



Kern County Battle of the Books

Thursday, September 10, 2026
3:30pm & 4:30pm

Meet the Team!

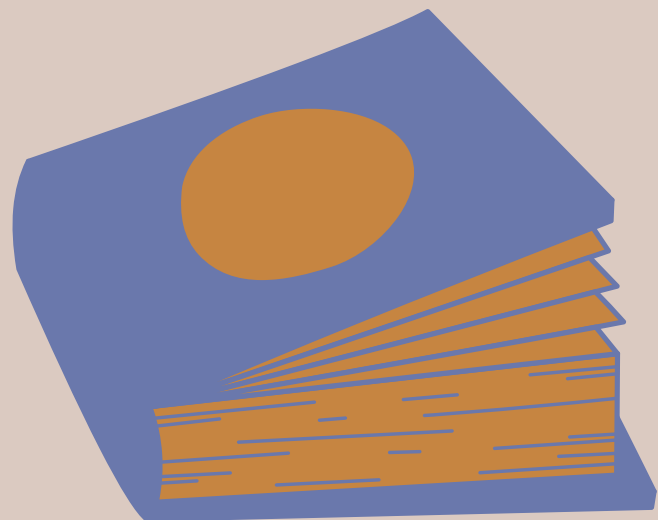
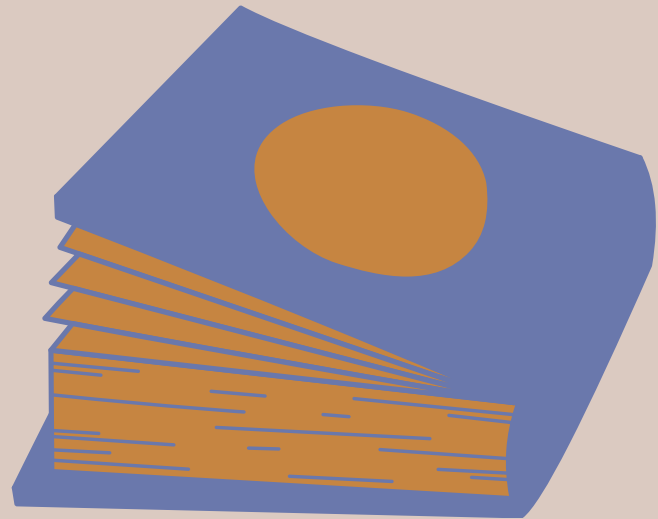
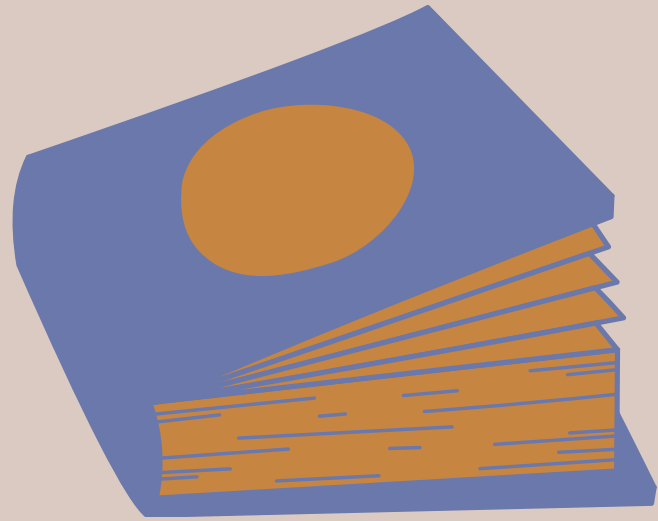


Mandy Fisher, KCSOS
Cherie Freeman, KCSOS
Website
Coordination of Services
Registration
Treasurer

Jolene Hansen
3rd Grade
Michelle Hansen
Junior High

Lesley Jarrett & Melissa Pilshaw
4th-6th North
Lisa Moore and Becky Stambook
4th-6th South
Susan Denton
4th-6th Central
Sharon Hanschumacher
4th-6th Editor





Battle of the Books

Battle of the Books is a voluntary reading incentive program for students in 3rd thru 12th grades. Students read books and come together, intermixed school groups, to demonstrate their abilities and to test their knowledge of the books they have read. The student competitions are usually similar to a Jeopardy-style of question. (Q: In which book? A: Title, Author)

3rd grade

Students must have read at least 12 of the 15 books
in order to participate!

