

2024 BATTLE OF THE BOOKS at MERRIWEATHER



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



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





Tonight's objectives:

Goals for students

Coach responsibilities

Virtual Author Q&A event

Logistics

Digital posters

Scoring

Parent responsibilities

Important dates

NOTE: Watch for updates via email and FAQs page.

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

- ▶ Help students build teamwork skills
- ▶ Model good sportsmanship skills
- ▶ Set up regular meetings
- ▶ Encourage and reward students
- ▶ Convey information from HCLS to team members and their parents
- ▶ Respond to communications from HCLS in a timely manner
- ▶ ADAPT, IMPROVISE, OVERCOME
- ▶ Have fun!





Meet Battle of the Books Author Varian Johnson (Zoom Webinar)

Thursday, April 4 | 7 - 7:30 pm

- ▶ Join us for a 30-minute live online Q&A with Varian Johnson, author of *Playing the Cards You're Dealt*.
- ▶ Varian will be in conversation with students.
- ▶ Bring your question or enter it in advance when you register for the event.
- ❓ Register for FREE [here](https://tinyurl.com/whdrrday) -OR- <https://tinyurl.com/whdrrday>





Where and when?

Friday, April 19

Begins at 7 pm and ends
between 10 and 11 pm

Merriweather Post Pavilion

RAIN OR SHINE

- ▶ Coaches and teams may begin checking in at 5 pm.
- ▶ All team members must be checked in by 6:45 pm.
- ▶ Any students arriving after 6:45 pm will be disqualified.
- ▶ Parking and entry gate (South or West) will be assigned according to section.

