

Kern County Battle of the Books



Where every student is a winner!

What is Kern County's Battle of the Books?

- It is an opportunity for students in grades 3, 4-6, or 7-8 to read, discuss, and quiz on a pre-determined set of book titles.
- Kern County Battle of the Books began in the early 1990's. Today there are over 1,700 students involved in the Kern County Battle of the Books student events.
- Battle of the Books is open to all schools including private and charter schools.
- Kern County's Battle of the Books competition is held in the spring of each school year. This gives the students plenty of time to read the assigned number of titles.

What is Battle of the Books?

- While it is a *voluntary* reading program, the purpose of Battle of the Books is to encourage students to read literary sound books and have fun while competing with peers.
- Battle of the Books exposes students to a variety of genres and authors; to books they may not normally read. The list of titles has books above, at, and below the reading level of the given grade span. This allows students of all reading abilities an opportunity to be involved.
- Battle of the Books asks participating 3rd grade students to read a minimum of 12/15 titles. Students in 4th -6th grades are asked to read a minimum of 18/28 titles. Middle school students in grades 6th-8th read 20/28 titles.

How does a student participate?

- Students participate through their schools.
- Often a classroom teacher, a school librarian, and/or approved volunteer sponsor the BOB students by holding monthly meetings. A simple check-in by the students, a lunch-time book discussion, or a literature lesson tied to several books can be held. It is up to the sponsoring adult to determine how students are held accountable for reading the required number of titles.
- Battle of the Book titles are easy to manage. The 3rd grade BOB list stays the same every year. The 4-6 grade BOB list and the 6-8 grade BOB list are on a three year cycle. This rotation of titles allows school libraries and teachers to make a single investment in BOB books. (Please note: both 4-6 and 6-8 BOB lists may have one to three titles changed to reflect the updating of lists and inclusion of award winning children's literature.)
- Your assigned Battle of the Books coordinator will provide a link to the American Battle of the Books list being used each year.

What is a “Battle?”

- Students from each school are placed on mixed school teams, usually 6-7 students per team.
- Students are never one-on-one against each other. Instead, Battle of the Books takes a college bowl team approach; teams are able to collaborate before giving their answer.
- Teams have 30 seconds and earn five points for answering questions about the books from the pre-determined list of titles. BOB questions always begin with, “In what book.”
- Teams have 10 seconds and can also earn two points for knowing the name of the book’s author.
- More battle points can be earned when a team gives an incorrect answer to a question, and the opposing team steals the points. Winners are determined by the culmination of points earned throughout the day’s battles.
- Each day’s competition has several rounds, usually 6 rounds. Every battle has 24 questions; 12 questions for each of the two competing teams.
- Every student receives a certificate of participation. The top scoring teams receive medals. The top two scoring teams have a final battle to determine first and second place at the day’s competition.

What makes Kern County Battle of the Books unique?

- Kern County Battle of the Books is a celebration of reading. Titles on the list include classic children's literature, Newbery Award winners, and the newest books to hit the library shelves.
- Kern County Battle of the Books challenges the students to practice their leadership and sportsmanship skills. Because students are assigned random teams, they are “forced” to communicate with people they have never met. Students take turns being the spokesperson for their team during the different rounds of battles. Winning or losing with dignity is also practiced.

Thank you for your interest in Battle of the Books. We are available to answer any questions you may have.

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