

# 2024 BATTLE OF THE BOOKS at MERRIWEATHER



**HOWARD COUNTY  
LIBRARY SYSTEM**  
Public Education for All







# Where and when?

Friday, April 19

Begins at 7 pm and ends  
between 10 and 11 pm

Merriweather Post Pavilion

RAIN OR SHINE

# Tonight's Goals



Goals for students



Coach responsibilities



Prep tips and sample types of questions



Review books



Important dates



Parent responsibilities

# Goals for Students



Build teamwork skills



Learn good sportsmanship skills



Read different genres (example, science fiction, graphic novels, nonfiction, etc.)



Increase reading comprehension



Have fun!





# Coach Responsibilities

- ▶ Build team spirit and encourage good sportsmanship among your team members
- ▶ Set up regular meetings with your team
- ▶ Encourage and reward students
- ▶ Convey information from HCLS to team members and their parents
- ▶ Respond to communications from HCLS in a timely manner
- ▶ Upload digital poster to Dropbox

# Prepare for the Battle

- Decide who will read each book. Make sure at least two team members read each book. The most successful teams have all team members read all the books and assign “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. 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.

## What are the details?

- ▶ Every HCPSS school has the opportunity to be represented by at least one team.
- ▶ Each team must have 3-5 members AND an adult coach.
- ▶ Team members will work together during the Battle.
- ▶ Coaches supervise their team during the Battle.
- ▶ Academic integrity will be expected.
- ▶ Each question is worth 2 points.
- ▶ Bonus questions (1 per round) will be worth 4 points.

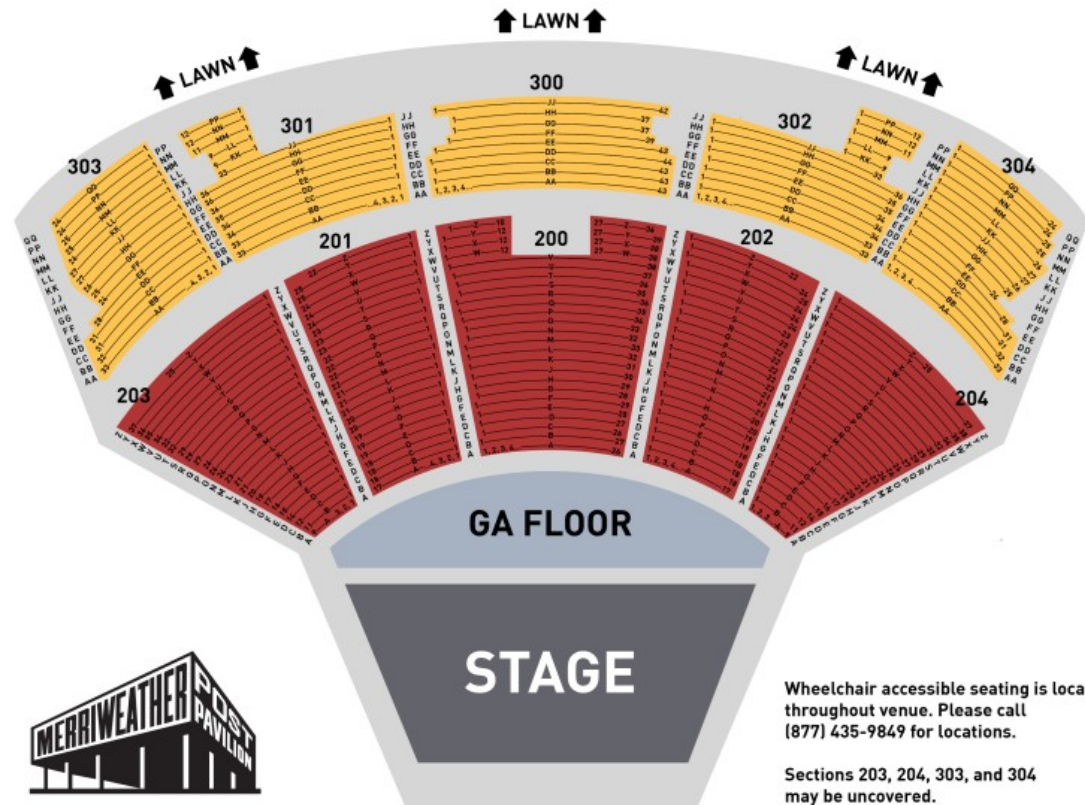
All teams will compete at the same time in one location at Merriweather

Seating for teams, coaches, and staff only.