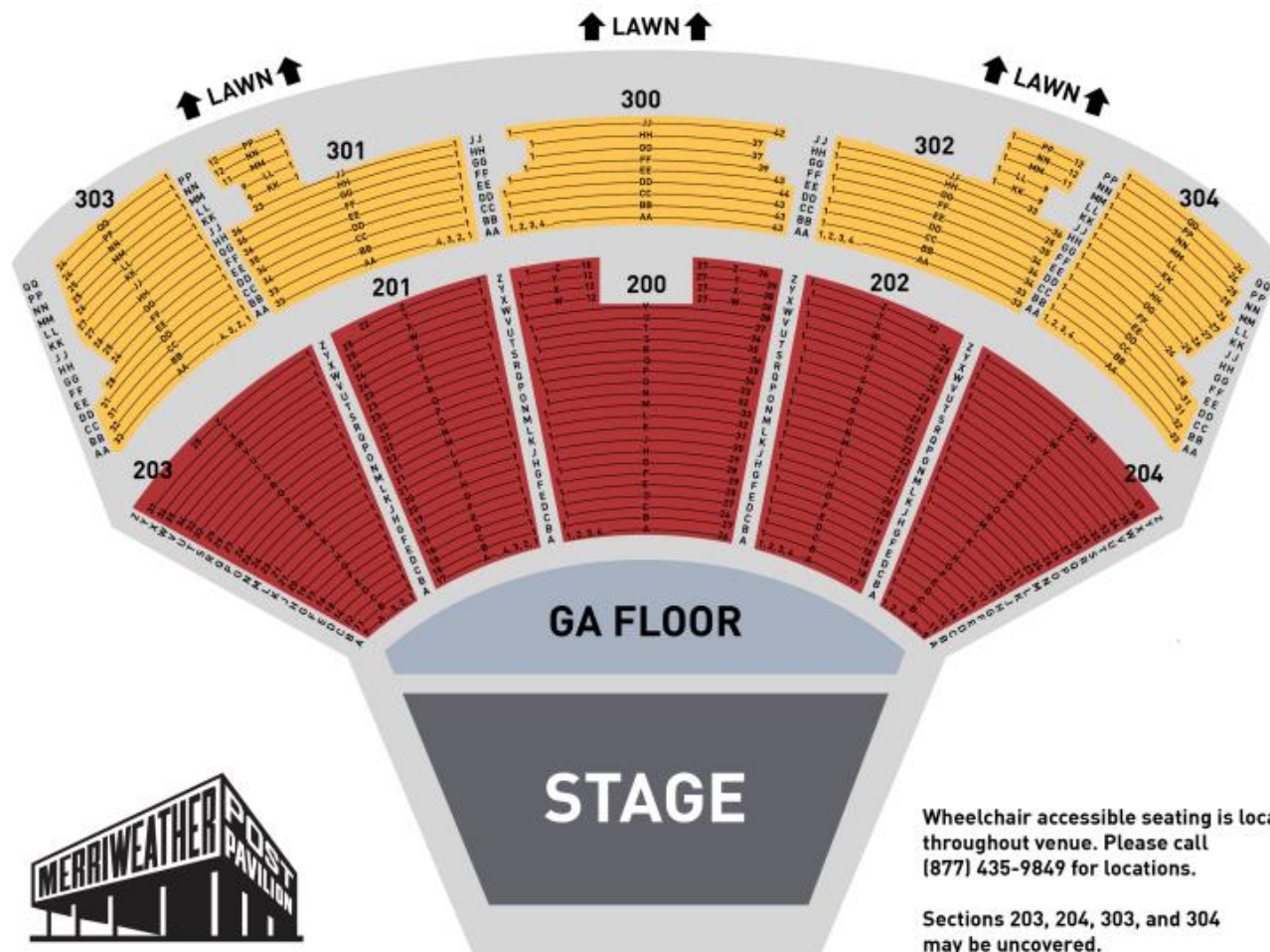


West Plaza
team check-in

Teams assigned to
sections 200-204,
301-302

Assistant coaches sit
behind teams
in sections 301-302

Spectators in sections
300, 303, 304



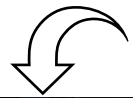
South Plaza
team check-in

Wheelchair accessible seating is located
throughout venue. Please call
(877) 435-9849 for locations.

Sections 203, 204, 303, and 304
may be uncovered.

Seating

- Covered seating for teams, both coaches, and staff.
- Lawn and limited covered seating for spectators.
- Please bring your chairs, blankets, jackets, snacks, umbrellas, etc. to get comfortable and enjoy the event.