4th-6th grade

Students must have read at least 20 of the 28 books
in order to participate!

Middle School (6-8) Junior High (7-8)

Students must have read at least 15 of the 20 books
in order to participate!

Book List

KCSOS Battle of the Books



3rd Grade

Author	Title
Atwater, Richard	Mr. Popper's Penguins
Birney, Betty	The World According to Humphrey
Blume, Judy	Freckle Juice
Brown, Peter	Wild Robot
Bulla, Clyde Robert	A Lion to Guard Us
Byars, Betsy	Tornado
Cleary, Beverly	Muggie Maggie
Coerr, Eleanor	Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes
Cohen, Barbara	Molly's Pilgrim
Cooney, Barbara	Miss Rumphius
Dahl, Roald	George's Marvelous Medicine
Gannett, Ruth Stiles	My Father's Dragon
Warner, Gertrude	Boxcar Children
White, E.B.	Charlotte's Web
Wilder, Laura Ingalls	Little House in the Big Woods



4th - 6th Grade

Author	Title
Applegate, Katherine	The One and Only Ivan
Chin, Jason	Your Place in the Universe
Chokshi, Roshani	Aru Shah and the End of Time
Clements, Andrew	The Loser's Club
Craft, Jerry	New Kid
DiCamillo, Kate	Because of Winn-Dixie
Ewing, Eve L.	Maya and the Robot
Fleishman, Sid	By the Great Horn Spoon!
Gibbs, Stuart	Once Upon a Tim
Grabenstein, Chris	Escape from Mr. Limoncello's Library
Holm, Jennifer	Lion of Mars
Jones, Kelly	Unusual Chickens for the Exceptional Poultry Farmer
Korman, Gordon	Masterminds
Levine, Gail Carson	Ella Enchanted
Lloyd, Megan Wagner	Allergic
Look, Lenore	Alvin Ho: Allergic to Girls, School and Other Scary Things
Lowry, Louis	Number the Stars
Markle, Sandra	What If You Had Animal Eyes?
Mass, Wendy	Bob
Palacio, R.J.	Wonder
Parry, Rosanne	A Wolf Called Wander
Paulsen, Gary	Hatchet
Pennypacker, Sara	Clementine
Ryan, Pam Munoz	Esperanza Rising
Tsang, Kevin & Katie	Infinity's Secret
Tarshis, Lauren	I Survived the American Revolution, 1776
Yang, Kelly	Front Desk
Yee, Lisa	A Royal Conundrum



6th - 8th Grade

NEW FOR 2026-2027: We have moved to the Medium 20 Book List.

Author	Title
Boyne, John	The Boy in the Striped Pajamas
Craft, Jerry	New Kid
Engle, Margarita	Enchanted Air
Gemeinhart, Dan	The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise
George, Jean Craighead	On the Far Side of the Mountain
Gray, Nicholas	Mona Lisa Vanishes
Higuera, Donna	The Last Cuentista
Heidicker, Christian McKay	Scary Stories for Young Foxes
Holt, K.A.	House Arrest
Park, Linda Sue	A Single Shard
Patterson, James	Middle School, The Worst Years of My Life
Price, Catherine & Haidt, Jonathan	The Amazing Generation
Rorby, Ginny	Lost in the River of Grass
Smith, Roland	Elephant Run
Snyder, Zilpha Keatley	The Egypt Game
Swanson, James L.	Chasing Lincoln's Killer
Tolan, Stephanie S.	Surviving the Applewhites
Van Draanen, Wendelin	The Running Dream
Woodson, Jacqueline	Harbor Me

Informational Letter

Kern County Battle of the Books



Hello Battle of the Books School Site Coordinators!