Lawn seating for spectators

Answers and scores will be collected

Awards will be provided





Tickets will NOT be required for entry. Free parking on site. (more info to follow)

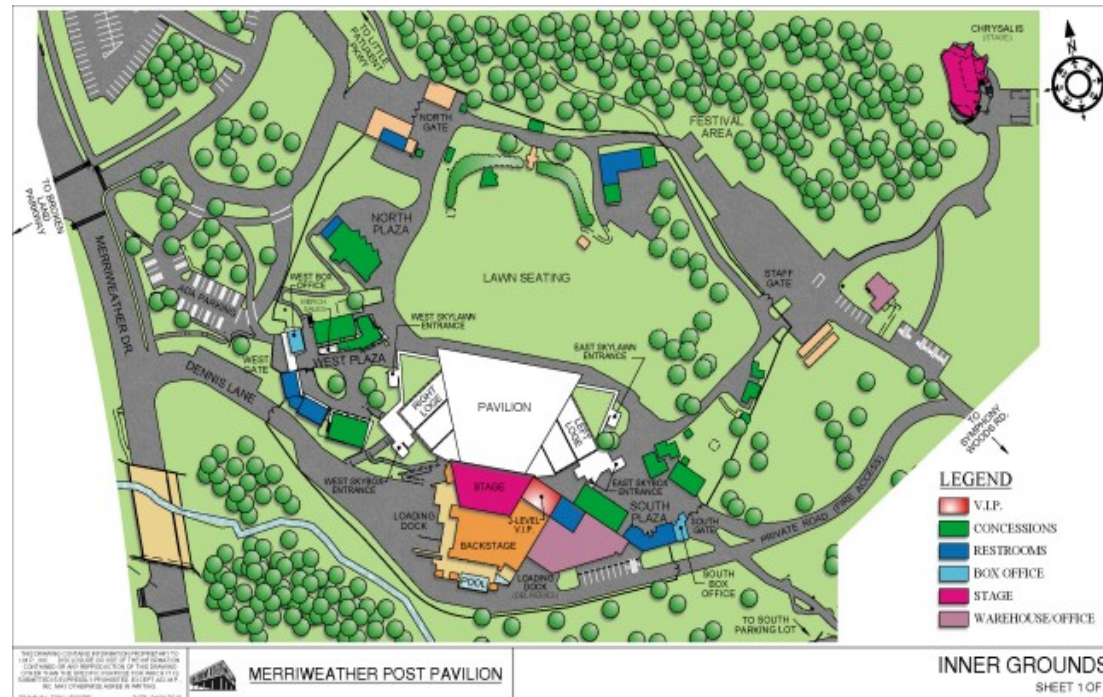
If accompanied by their coach, students may check in at the venue early. All other students may begin at check-in time. (details to follow)

Food and beverage may be brought into Merriweather.

The volume of the crowd and music gets very loud during the event. Please use discretion.

Scores will not be posted. Coaches will receive their team score within 14 business days of the event. All scores are final.

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





## How does it work?

- ▶ A moderator asks questions about the books.
- ▶ The Battle includes at least one question about each book.
- ▶ Questions read to the entire group.
- ▶ Each team has 30 seconds to discuss their thoughts and determine an answer.
- ▶ Teams answer using a paper score sheet (TBD).
- ▶ All questions answered by selecting the correct title and author pairing from the resource sheet.
- ▶ Collecting and scoring answers to be determined before the March logistics meeting.
- ▶ Correct answers read aloud after answers are collected.





# Scoring and awards

- ▶ Teams answering 95% or more correctly will get a gold medal (one medal per person) and trophy for the school. If multiple teams from the same school win Gold, only one trophy will be awarded.
- ▶ Teams scoring 90-94% will get a silver medal (one medal per person).

Additional award categories include:

- ▶ Best Team Name
- ▶ Best Team Costume
- ▶ Best Team Spirit
- ▶ Best Team Poster





# 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

ALL PARTS of the books distributed to teams MAY be considered for questions.