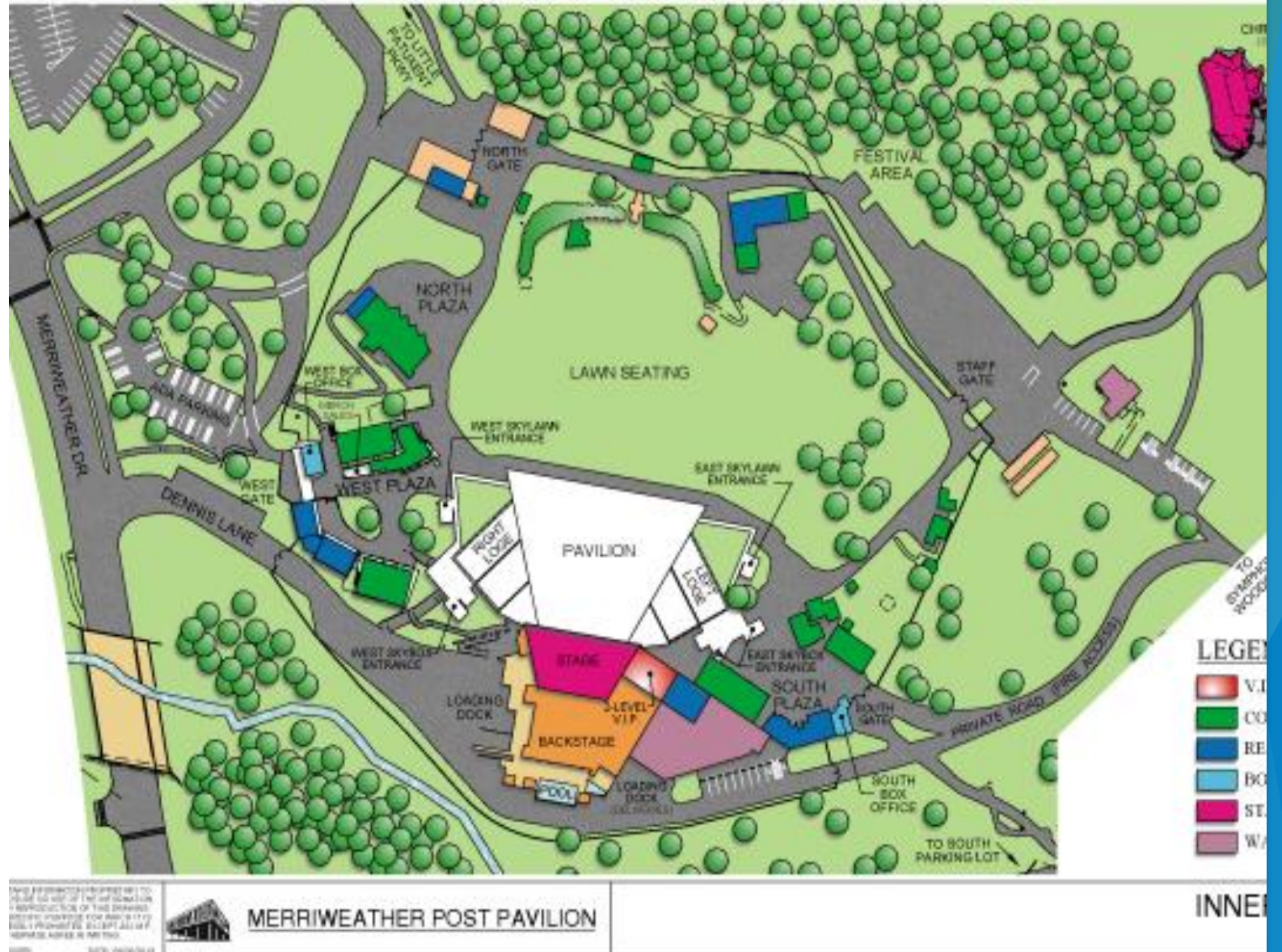
Teams and coaches



Spectators



- ▶ Dress for the weather
- ▶ Note expected temps after sundown
- ▶ No tickets required for entry
- ▶ Free parking in assigned garages (details to follow)
- ▶ Food and beverages may be brought into Merriweather
- ▶ Religious observances: dedicated space provided for Muslim prayer time and Shabbat



A black and white photograph of a large crowd of students in a gymnasium. In the foreground, a person is standing on the left side of the frame, facing away from the camera and looking towards the crowd. The crowd is dense and fills the majority of the frame, extending into the background. The students are wearing various casual clothing, and some are looking towards the camera. The gymnasium floor is visible in the foreground, and the background shows the structure of the gym, including bleachers and a high ceiling.

Please note:

- This event is LOUD. We will provide ear plugs for the students. Coaches and spectators should bring their own, if needed.
- It runs as late as 11 pm