We are excited for the 2026–2027 Battle of the Books at CALM! The more books students read, the more fun they'll have at the final competition all while strengthening their reading skills across a variety of genres.

COACHES MEETING

KCSOS will host a Coaches Meeting via ZOOM to review the Battle of the Books program, requirements, and answer any questions you might have. There will be 2 sessions available to choose from. **Please plan for Thursday, September 10, 2026 at 3:30pm and/or 4:30pm** (for whichever best fits your schedule!) Click <https://kern.org/student-events/english-language-arts/battle-of-the-books/> to join the zoom meeting. Stay up-to-date on all the information and follow us on Instagram @kerncountybattleofthebooks.

DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION

April 5, 2027 North Kern County 3rd grade Battle of the Books (9:00am-12:30pm)
 April 6, 2027 South Kern County 3rd grade Battle of the Books (9:00am-12:30pm)
 April 8, 2027 All Kern County Junior High (& Middle School) Battle of the Books (8:30am-1:00pm)
 May 3, 2027 North Kern County 4th-6th grade Battle of the Books (8:30am-1:00pm)
 May 4, 2027 South Kern County 4th-6th grade Battle of the Books (8:30am-1:00pm)
 May 6, 2027 Central Kern County 4th-6th grade Battle of the Books (8:30am-1:00pm)
 All County Battles will be at @Calm Zoom 10500 Alfred Harrell Hwy

REGISTRATION

[Battle of the Books Registration](#) opens on Thursday, September 10, 2026.

1. Complete the registration form online. Schools must register and pay for every 30 participants, meaning that 1-30 students = 1 team, 31-60 = 2 teams, so on and so forth.
2. You will receive a Registration Receipt. Please print 1 copy for your records and 1 copy to mail in with the payment. Registration is not complete until both online paperwork and fee have been collected. Schools may register more than one team.
3. **The cost is \$80 per team if postmarked by 11/8. Late Registration is \$90 per team if postmarked between 11/7-01/08. Last Chance Registration is \$100 per team if postmarked 1/9-2/26. No Registration after 2/26. There are no refunds.**
4. Mail the registration confirmation and payment to:
 Kern County Battle of the Books
 % Cherie Freeman
 P.O. Box 272
 Bakersfield, CA 93302
5. Checks should be made payable to **Kern County Battle of the Books**. At this time, we do not accept Purchase Orders. All Registration and Payment questions should be directed to Cherie Freeman at kernbobreg@gmail.com

READING REQUIREMENTS

Third Grade must read 12/15 titles from [America's Battle of the Books 3rd Grade Book List](#)
 4th-6th Grade must read 20/28 titles [America's Battle of the Books Standard 28 Book List 4-6 Grades 2026-27](#)
 Junior High must read 15/20 titles [America's Battle of the Books Middle 20 Book List 7-8 Grades 2026-27](#)

Sincerely,

The Kern County Battle of the Books Directors

Revised 8/24/2026

Kern County Battle of the Books



Regional Assignments by District

Kern County Battle of the Books 2026-2027 At The California Living Museum Zoo (CALM)

