	The Trouble with Tuck
Urban, Linda	A Crooked Kind of Perfect
Weeks, Sarah	Save Me a Seat
Wise, William	Christopher Mouse: The Tale of a Small Traveler
Woods, Brenda	Saint Louis Armstrong Beach

\*young readers edition

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## Traditional/Standard 30 Book List 6-8 Grades 2018-19:

Author	Title
Black, Holly	Doll Bones
Blos, Joan	A Gathering of Days
Burnford, Sheila	The Incredible Journey
Clements, Andrew	The School Story
Corbett, Sue	12 Again
Cousins, Margret	Ben Franklin of Old Philadelphia
Curtis, Christopher	The Watsons Go to Birmingham
Cushman, Karen	Midwife's Apprentice
Erskine, Kathryn	Mockingbird
Flake, Sharon	The Skin I'm In
Fox, Paula	One-Eyed Cat
George, Jean Craighead	Julie of the Wolves
Henkes, Kevin	Protecting Marie
Holt, Kimberly Willis	When Zachary Beaver Came to Town
Horvath, Polly	Everything on a Waffle
Hunt, Irene	Across Five Aprils
Korman, Gordon	Swindle
Lawrence, Iain	The Wreckers
Levine, Ellen	If Your Name Was Changed at Ellis Island
Park, Linda Sue	A Long Walk to Water
Paterson, Katherine	Jacob Have I Loved
Paulsen, Gary	Hatchet
Peck, Richard	A Long Way from Chicago
Ryan, Pam	Becoming Naomi Leon
Soto, Gary	Taking Sides
Spinelli, Jerry	Maniac Magee
Staples, Suzanne Fisher	Shabanu: Daughter of the Wind
Taylor, Mildred D.	The Road to Memphis
Tooke, Wes	King of the Mound: My Summer with Satchel Paige
Voigt, Cynthia	Dacey's Song

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