

2024 BATTLE OF THE BOOKS at MERRIWEATHER



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





What is Battle of the Books?

- ▶ A+ Partners in Education (HCLS and HCPSS) academic competition for Howard County 5th grade students
- ▶ An exciting, fun opportunity to read great books, work with a team, and be creative
- ▶ Teams include:
 - ▶ Three to five students from the same school
 - ▶ One adult coach
- ▶ Teams read 10 pre-determined books and compete at Merriweather Post Pavilion in April
- ▶ All participants receive certificates.

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!

I heard the message from HcLibrary all year that BoB is about growing our reading skills, enjoying books with peers, and practicing together.

It would have been fun to keep score, but we understand BoB is so much more than that (our team kept score for ourselves).

Thank you for not cancelling Friday's BoB. The rain was unfortunate, but the overall party environment was lots of fun!

- 2023 BOB Coach





Where and when?

Friday, April 19

Begins at 7 pm and ends
between 10 and 11 pm

Merriweather Post Pavilion

RAIN OR SHINE

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.

Registration

Coaches need the following information to register:

- ✓ For each team member:
 - ✓ student name
 - ✓ parent phone number
 - ✓ parent email address that is checked regularly
- ✓ For each coach:
 - ✓ coach name
 - ✓ phone number
 - ✓ email address that is checked regularly
 - ✓ mailing address
- ✓ Team name
- ✓ School name

Registration

- ▶ Each team can register up to 5 members. Alternates not permitted.
- ▶ In order to compete, at least 3 team members must participate in the Battle.
- ▶ Thanks to our generous sponsors, each team receives one set of books to keep.





Coaches

- ▶ 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



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.



Sample types of questions

- ▶ Direct quote from a character in the book.
- ▶ Question or statement about something that happens in the book.
- ▶ Passage taken directly from a book.
- ▶ Question about something from an illustration or picture.

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



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).

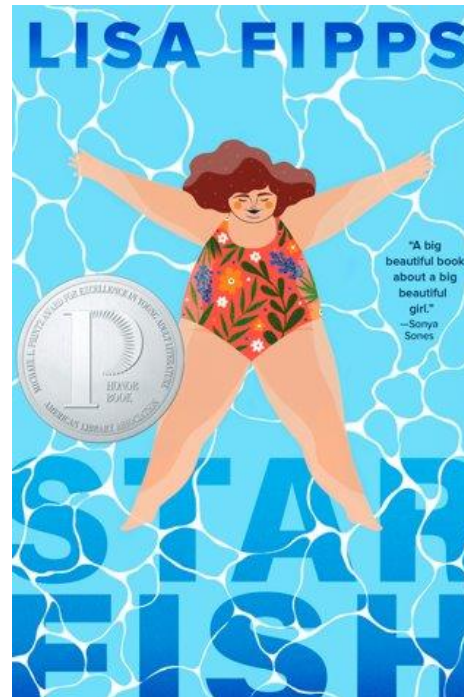
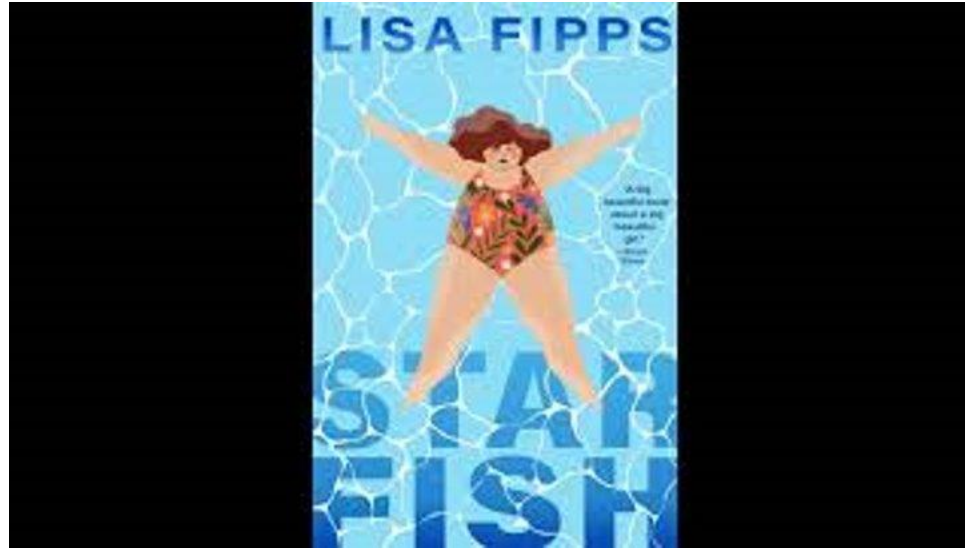
Additional award categories include:

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

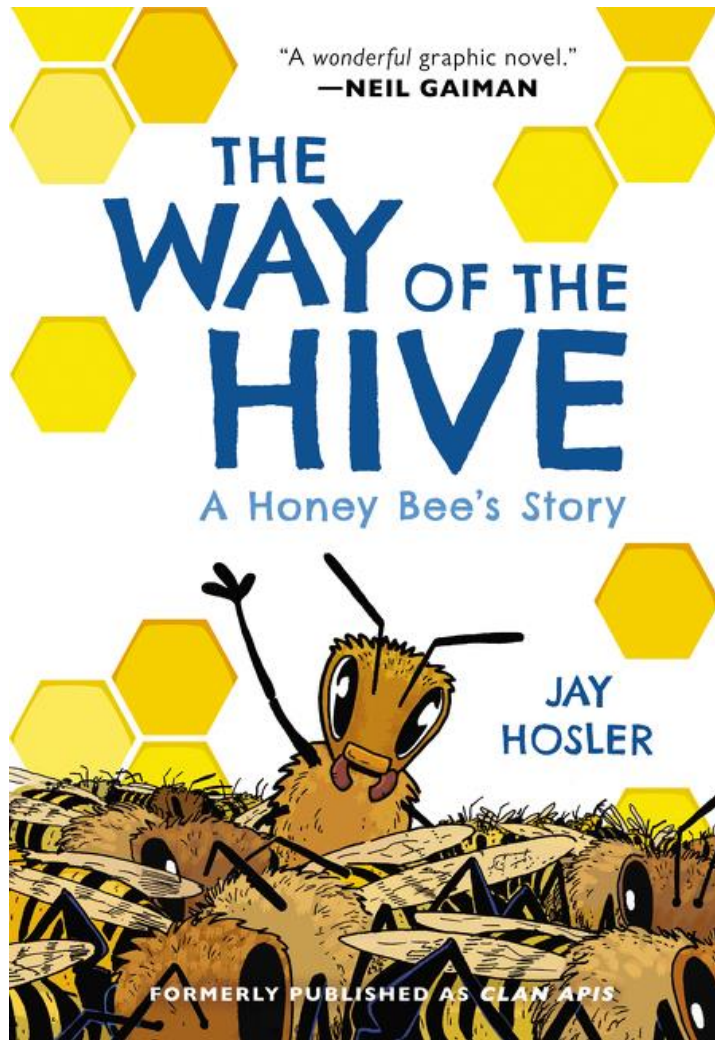
2024 Titles

Starfish

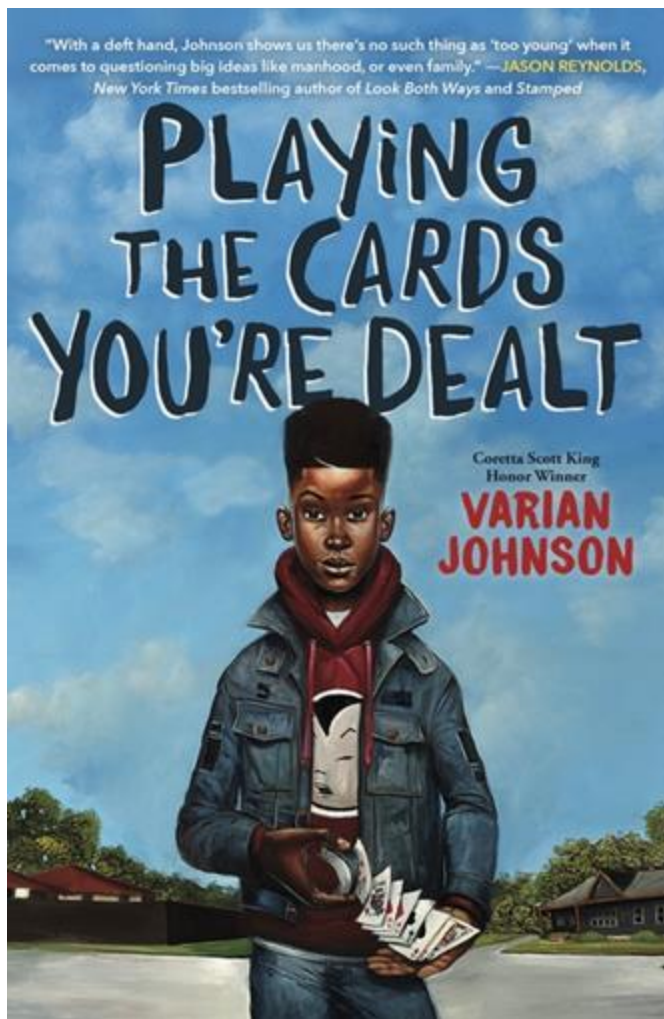