# Sample types of questions

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

**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





# Sample types of questions

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

## 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





# Sample types of questions

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

## Details about an illustration or picture

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

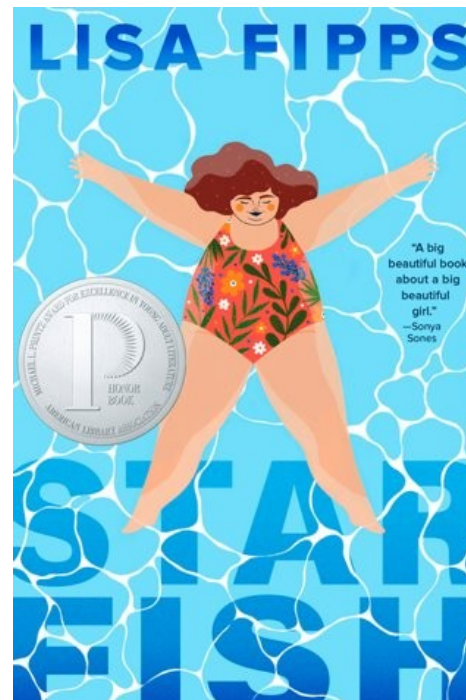
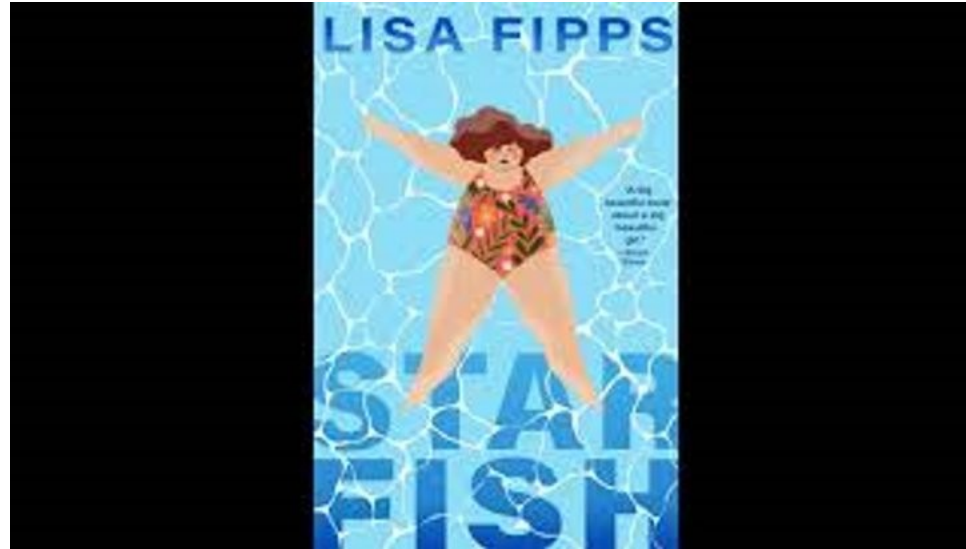
A: *Frog Prince Continued* by Jon Scieszka

Q: In which book will you find illustrations of water ballet moves? A: *Regarding the Fountain* by Kate Kilse