3 rd grade North Kern County	3 rd grade South Kern County	6 th -8 th grade Junior High Kern County	4 th -6 th grade North Kern County	4 th -6 th grade South Kern County	4 th -6 th grade Central Kern County
Monday April 5th 9:00-12:30pm	Tuesday April 6th 9:00-12:30pm	Thursday April 8th 8:30-1:00pm	Monday May 3rd 8:30-1:00pm	Tuesday May 4th 8:30-1:00pm	Thursday Math 6th 8:30-1:00pm
Director Jolene Hansen	Director Jolene Hansen	Director Michelle Hansen	Directors Lesley Jarrett Melissa Pilshaw	Directors Lisa Moore Becky Stambook	Director Susan Denton
3rdgradekernbob@gmail.com	3rdgradekernbob@gmail.com	jrhghkernbob@gmail.com	northkernbob@gmail.com	southkernbob@gmail.com	centralkernbob@gmail.com
Rosedale Union BCSD Arvin Fruitvale Greenfield Grow Academies Alta Vista Edison Rio Bravo Shafter St. John's Tehachapi Fairfax Norris Standard General Shafter Lamont Kernville Lakeside Maricopa	P-BVUSD Delano McFarland Wasco Maple Legacy Christian McKittrick Richland St. Francis Stockdale Christian Vineland Sierra Sands Digorgio El Tejon Beardsley Mojave Pond Taft South Kern Unified Charter Schools	All Kern County	Delano Fruitvale Maple McFarland Norris Rosedale Sierra Sands Shafter Standard Wasco	Arvin DiGiorgio Edison El Tejon Fairfax General Shafter Lamont Panama Buena Vista	Charter Schools Private Schools Bakersfield City Beardsley Greenfield Kernville Lakeside Maricopa McKittrick Mojave Pond Rio Bravo-Greeley South Kern Unified Taft Elementary Tehachapi

Questions regarding registration and/or payments can be addressed to
Cherie Freeman at kernbobreg@gmail.com.

If your district is not listed, please email any of the directors for placement in a region.

Revised 8/24/2026

Registration

Register (linked here)

Registration Fee \$60 by Friday, November 6, 2026

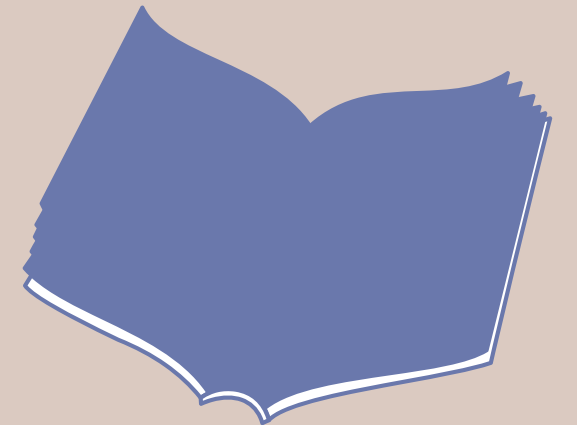
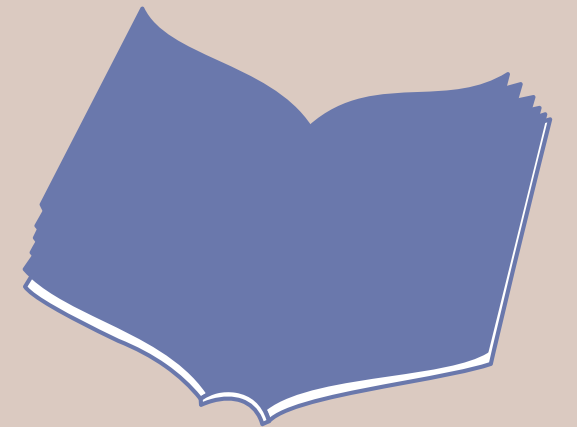
Kern County Battle of the Books

c/o Cherie Freeman

P.O. Box 272

Bakersfield, CA 93302

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- The cost is \$60 per team if postmarked by 11/6. Late Registration is \$80 per team if postmarked between 11/7-01/08. Last Chance Registration is \$100 per team if postmarked 1/9-2/26. No Registration after 2/26.



Battle Dates

April 5, 2027 North 3rd grade (9:00am-12:30pm)

April 6, 2027 South 3rd grade (9:00am-12:30pm)