by Lisa Fipps



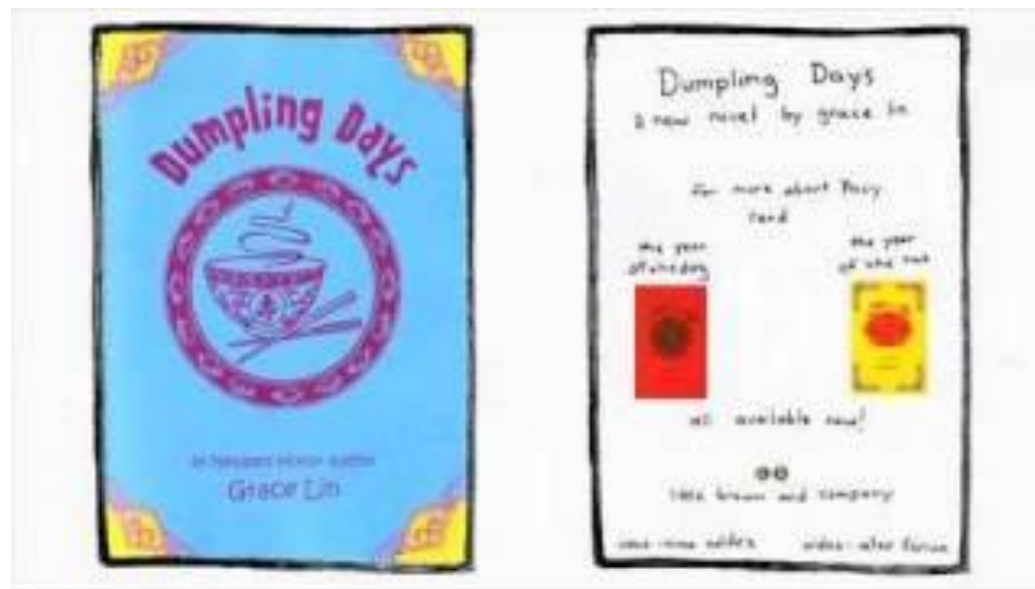
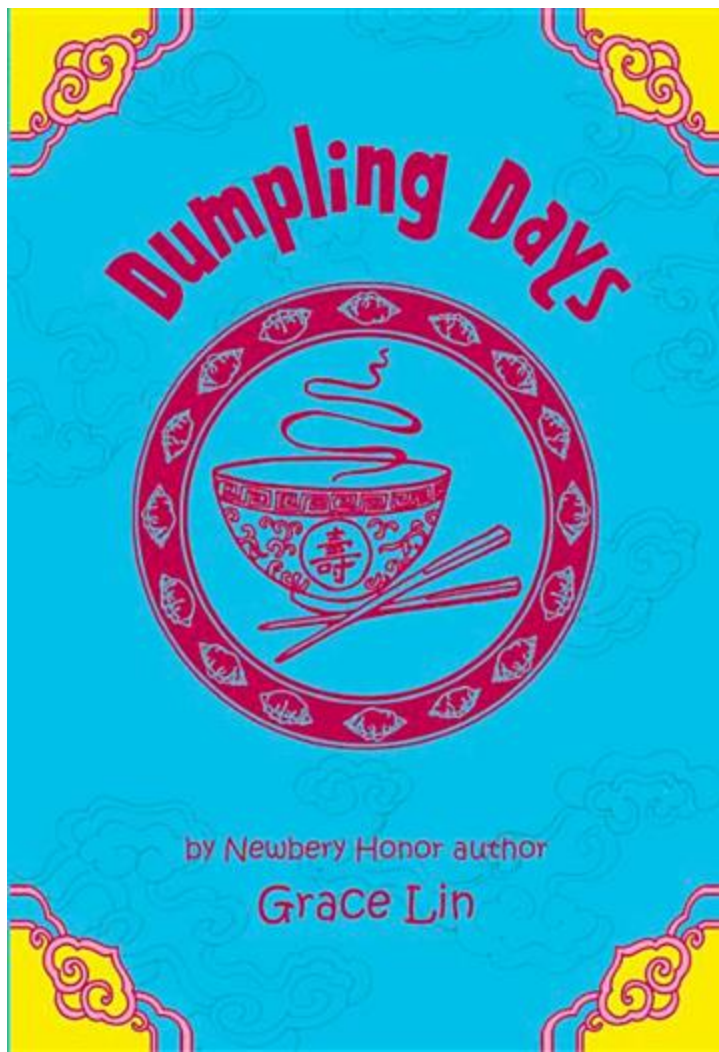
Additional [video trailer](#)