# 2024 Titles

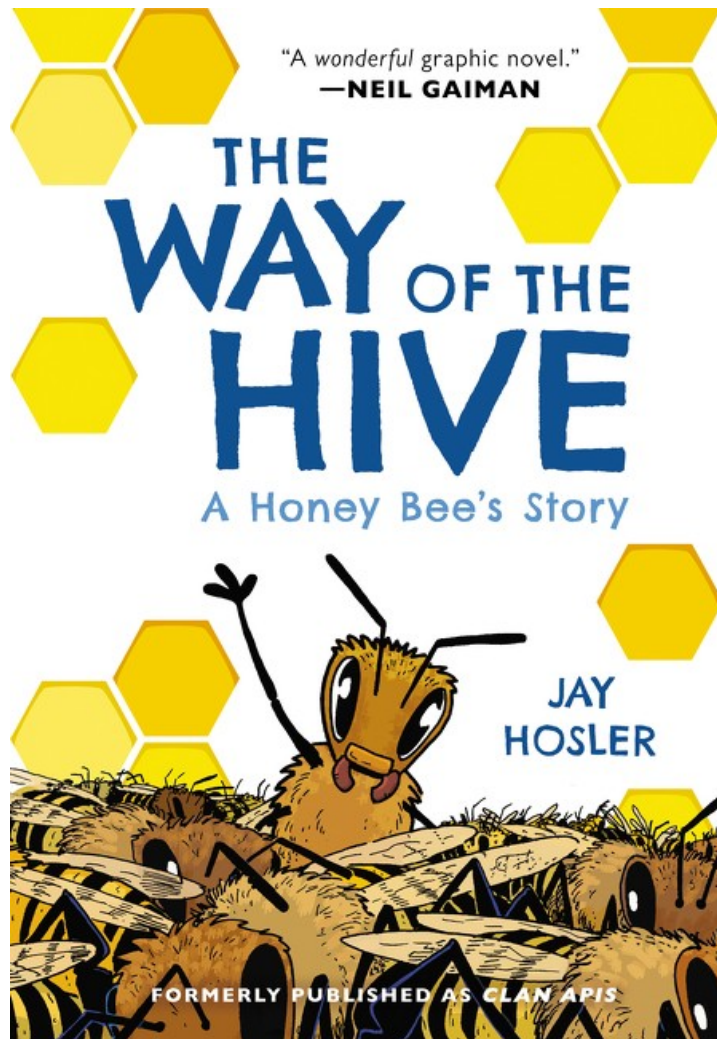
*Starfish*

by Lisa Fipps



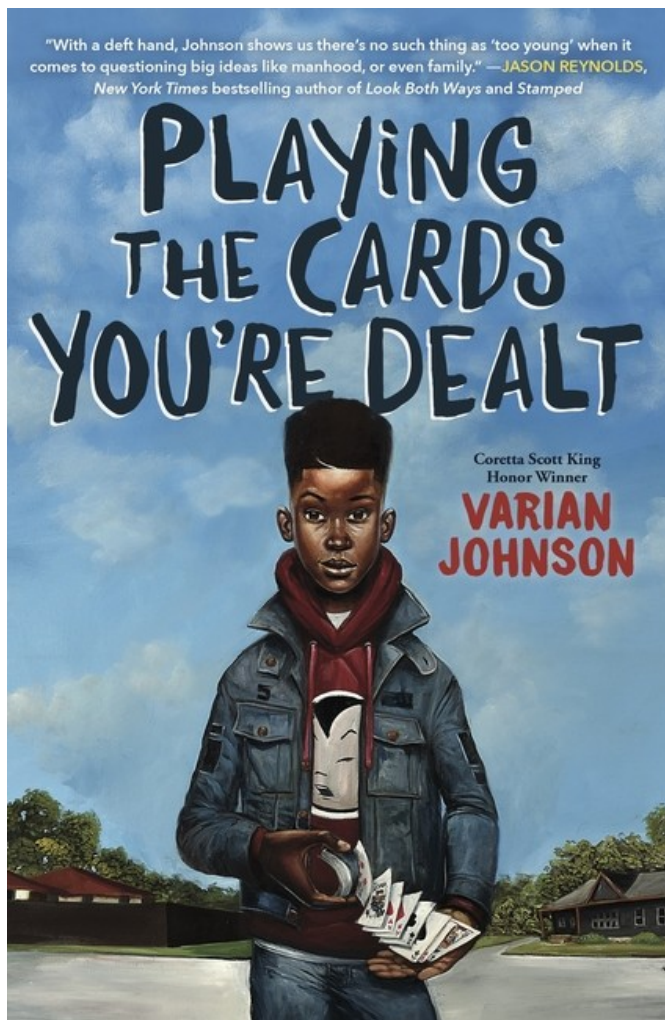
Additional  
[video trailer](#)