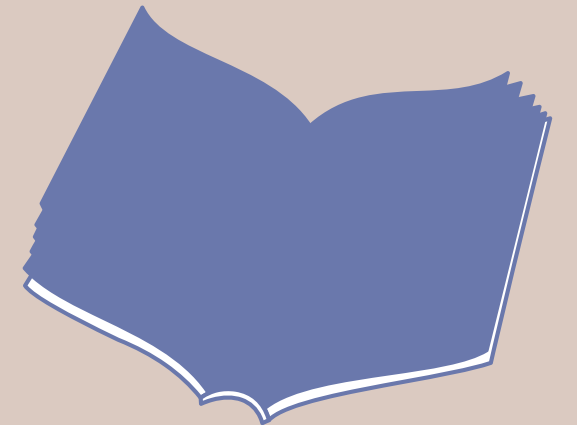
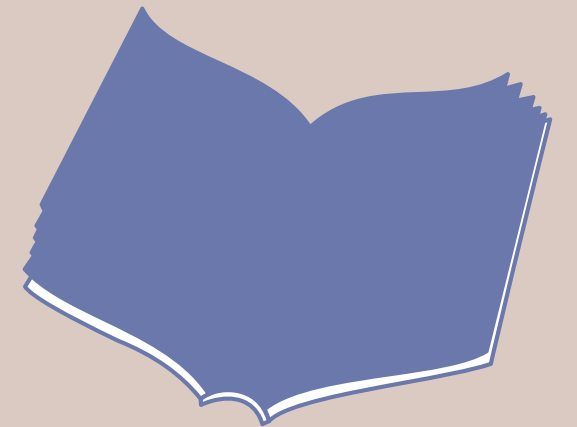
April 8, 2027 All Junior High (& Middle School) (8:30am-1:00pm)

May 3, 2027 North 4th-6th grade (8:30am-1:00pm)

May 4, 2027 South 4th-6th grade (8:30am-1:00pm)

May 6, 2027 Central 4th-6th grade (8:30am-1:00pm)

All County Battles will be at @C.A.L.M. Zoo



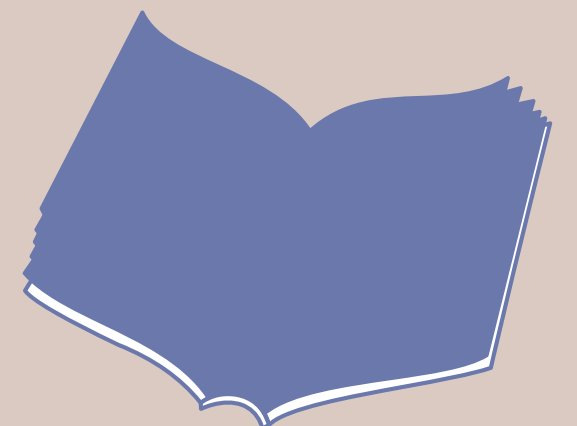
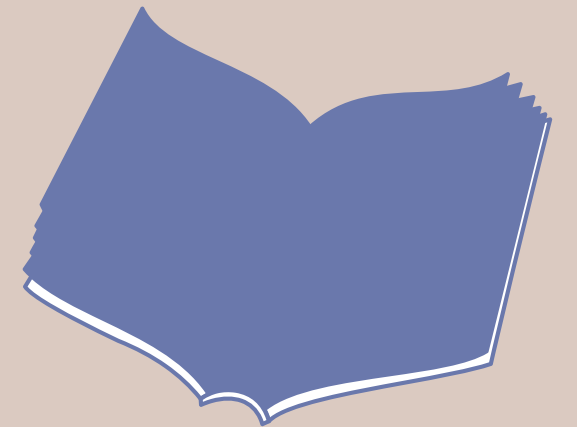
Important Due Dates

Registration

- 11/06 Registration and Payment postmarked
- 01/08 Last Day for Late Registration/Payment postmarked
- 02/26 Last Day for LAST CHANCE Registration/Payment postmarked

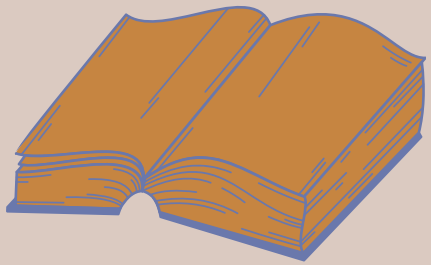
Names

- 03/12 Participant & Volunteer Names due for 3rd grade & Middle School/Jr High
- 04/16 Participant & Volunteer Names due for all regions 4th-6th grade





Steps to Starting



Here is where we would start...