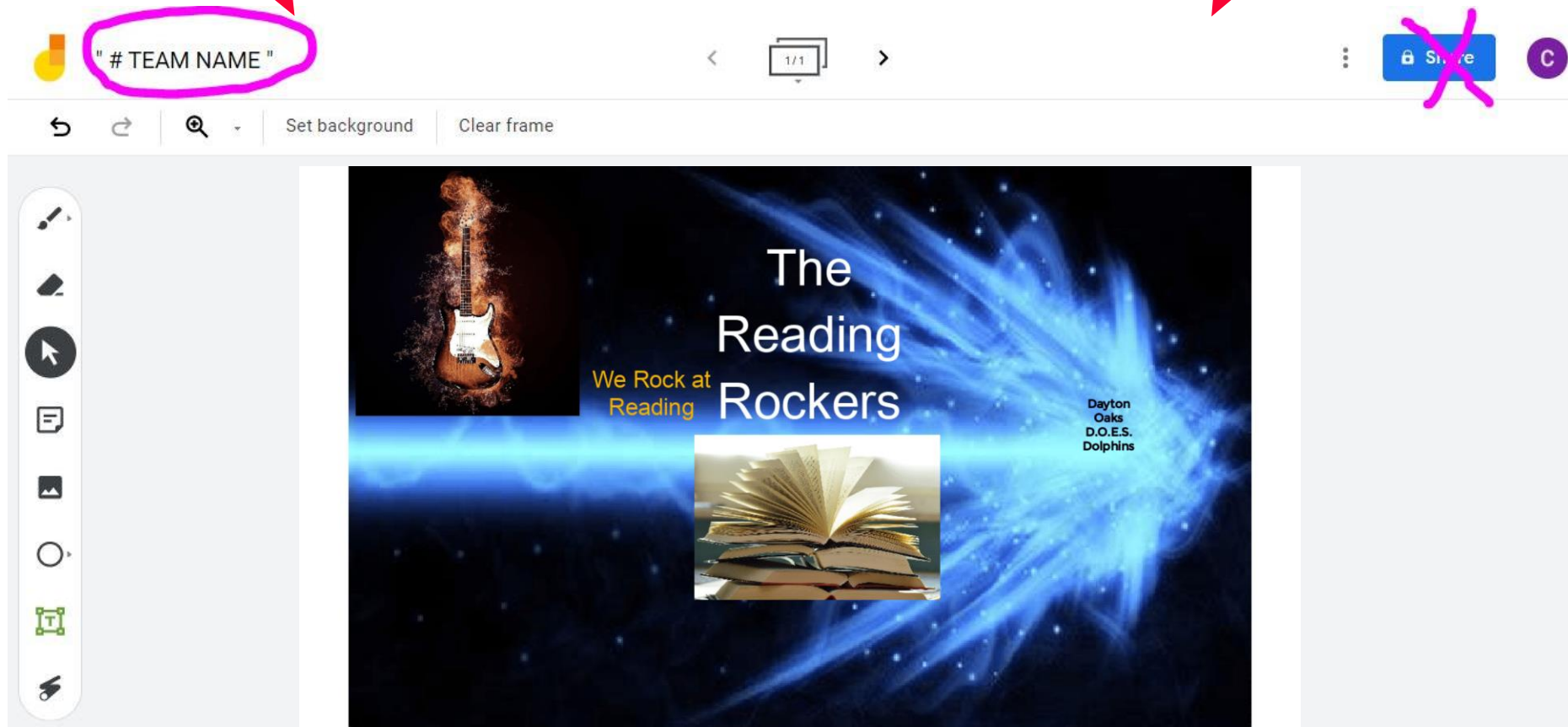
Digital Poster Parade

- Teams may choose to collaborate on [Google Jamboard](#) or [Slides](#) to create / download a poster for the digital parade.
- Digital posters - Google Jamboard / Slides; JPEG or PNG due by 4/5 ([Dropbox](#): 2024 BOB at MPP digital posters)
- Team digital posters will be featured on screen during break