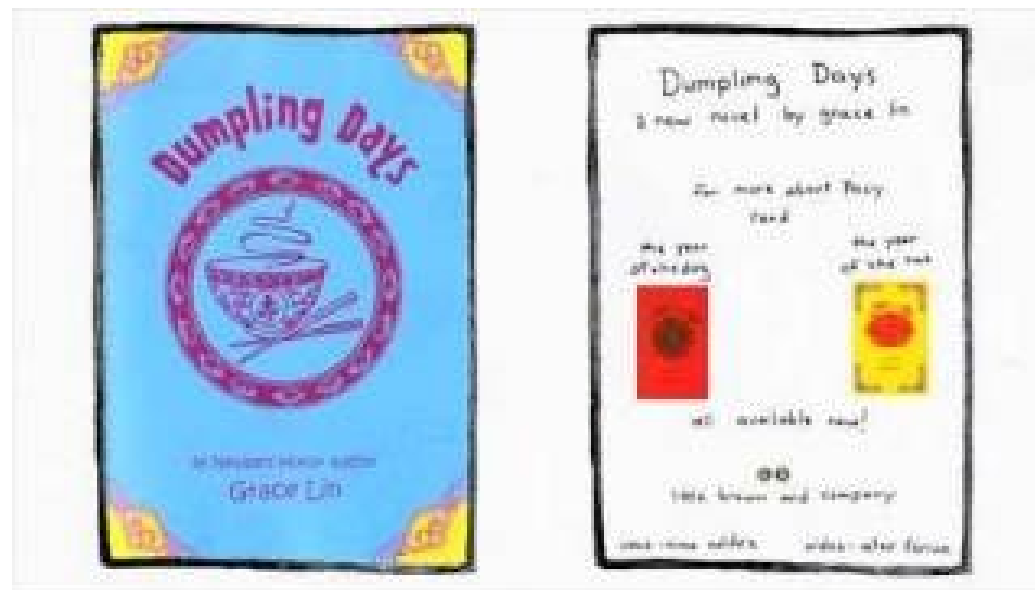
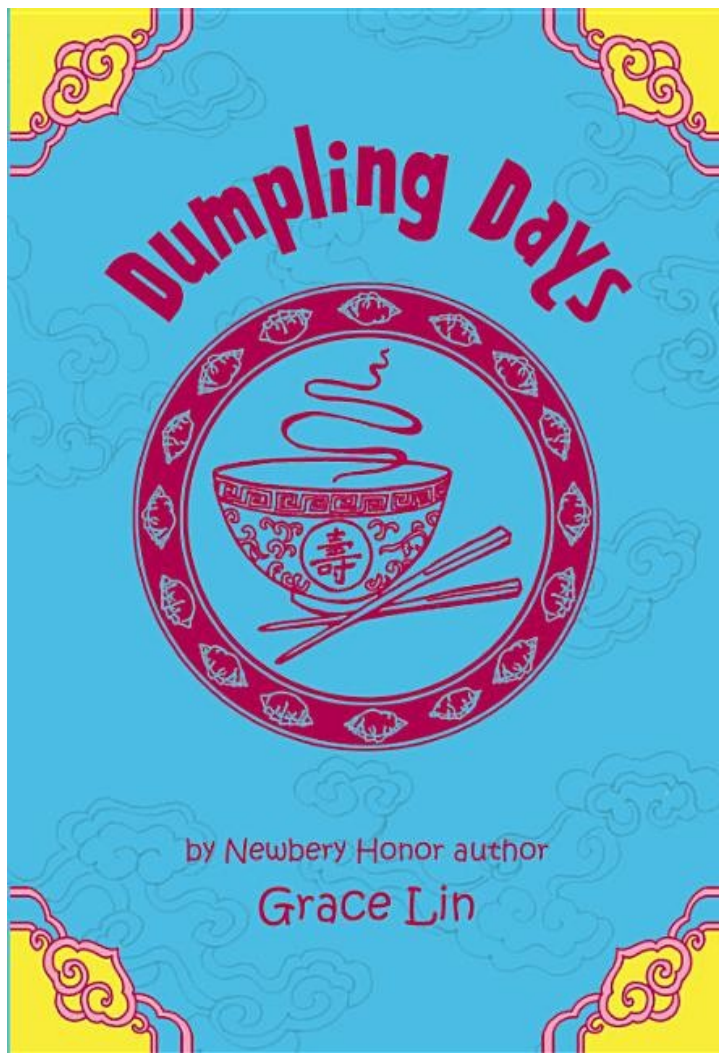


*The Way of the Hive*  
by Jay Hosler





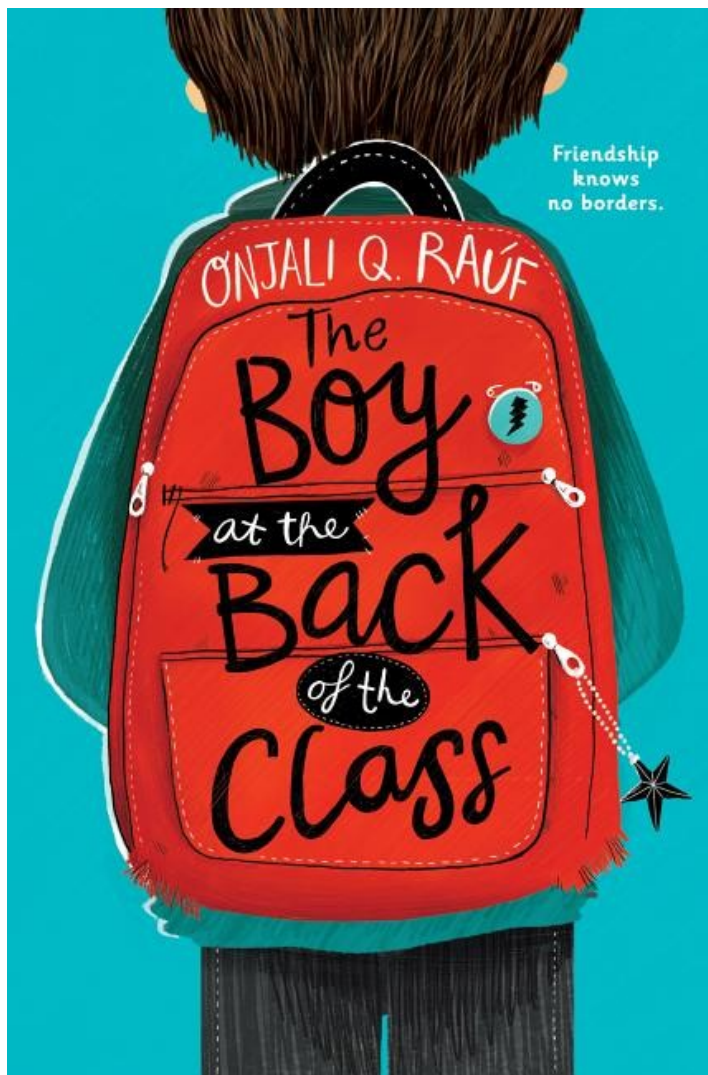
*Playing the Cards You're Dealt*  
by Varian Johnson



