

## **2020 Battle of the Books Rules**

Welcome to the Wheaton Public Library's Battle of the Books! The following details the rules and information you will need to participate in the Battle program.

### **Formation of Teams**

- Each school should develop a team of widely read fourth and fifth grade students. The method of choosing a team is up to the individual school. Teams may consist of any combination of students in the fourth and fifth grades.
- To be eligible to participate, students must:
  - Attend one of the District 200 schools participating in the Battle program
  - Attend one of the private schools inside the District 200 boundary map participating in the Battle program
  - Be homeschooled and live in Wheaton or the District 200 boundary map to participate with the Wheaton Area Homeschoolers team
- Each team needs to be under the direction of a sponsor. This sponsor is a teacher, librarian, or parent authorized by the school that acts as a Battle of the Books coach, actively supports the participants by explaining the rules, and makes sure the team appears at the WPL for its scheduled meets. They will be the contact person for the school's team.
- A schedule of meets will be set up and available before the beginning of the season. The same number of meets will be scheduled for each school. The season will start at the beginning of January. A demonstration meet for new students will take place prior to the start of the season.

### **Battle of the Books Meets**

A Battle of the Books meet will consist of three rounds of play. In all three rounds, players are able to confer with each other. Points are not deducted for incorrect answers. Answers must be given before the allotted time expires. If a team asks for the question to be repeated, their time continues to run and their answer still needs to be given before the allotted time expires. A team should designate a spokesperson to announce the answer after the team has buzzed in and they have been called upon. The first complete response from a team member is the only acceptable answer. Answers should be exact and **the moderator will be the final authority on the acceptability of an answer.**

- **Round 1**
  - **Individual Questions:** During Round 1, teams will be alternately asked five questions and will be given 30 seconds to answer each question. The answer to each question will be the title of a book. If the team answers correctly, five points will be awarded. One additional point will be given if they supply the last name of the author of the book. A team must give the correct full title and be awarded points in order to get a point for the correct author.
- **Round 2**
  - **All Team Questions:** During Round 2, five questions will be posed to all of the teams. Each team will have 30 seconds to write down the answer on their dry erase board. An automatic repeat of the question will be given within the 30-second allotment. Teams will be asked a multiple choice question where the answer is the title of a book. Each team being correct will receive five points.
- **Round 3**
  - **Multiple Choice:** During Round 3, teams will alternately be asked 5 multiple choice questions and will be given 15 seconds to answer each question. The answer to the question will be taken from the context of the book. Teams will be awarded five points for a correct answer.

**No-shows & Cancellations**

- If a team does not appear for a scheduled meet, it will forfeit the meet and receive zero points. The meet will be conducted as usual for the opposing teams present.
- If one school is closed for any emergency on the day of its meet, that sponsor should notify the Wheaton Public Library immediately. A decision will then be made as to whether that school's team will play or cancel. If the team chooses to cancel, the entire meet will be cancelled and rescheduled.
- In the event District 200 has to close all of its schools, the meet for that day will be cancelled automatically and will be rescheduled.

**Audience Members**

- Spectators are allowed to attend meets when their affiliated school is playing. Audience members should listen quietly during rounds of play. Playing along in the audience by whispering answers, using hand signals, etc. is prohibited. Applause should be saved until the end of each round of play. Disruptive audience members may be asked to leave.
- Fellow team members should be seated at the back of the audience. Sponsors and coaches should be seated with their team to ensure they are not engaged in disruptive behavior.

**Additional Information**

- During a meet, a team may be asked one or more questions from any of the 45 books on the Battle list. It is helpful for team members and their sponsors to make up their own questions and quiz each other.
- A scoreboard will be posted on the library's website.
- If a team member does not appear for a scheduled meet and a substitute is unavailable, the sponsor should notify the moderator before the start of the meet. If a team member who is scheduled to play will be arriving late, the sponsor should notify the moderator before the start of the meet.
- If a team wishes to challenge an answer to a question, please wait and do so immediately after the meet. If there is a challenge with the score, please wait until the end of the current round of questions.
- Please do not copy questions used during the meets.
- Please silence all phones.
- Please do not record the Battle meets. Pictures may be taken after the meet has finished.
- Team spirit may be represented in team t-shirts. No audience signs, etc.
- Good sportsmanship is expected from participating schools, teams, sponsors, and coaches.

**At the End of the Season**

A list of next year's books will be available in the spring following the end of the Battle season. A book list, participation form, certificates and gift book will be given to the team's current coach. If there is to be a change in coaches at a school for the next season, the current coach should pass along the book list and participation form to the new coach or the school's librarian.

Awards will be given at the end of the season in a variety of categories.

\*If you have any questions, please direct them to the Wheaton Public Library Battle of the Books

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