1. Register to Participate
2. Schedule transportation
3. Get the Books
4. Meet with Staff, then students
5. Send the book list and dates home to parents
6. Create a system for monitoring and rewarding progress towards goals.
7. Order Shirts (optional, but encouraged)
8. Recruit readers and chaperones for the day of the event
9. Stay connected via email and Instagram for communication and updates

Sample Yearly Schedule

May

Print and distribute book list.

The librarian checks current inventory. Order extra copies of each title or missing titles.

Post the link on school website/or communication site

June-August

Summer Reading Program on Tuesdays

Students may check out BOB books and take A.R. quizzes (must pass with 80%)

August

Send list home with letter first week of school.

Have additional copies letter available for Back to School Night.

September

Register with <http://www.battleofthebooks.org/> in order to get School “battle” questions. We use these for practice and for our school battle.

Register with the Kern County Battle of the Books.

October

1st Deadline and 1st Reward Party

Sample Yearly Schedule

November

Registration due Nov 6th

December

Optional 2nd Deadline/2nd Reward Party

January

February

Optional 3rd Deadline/3rd Reward Party

Recruit Volunteers! 1 Reader, 1 Timer, 1 Chaperone per 7 students

March

Names of Participants and Volunteers Due March 12th for 3rd and Jr. High

Order team shirts, send home permission slips, coordinate transportation for field trip, plan for lunch

Confirm Volunteers

April

Optional 4th Deadline/4th Reward

May

Go to Battle!

Reward Ideas

30 minutes of Minute to Win It games

Donut Party, Nacho Party, Pizza Party, StarBOOKS Party

Library Lock-In

Reading Party

Kahoot Party

Dance Party

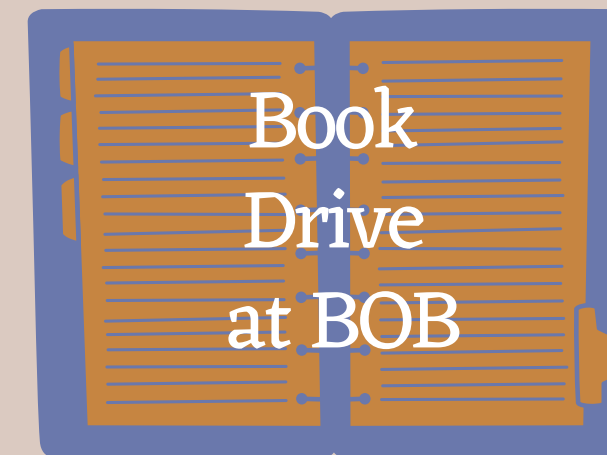
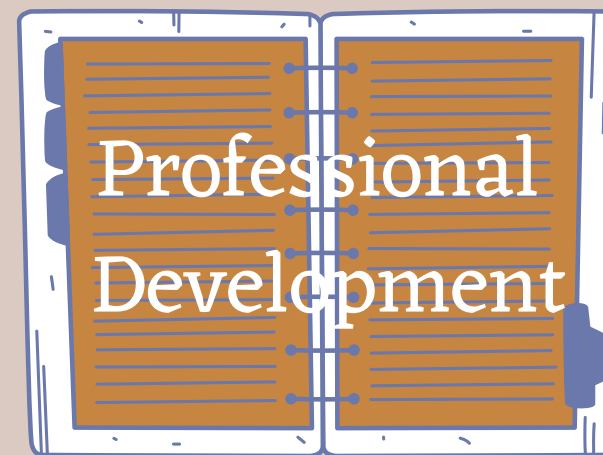
*Find their currency

*All “parties” include 20-30 minutes of practice/sample questions and expectations.