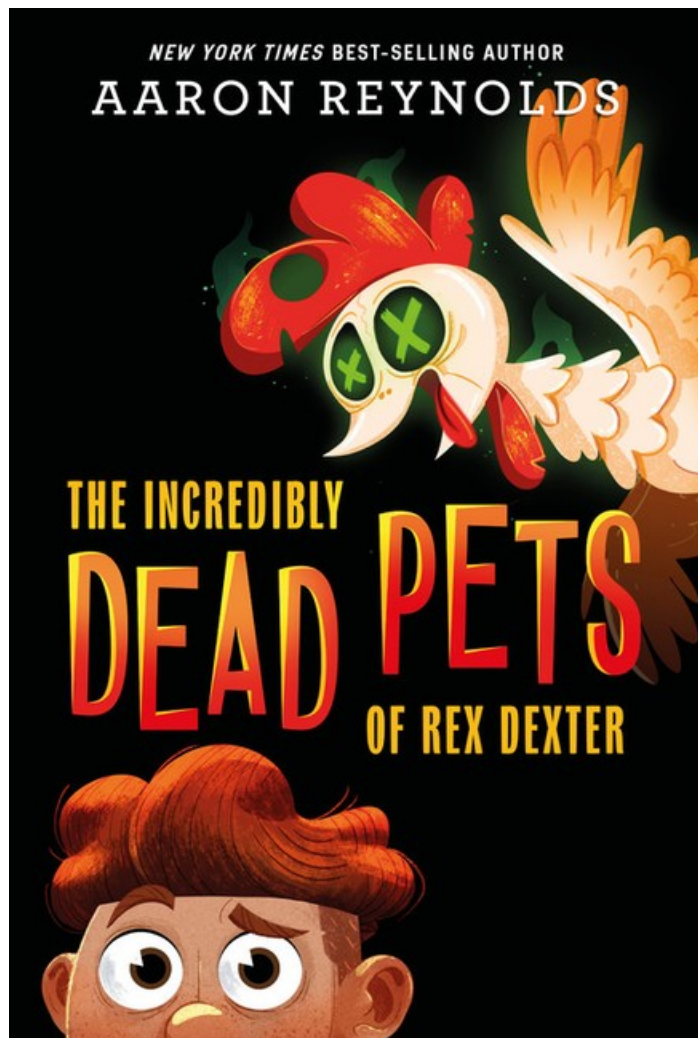
*Dumpling Days*  
by Grace Lin



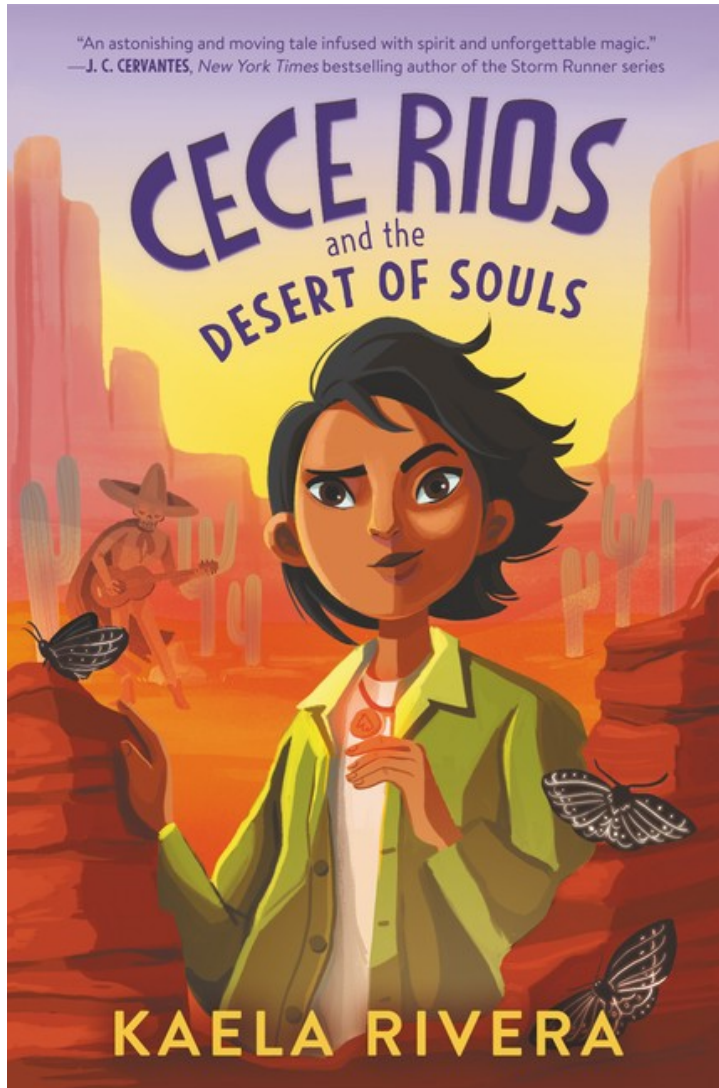




*The Boy at the Back of the Class*  
by Onjali Q. Rauf

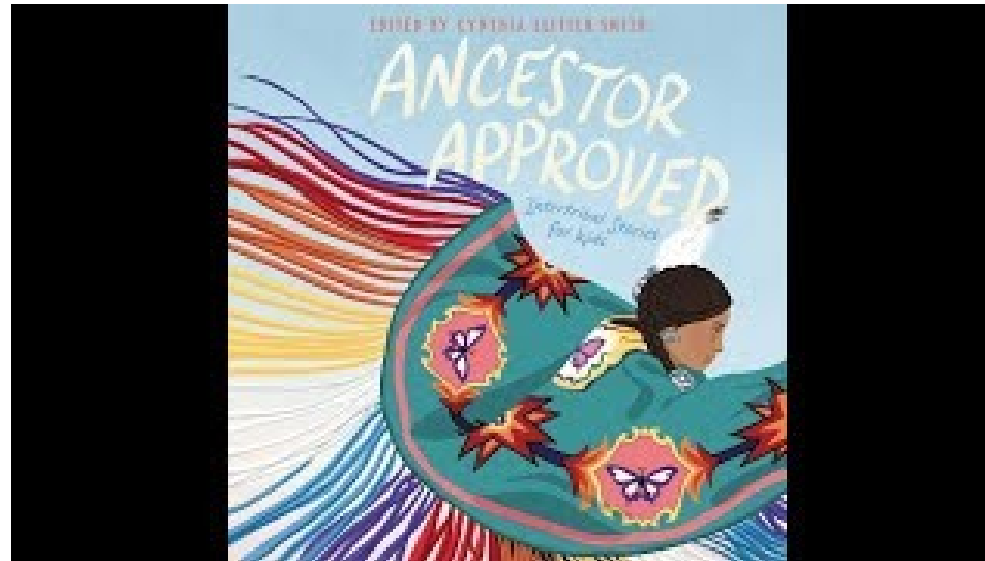


*The Incredibly Dead Pets  
of Rex Dexter*  
by Aaron Reynolds



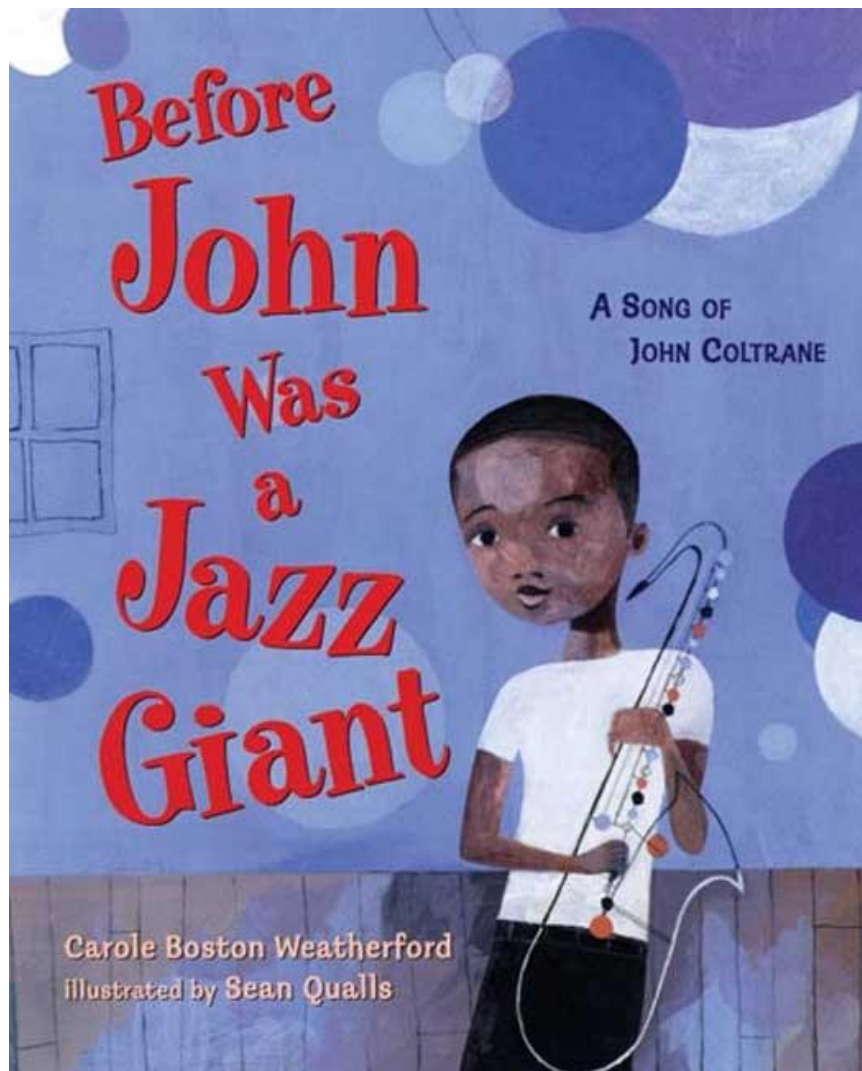
*Cece Rios and the Desert of Souls*  
by Kaela Rivera





*Ancestor Approved: Intertribal Stories for Kids*

by Cynthia Leitich Smith



*Before John was a Jazz Giant*  
by Carole Boston Weatherford



## UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

### Wednesday, Nov 15 (in person)

Mandatory Coach meetings at 7 pm

Wednesday, Nov 15 from 7 - 8:45 pm; Friday, Nov 17 from 4 - 6 pm;  
Saturday, Nov 18 from 11 am - 1 pm

Book distribution at HCLS Miller Branch

### Monday, Feb 5

Permission forms due

