



Coach Handbook 2024

Presenting Sponsor



An A+ Partners in Education event by

Howard County Library System
Howard County Public School System

Important Information

Date: Friday, April 19, 2024

Time: 7 to 10 pm (approximately)

Place: Merriweather Post Pavilion

Battle of the Books Goals

- Build teamwork skills
- Learn good sportsmanship skills
- Read different genres (for example, science fiction, graphic novels, nonfiction)
- Increase reading comprehension
- HAVE FUN!

Procedures

Event Check-in

1. A team consists of three to five students. Each student must turn in a signed participation form and photo release form in advance to compete.
2. Each team must have at least three students checked-in at their Battle location by 6:45 pm. After 6:45 pm, no other team members will be allowed to participate.
3. Each team must have an adult coach present at the Battle. In case of an emergency which prevents a coach from being present, another adult must take the coach's place or the team will be disqualified.
4. **Coaches or their designees will have access to early check-in (details to follow).** Coaches then proceed to the designated area to await the arrival of their students.
5. **If accompanying their coach, students will be allowed to check in early. Otherwise, students will need to wait for check-in to begin.**
6. Once students have checked in, they will be guided to the designated seating area. They may then go to selfie stations to take their own photos (staff may be available to assist if needed).
7. Coaches may keep cell phones with them but may not refer to them during the Battle except in case of emergency. Students should give their phones to their coaches during the Battle. Event staff will be available to assist in case of emergencies.

How the Battle is Played

1. Team members sit together in designated sections and rows.
2. Coaches and teams will be seated during the Battle (details to follow).
3. The moderator asks questions about the books. The moderator will read the question which will also be displayed on the large screens. The moderator reads each question two times.
4. The Battle includes at least one question about each book. To see examples of the types of questions that may be asked, see page 8.
5. Teams have 30 seconds to quietly discuss and enter their answers. This time may be adjusted if deemed necessary by the event team.

6. When the 30 seconds are up, time is called, and the response window closes. At the end of the round, the moderator announces the correct title and author for the questions, which will also be displayed on the large screens.
7. A coach may make any allegations of cheating to the nearest event staff member before the start of the next round. Staff will then determine the next course of action.

Answering and Scoring

1. Each team will receive materials to enter their answers. Teams will receive a sheet listing authors and titles (i.e., a column of authors and a column of titles). All scores are based on the answer recorded. See p. 7 for a list of authors and titles.
2. Each question is worth two points. Each round will contain one bonus Battle question worth double points (four total).
3. Each team earns two points for each correct answer. Bonus questions are worth four points each.
4. Please refer to the 2024 Battle of the Books book list for the list of titles and authors (p. 7). All competition questions will come from the specific editions given to teams by HCLS. All parts of these books will be considered fair game.
5. The Battle of the Books head judge is the final authority on correct or incorrect answers.
6. All teams with high levels of points (Silver or Gold) at the end of the final round will be recognized.
7. Winners in other categories are determined and awarded by venue seating sections (e.g., 201, 202).
8. Overall winners and category winners will be posted on the HCLS web site within the week following the Battle.
9. Scores will not be publicly posted. Coaches will receive their team score within 14 business days of the event. **All scores are final.**

Prizes

- Top-scoring teams will be awarded
 - 90-94% - Silver – one medal per team member
 - 95-100% - Gold – one medal per team member
 - For Gold level winners, only one trophy will be awarded per school
- Certificates will be awarded at the event to teams in each seating section for Best Team Costume, Best Team Name, Best Team Poster, and Best Team Sportsmanship.
 - Costumes – Teams will be judged on creativity over cost. See Costume section below.
 - Sportsmanship – Teams will be judged on kindness, welcoming, respect, responsibility, safety, and enthusiasm.
- All students receive a Certificate of Participation from their coaches.

Coaching Responsibilities

Note: A coach may serve as coach for only ONE team.

Basic responsibilities:

- Attend coach and logistics meetings.
- Act as communication link between HCLS and team members and parents regarding all information and materials for Battle of the Books, including book and ticket distribution.
- Since email is the primary method of communicating with coaches, please ensure the email address entered into the registration form is one that is regularly monitored.
- When communicating with BOB staff, please use **bob@hclibrary.org**.

- Notify HCLS of any special needs of your team members by February 5, 2024.
- Ensure that your team's name has been confirmed by BOB staff in case multiple teams select the same name. Use bob@hclibrary.org.
 - You may wish to develop a list of alternate names in case your team's requested name has already been claimed.
 - The last day to make changes to team name and participating students is February 5, 2024.
- Submit signed participation forms and signed photo release forms for themselves and each team member by February 5, 2024.
- Read each of the books to assist teams with preparation.
- Explain the answering and scoring procedures to your team (see p. 3).
- Make sure your team demonstrates good sportsmanlike behavior throughout the Battle. Be responsible, respectful and ready!
- Ensure that your team members and their families are aware of the Battle date and location for your team and understand the rules of the Battle and expectations on the day of the event.
- Ensure your team has transportation to the Battle location.

During the actual Battle, each coach will be asked to:

- Monitor team (details to follow)
- Make sure that the team remains quiet during the reading of the questions.
- Ensure that the team enters their answers within the end of the 30-second time limit.
- Most importantly, encourage your team to have fun and participate with integrity.

Build team spirit:

- Meet regularly.
- Decorate team T-shirts or create other costumes (see below).

