



Birmingham Public Schools

Battle of the Books

A challenge for 4th & 5th graders with a passion for reading

Sponsored by the BPS Library Media Department

What is Battle of the Books?

We invite all fourth and fifth grade students, who have a passion for reading and who crave a challenge, to participate in a Battle of the Books competition.

This is a unique opportunity for students to read ten challenging books that have been pre-selected from a variety of genres. They will receive the book list on Battle Launch Day, **Thursday, October 29, 2015**. Multiple copies of these books, which have been purchased through a generous donation from our PTA and by Quarton Media Center, will be available in the Media Center. Battle Book Bundles should be available for pick up in the Quarton Media Center at the Battle Launch.

The challenge of Battle lies in the conflicts and issues found in the books, advanced/more mature content in the books, and the discussion that engages the students after reading these titles. Parents are encouraged to read and discuss the books with their children.

Students will also have the opportunity to participate in teacher-led book clubs, to meet with other students, discuss the issues in the books, and prepare for the competition. These book clubs typically meet at lunch during January and February. Students will sign up for book clubs using SignUp Genius.

Battle Team Qualifications

Students who wish to participate in the Battle must read 6 Battle books and pass the corresponding Compass Learning tests by the end of the school day on **Friday, January 8, 2016** in order to qualify for a Battle Team. To pass each of the tests, students need to answer 6 of the 10 questions correctly. Battle Teams will be comprised of students from Quarton Elementary **only**. Battle teammates will be responsible for at least two books on which they become experts.

After qualifying for a Battle Team, we strongly encourage students to continue reading in order to earn higher ribbons or a gold medal. The final deadline for taking tests for ribbons and the gold medal is **Friday, January 22, 2016**. In accordance with the district's technology goals, students will be encouraged to communicate with their teammates electronically (i.e. via email, wikis, Moodle).

Battle team qualifiers will meet with a Battle team facilitator (parent volunteer) at least twice from January 15-February 5, 2016. During these meetings, students will determine the books for which they will become an expert, decide on a team name, design a simple inexpensive costume, and create their Battle crest. Students are welcome and encouraged to discuss books during these meetings.

The Battle

The Battle is the culminating activity for the students. Teams meet and answer 30 questions on the 10 Battle Books. The Quarton Battle will take place on **Tuesday, February 9, 2016** from 9:15am until approximately 11:30 am in the Bear's Den. Students will return to their classrooms and then are invited to a special lunch during the regularly scheduled lunch period.

If you have any questions about Battle of the Books, please contact Mrs. Olmsted, Quarton Media Specialist, at olmsted@birmingham.k12.mi.us.

Battle of the Books-Certificate, Ribbon, & Medal Qualifications

A certificate of participation: Minimum of 1 Battle Book

Battle Ribbons: 6-9 Battle Books

Gold Medal: All 10 Books

Student participant responsibilities for a Battle team:

1. Qualify for a team.
2. Work and communicate with teammates.
3. Become an expert on books agreed to by your team.
4. Attend Battle Book Clubs.
5. Do their best on Battle Day.

Quarton Battle of the Books Permission Slip

Please return to your classroom teacher by Tuesday, October 27, 2015. Remember to return or renew your library books so you may check out a Battle book on October 29!

Name (first and last): _____

Grade: ____ Teacher: _____

I wish to participate in the Battle of the Books. I understand that I can read as few as one Battle Book but that I must pass the corresponding Compass Learning test for **6 of 10** books by **Friday, January 8, 2016** in order to qualify for a Battle Team. I also understand that I will become an expert on at least two Battle Books.



Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Parent Participation:

Parent Name: _____ Cell #: _____

Email Address: _____

_____ Yes, I can help get a Battle team ready for Battle Day (Battle Team Facilitators meet at least twice with an assigned team between January 15, 2016 and February 5, 2016.)

_____ Yes, I am willing to donate a treat for the Battle Book Clubs. (Mid-January through early February)

_____ Yes, I can coach a team on Battle Day. I understand that I will not be coaching my child's team. (Tuesday, February 9, 2016).

_____ Yes, I am willing to help with Battle on Battle Day, but do not wish to coach a team. (Tuesday, February 9, 2016-Battle cleanup, lunch setup, and/or lunch cleanup)

_____ Yes, I am willing to donate food for the Battle Day Lunch. (Tuesday, February 9, 2016)

_____ Yes, I am willing to help photograph or video on Battle Day. (Tuesday, February 9, 2016)