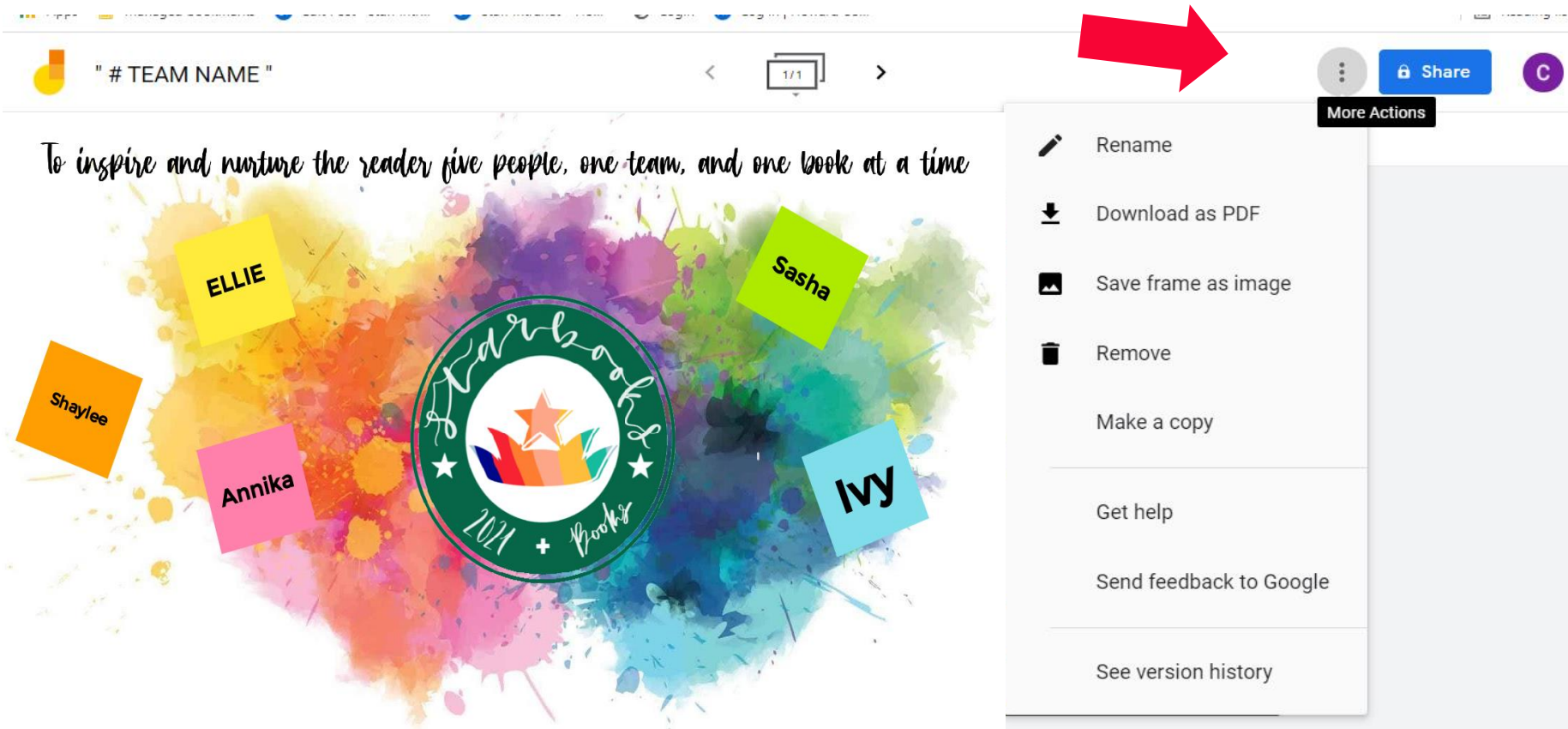
Google Jamboard / Slides

- Go to <https://jamboard.google.com/> and click "+" to create
- File name format: "Section # Team Name" i.e. "200 The Reading Rockers"... "201 Blitz"...or "202 Book Stars"
- Do not Share the file, instead download as **JPEG** or **PNG** to [Dropbox](#).



Google Jamboard files

- Click on the three dots for "More Actions", "Save frame as image" to save as **JPEG** or **PNG**
- Name the document your "Section # Team Name" and upload to Dropbox (i.e. "200 The Reading Rockers" or "202 Book Stars")
- Dropbox link: [2024 BOB at MPP digital posters](#) by **April 5**.





How does it work?

- ❑ Team members work together.
- ❑ Coaches supervise their team.
- ❑ Academic integrity expected.



How does it work?

- ▶ A moderator asks questions about the books, including at least one question about each book.
- ▶ Questions read aloud twice to the entire group.
- ▶ Each team has 30 seconds to discuss their thoughts and determine an answer.
- ▶ Teams answer using a paper answer sheet and pencil
- ▶ All questions answered by selecting the correct title and author pairing from the resource sheet.
- ▶ At the end of the round, paper score sheets passed down the row to collectors standing in aisles
- ▶ Correct answers read aloud after answers are collected.



How does it work: Answering

- ▶ Resource sheet (provided in team packet at check-in)
 - 8 x 11" laminated sheet
 - Lists titles and authors next to alphabetical answer key (A-J)
- ▶ Answer sheet (provided in team packet at check-in)
 - Approx. 4 x 5" paper that fits on provided clipboard
 - Team name at the top
 - Ten numbered spaces for answers
 - One sheet per round - sheets show question numbers in ascending order
 - Teams circle the alphabetical answer in each appropriate space for each question read with provided pencil

Answer Key

EXAMPLE

BATTLE OF THE BOOKS 2024 – ANSWER CHOICES LIST

DIRECTIONS

Circle the letter of your answer on your team's answer card for the current round. When you are asked to do so, pass your team's answer card for that round to the score collector at the end of the row.

ANSWER CHOICES

- A) *Starfish* by Lisa Fipps
- B) *The Way of the Hive: A Honey Bee's Story* by Jay Hosler
- C) *Playing the Cards You're Dealt* by Varian Johnson
- D) *Dumpling Days* by Grace Lin
- E) *Mexikid* by Pedro Martin
- F) *The Boy at the Back of the Class* by Onjali Q. Rauf
- G) *The Incredibly Dead Pets of Rex Dexter* by Aaron Reynolds
- H) *Cece Rios and the Desert of Soul* by Kaela Rivera
- I) *Ancestor Approved* by Cynthia Leitich Smith, editor
- J) *Before John was a Jazz Giant: A Song of John Coltrane* by Carole Boston Weatherford