Costumes:

- Judges will look for costumes designed and produced by students. They will reward creativity and use of recycled items, so encourage your students to be creative.
- Costumes must comply with all requirements listed in HCPSS Policy 9210: Student Dress Code, including but not limited to:
 - No gory costumes (blood, guts, skeletons, ghosts)
 - No masks that cover eyes. Masks covering the nose and mouth – as worn during the pandemic – may be worn.
 - Costumes may not include toys that resemble weapons (guns, knives, swords, machetes, axes, blades, etc.)
- If you are not allowed to wear it to school, you are not allowed to wear it to Battle of the Books.
- To avoid tripping hazards, please refrain from using cumbersome props or decorations like feathers that easily detach from costumes. All props must fit under auditorium seats.
- As a reminder, no roller blades, skateboards, or other footwear with wheels are permitted.
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Signs:

- Create a digital sign using Jamboard or Google Slides.
- Go to <https://jamboard.google.com/> click "+" to create (or Google Slides)
 - File name format: "Section and Team Name" (i.e., 204 Butterflies)
 - Do not Share the file, instead download as PDF, JPEG, or PNG for Dropbox.
 - Click on the three dots for "More Actions", then download as PDF, JPEG, or PNG

- Name the document "Team Name and section" and upload to Dropbox (link forthcoming)
- Book titles, authors, and/or covers may not be a part of the team's costume or sign. Signs with any of this information will be disqualified.
- Poster files must be uploaded by **April 5** to be included.
- Optional: You may also bring your team poster to the event for use in your own photos. Judges will review online posters only.

Prepare for the Battle:

- Decide who will read each book. It will be to your team's advantage to make sure at least two team members read each book. In the past, the most successful teams have had all team members read the books and then assigned "experts" for each book.
- Decide how often you will meet to discuss the books.
- Hold mock battles or "Jeopardy" style games based on the books.
- Have students compose practice questions to quiz each other during the meetings. Please refer to the Sample Types of Questions section (p. 9). Remember questions on all parts of the books are valid.
- Contact your school's media specialist to determine if other teams from your school are participating so you can practice together.

Encourage and reward students

- Offer praise and encouragement.
- Serve snacks at your meetings.
- Play a game before your meetings.
- Have a party after the Battle.
- Keep it fun and make happy memories.

Questions?

- Please check the FAQs on the Battle of the Books website: www.hclibrary.org/battleofthebooks.
- If your questions are not answered, please email us at bob@hclibrary.org.
- Continue to check the FAQs page for updated information.

Important Information for Parents

1. If accompanied by their coach, students may check in at the venue early. All other students may begin checking in at designated time. All team members must be checked in by 6:45 pm. Any students arriving after 6:45 pm will be disqualified. (details to follow)
2. Signed participation forms and signed photo release forms are required for each coach and team member. They must be returned by February 5.
3. The Battle consists of four rounds of questions. There will be a half-time break after round two.
4. See information about costumes above.
5. Food and beverages may be brought into Merriweather.
6. As the Battle date approaches, visit hclibrary.org/battleofthebooks for updated information.
7. Scores will not be posted. Coaches will receive their team score within 14 business days of the event. All scores are final.

8. Team and other event photos will be posted to the HCLS Flickr page (www.flickr.com/photos/hocolibrary) within two weeks after the Battle.

2024 Battle of the Books Book List

Please note: Each team received a set of books with the ISBNs listed below. All competition questions will come from the specific editions with the noted ISBNs. **ALL PARTS of those books will be considered fair game for questions.**

Books borrowed from the Library or purchased elsewhere may have slightly different features in the book, but the main content is the same. When reviewing/studying books for features such as illustrations or text features, **use the copies given to the team.**

TITLE	AUTHOR	ISBN
<i>Starfish</i>	Fipps, Lisa	9781984814524
<i>The Way of the Hive: A Honey Bee's Story</i>	Hosler, Jay	9780063007352
<i>Playing the Cards You're Dealt</i>	Johnson, Varian	9781338348569
<i>Dumpling Days</i>	Lin, Grace	9780316531337
<i>Mexikid</i>	Martin, Pedro	9780593462294
<i>The Boy at the Back of the Class</i>	Rauf, Onjali Q.	9781984850812
<i>The Incredibly Dead Pets of Rex Dexter</i>	Reyolds, Aaron	9780316407809
<i>Cece Rios and the Desert of Souls</i>	Rivera, Kaela	9780062947567
<i>Ancestor Approved</i>	Smith, Cynthia Leitich, editor	9780062869951
<i>Before John was a Jazz Giant: A Song of John Coltrane</i>	Weatherford, Carole Boston	9781250822703

Sample Types of Questions

The answer to any type of question is always the title of the book and the author.

A direct quote from one of the characters

Q: "I am nothing but a half-crazed, feather-headed old maid."

A: *Ghosts I Have Been* by Richard Peck

Q: "What is a library?"

A: *Aunt Chip and the Great Triple Creek Dam Affair* by Patricia Polacco

A statement about something that happens in the book

Q: In which book does a family's special friend arrive inside the coat of a man looking for a job?

A: *How It Was With Dooms* by Xan Hopcraft

Q: In which book do we learn that King Louis XIV had a collection of 413 different beds?

A: *Complete Book of the Night* by Sally Tagholm

A passage directly from the book

Q: "Her hair was yellow and her face was yellow because she had always been ill in one way or another."

A: *Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett

Q: "Out of all of his dreams, his was the one he liked the best, even if it seemed to be the one most out of his reach."

A: *Heat* by Mike Lupica

Details about an illustration or picture

Q: In which book does a nasty lady wear crescent moon earrings?

A: *Frog Prince Continued* by Jon Scieszka

Q: In which book will you find illustrations of water ballet moves?

A: *Regarding the Fountain* by Kate Kilse

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