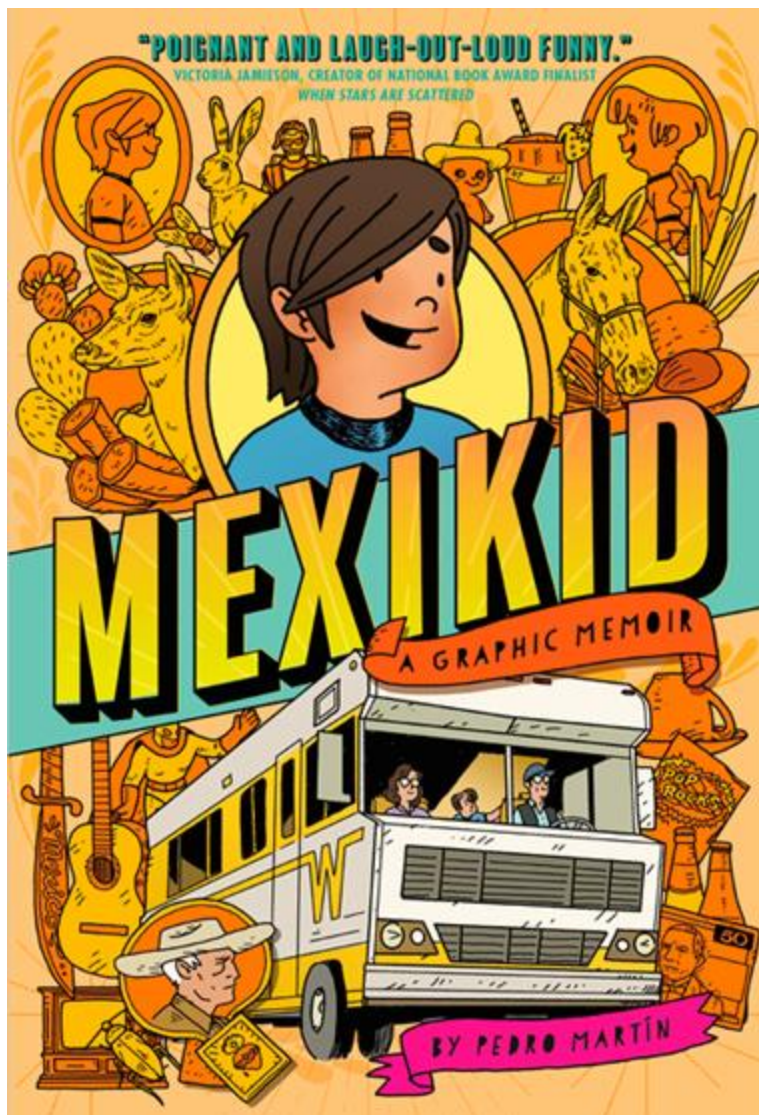
The Way of the Hive
by Jay Hosler



Playing the Cards You're Dealt
by Varian Johnson



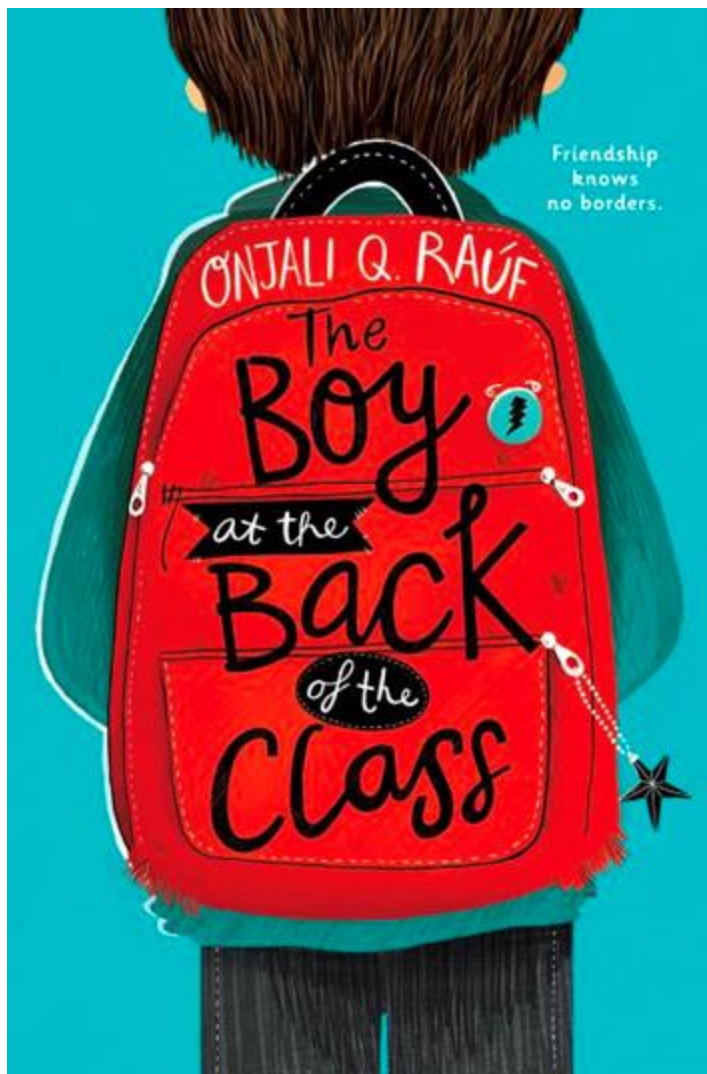
Dumpling Days
by Grace Lin



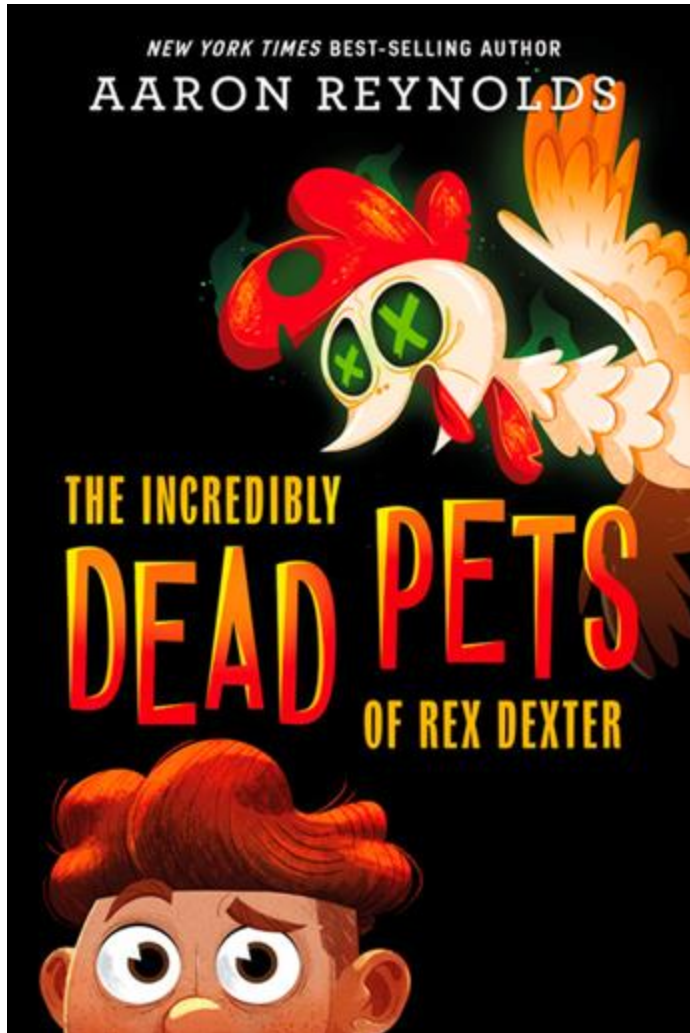
Chieftain



[Mexikid](#)
by Pedro Martin