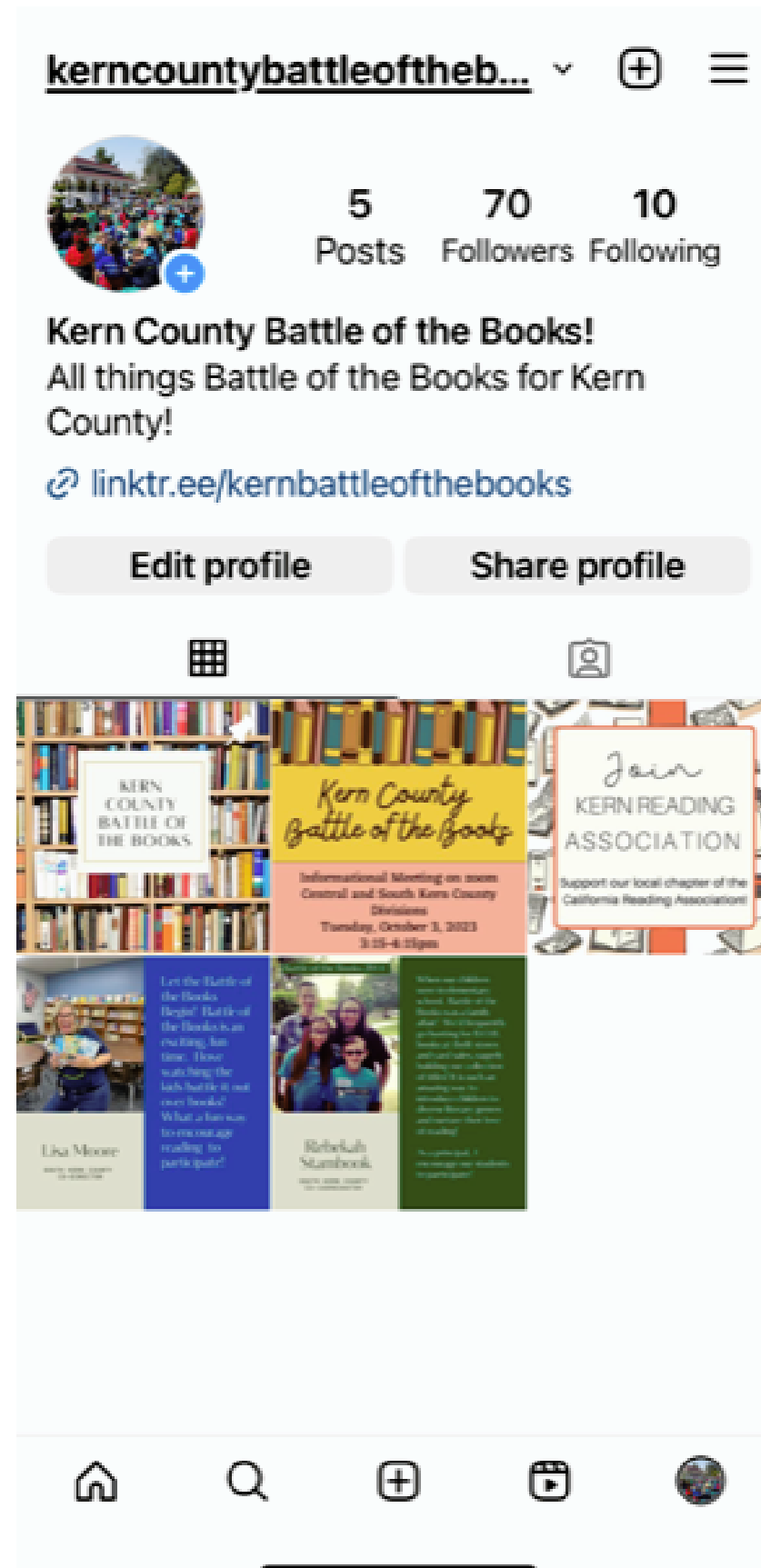
Kern Reading Association

KRA is our local chapter of the California Reading Association. KRA is a sponsor of the Kern County Battle of the Books. Please Join!

<https://californiareading.org/membership>



Follow Us!



Questions?