SECTION 204 EXAMPLE

TEAM Battle Bots

SEATS AB1-4

ROUND 1

1	A	B	C	D	E
	F	G	H	I	J
2	A	B	C	D	E
	F	G	H	I	J
3	A	B	C	D	E
	F	G	H	I	J
4	A	B	C	D	E
	F	G	H	I	J
5	A	B	C	D	E
	F	G	H	I	J
6	A	B	C	D	E
	F	G	H	I	J
7	A	B	C	D	E
	F	G	H	I	J
8	A	B	C	D	E
	F	G	H	I	J
9	A	B	C	D	E
	F	G	H	I	J
10	A	B	C	D	E
	F	G	H	I	J

Answer
Sheet
EXAMPLE



How does it work: Answering

► Rounds

- Ten questions per round
- Teams mark the appropriate answer on their answer sheet as each question read
- At the end of each round, coaches for each team pass their answer sheet down the row to collectors
- Collectors put answer sheets in envelope, color coded per round
- Envelopes taken to the back of the stage for scoring



How does it work: Answering

► Rounds

- After answer sheets collected, moderator will read the questions again and provide answers
- Once all questions and answers from previous round read, new round begins
- Teams will take out appropriate round answer sheet from their packet and place on provided clipboard
- Questions read for new round and teams write in alphabetical answer from resource sheet
- At the end of the round, coaches pass down round's answer sheet to collectors in rows
- Process followed for each round



How does it work: Scoring

- ▶ Each answer worth two points
- ▶ The last question of each round is bonus - worth four points (two bonuses total)
- ▶ After collector collects answer sheets, they are taken to back of stage to tabulators
- ▶ Tabulators score the answer sheets
- ▶ At the end of the night, tabulators total up the scores per team
- ❓ 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).



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.



Awards: Top Scores

- ▶ **GOLD:** Teams answering 95% or more correctly will get a gold medal (one medal per person) and trophy for the school.
- ▶ **SILVER:** Teams scoring 90-94% will get a silver medal (one medal per person).
- ▶ Trophies for each winning team's school delivered in May. One trophy per school (e.g., 3 winners at same school = 1 trophy)



Awards: Categories

- Categories:
 - Best Team Costume
 - Best Team Name
 - Best Team Poster
 - Best Team Sportsmanship
- Awarded to top three teams per seating section.
- Each team member receives certificate delivered to schools for distribution.

Costumes

- Judges will look for costumes designed and produced by students. They will reward creativity and use of recycled items.
- Costumes must comply with all requirements listed in HCPSS Policy 9210: Student Dress Code, including but not limited to:
 - No gory costumes
 - No masks that cover eyes
 - No toys that resemble weapons
 - No roller blades, skateboards, or other footwear with wheels.
- If you are not allowed to wear it to school, you are not allowed to wear it to Battle of the Books.
- All props must fit securely under auditorium seats.



Parent Responsibilities

- ▶ Check FAQs at hclibrary.org/battleofthebooks
- ▶ Respond to communications from coaches in a timely manner.
- ▶ Prepare your child for the length and noise level of the event.
- ▶ Reinforce all the goals of the event - it's so much more than their team's score.
- ▶ Ensure your child arrives to check in at Merriweather on time (starting at 5 pm and no later than 6:45 pm).



After the Battle

- ▶ Scores will not be posted. Coaches will receive their team score within 14 business days of the event. All scores are final.
- ▶ Event photos will be posted to the HCLS Flickr page (www.flickr.com/photos/hoc-olibrary) within two weeks.



IMPORTANT DATES

Thursday, April 4 at 7 pm

BOB Virtual Q&A event with Varian Johnson, author of *Playing the Cards You're Dealt* (Register: <https://tinyurl.com/whdrrday>)

Friday, April 5

Deadline to upload team's digital poster to Dropbox

Friday, April 19

- Battle of the Books at Merriweather!
- Gates open at 5 pm
- All team members must check in and be seated by 6:45 pm to participate
- Please note that this is a loud event that runs as late as 11 pm

Sponsors

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

Presenting Sponsor

Josephine B. Scheffenacker Education Trust



Additional Sponsors

Friends & Foundation of HCLS

Howard County Public School System

Howard Hughes Corporation

Merriweather Arts and Culture Center

M&T Charitable Bank Foundation

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