### Tuesday, March 19

Mandatory Logistics meetings via Zoom

### Friday, April 19

Battle of the Books at Merriweather!

## Parent Responsibilities

Respond to communications from coaches in a timely manner

Check FAQs at [hclibrary.org/battleofthebooks](http://hclibrary.org/battleofthebooks)

More details to come on arrival times and expectations, etc.

Ensure student arrives to check in at Merriweather on time  
(more info to follow)

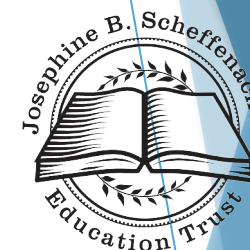


# Sponsors

*Thanks to our generous sponsors who make  
Battle of the Books possible:*

## **Presenting Sponsor**

Josephine B. Scheffenacker Education Trust



## **Additional Sponsors (as of Nov. 13)**

Merriweather Arts and Culture Center

Friends & Foundation of HCLS

Howard County Public School System

*I just wanted to say THANK YOU for a special night. I know the monsoon we endured was not what anyone hoped for - but despite the weather and the technical difficulties with the answering remotes, our team had an amazing time.*

*The fact that we are getting to the end of this elementary school journey is starting to sink in - and celebrating these wonderful kids with a massive dance party in the rain was just so much fun.*

*Thank you for the work and pivoting that went into making Friday night's event a go. I'm sure canceling was an option on the table - but I really thank you and your team for whatever it took to make adjustment so we could all still be together and celebrate.*

*- 2023 BOB coach*







Info and registration at [hclibrary.org/bob](https://hclibrary.org/bob)

Questions? Email [bob@hclibrary.org](mailto:bob@hclibrary.org)