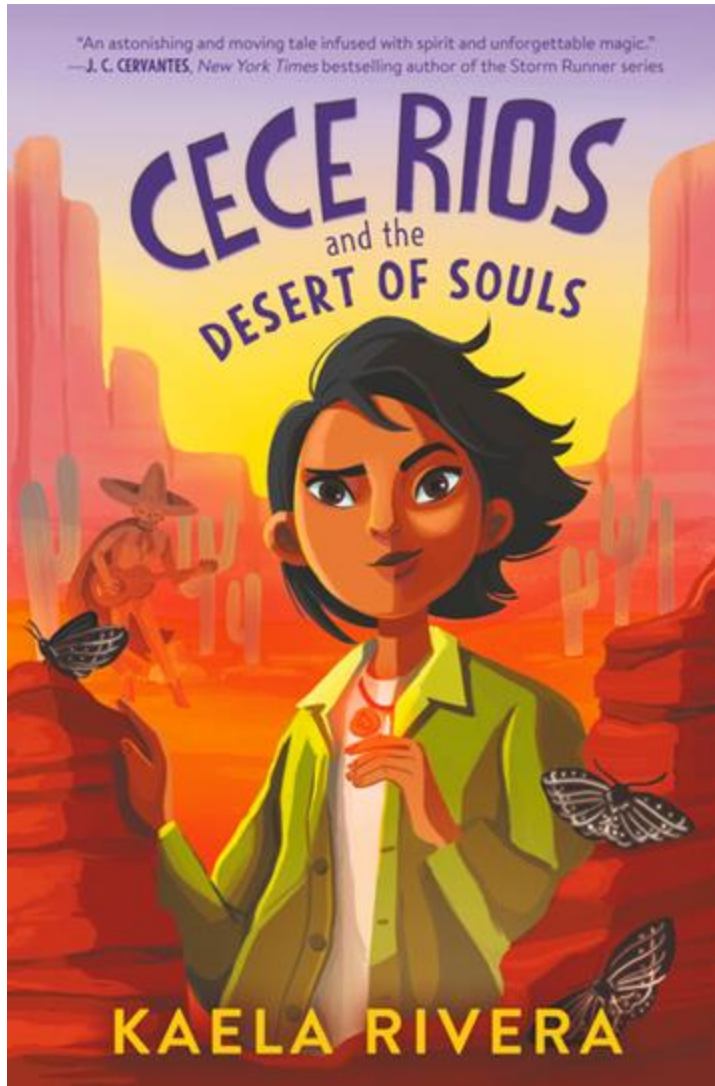


The Boy at the Back of the Class
by Onjali Q. Rauf

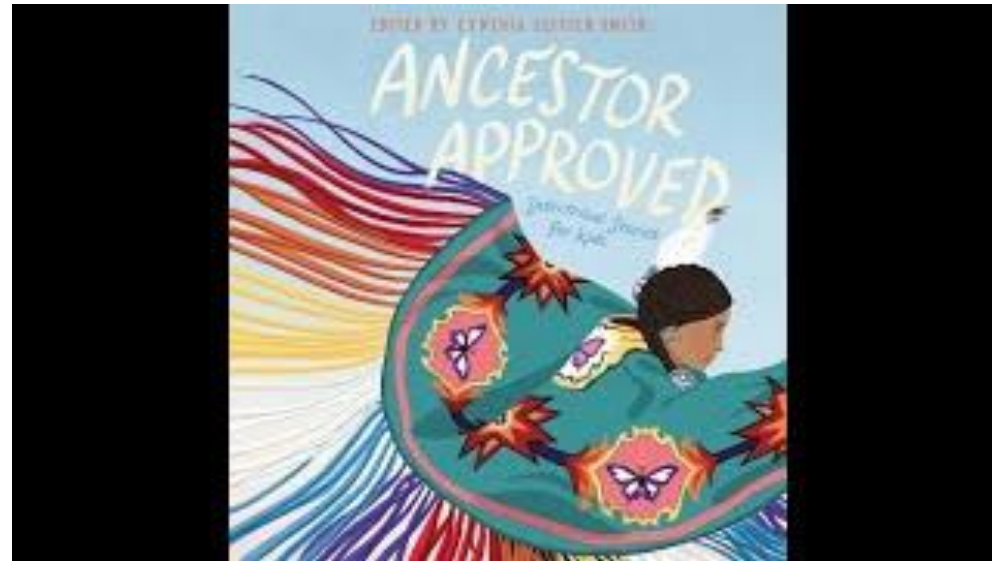


*The Incredibly Dead Pets
of Rex Dexter*

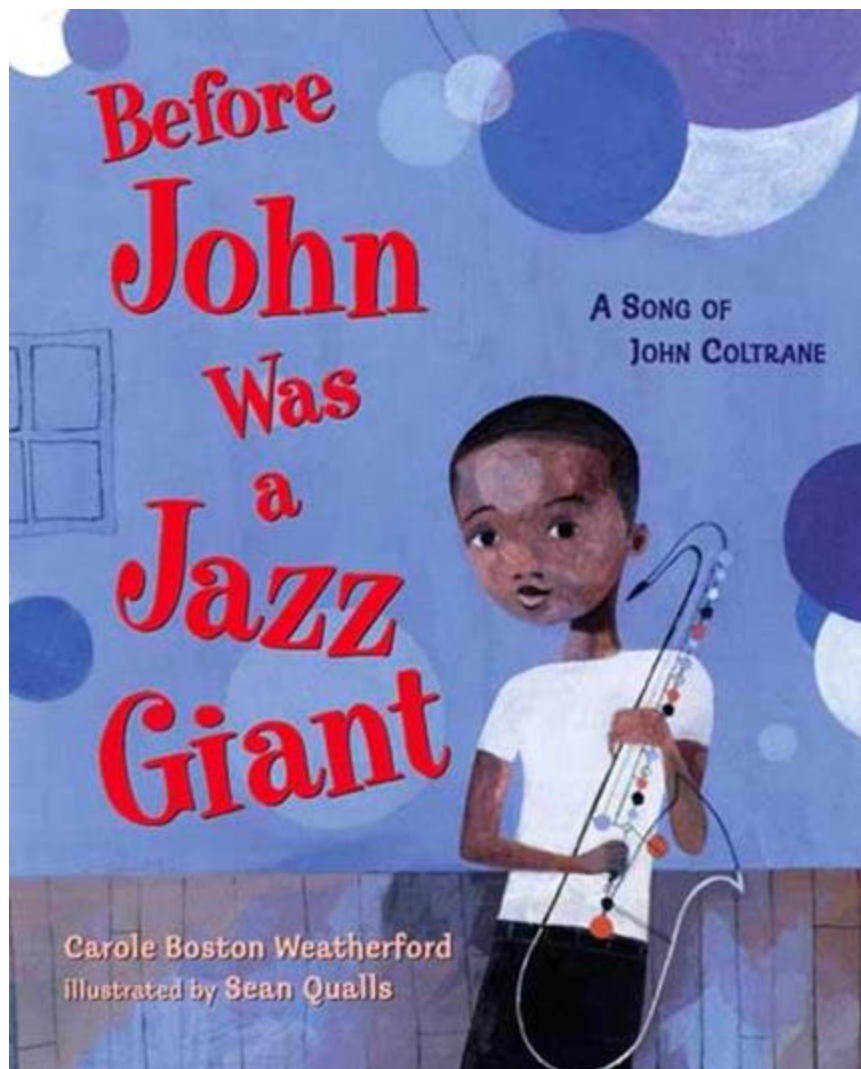
by Aaron Reynolds



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

DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday, Oct 23 - Tuesday, Nov 7

Online registration at hclibrary.org/bob

**Registration closes Nov 7 or when capacity is reached, whichever comes first*

Tuesday, Nov 14 (virtual at HCLS Miller Branch)

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!

Sponsors

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

Presenting Sponsor

Josephine B. Scheffenacker Education Trust



Additional Sponsors (as of Oct. 11)

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

Questions? Email bob@hclibrary.org