



Battle of The Books

Team Manager Tips

MEETINGS:

- At your 1st meeting, you will need to decide on a team name, discuss designs for a team poster and team costumes. The poster will be displayed at the school prior to the competition and will be voted on by the teachers. Posters will also be on your table the night of the competition. Also, start thinking about your team costume. This could be matching shirts, hats or something simple like dressing in the same color shirts. The participating teams will vote on the best costume the night of the tournament. Participating in the poster and costume is optional.
- Please contact Lea Costanzo at leacostanzo@gmail.com with your team name by January 4th. Do NOT start your posters until your team name is approved. We will not allow multiple teams with the same name.
- The team manager's role is to schedule the meetings and encourage the team members to be reading. You may want to read the books and ask any other team parents to participate if interested. This will allow you to come up with sample questions to quiz the students. The students should quiz each other during the team meetings as well.
- The questions are trivia type questions, not plot. For example, if the book was The Wizard of Oz, a question might be "What color were Dorothy's shoes?" From the book, Matilda, a question might be "Where did Matilda's father work?"
- A few weeks before the tournament, have your team practice the "Silent Method" of answering questions. Have them write their answers on slips of paper to be passed to the captain.
- Your team may select their captain at any time. The captain's role is to choose the final answer from all the team members' answers. The captain then writes the official answer on their designated colored paper (given at tournament). The captain gives that answer to the team's runner.
- It is helpful to have at least one child be the "expert" on each book. It is beneficial to have two experts per book in case of illness. The expert should read their book more than once. It might be helpful to have the expert take notes on their book and quiz their team. It is also recommended that each expert somehow mark his answer paper, so the captain can rely on their expertise in case of multiple answers.



THE BOOKS:

- There are 4 books: “The Losers Club” by Andrew Clements, “Wish” by Barbara O’Connor, “I Survived The Attack Of The Grizzlies, 1967” by Lauren Tapshis, “A Night Divided” by Jennifer A. Nielsen
- Each team member should read as many books as possible.
- Each team will receive one copy of each title to keep until the competition is concluded. Books will be returned to the library after the contest.
- There will be limited copies of each book available at the Bethel Park Public Library.

THE RUNNER:

- Each team must have one runner. The runner is chosen by the team, typically its a younger sibling of one of the teammates. An elementary school-aged student, 6 years or older, is recommended.
- The runner’s job is to take the last answer paper to each question from the team table to the judge. After the judge has assigned a score, the runner takes the last answer to the assigned scorekeeper.

THE POSTER:

- The posters are due at the school no later than January 31st.
- Posters need to be on a standard poster board and two-dimensional only. They must be light weight to be able to hang on the library windows.
- Do NOT list author names on the poster. This will give an unfair advantage, as the posters will be displayed on your table during the competition.
- Posters must be designed and produced by team members only. No adult-assisted posters will be considered for the competition.
- The posters will be judged by the teachers during school. The winners will be announced during the tournament.

THE COSTUMES:



- Teams are encouraged to wear costumes the evening of the Battle of the Books related to their team name. Teams are not required to wear costumes, but it is a fun part of the preparation!
- Teams should arrive in costume at 6:30 PM the evening of the tournament.
- The costume contest is judged solely by the students participating in the Battle of the Books.
- Teams will vote as a group for their 3 favorite costumes before the Battle begins at 7:00 PM.
- Expensive costumes are not required. Try to use items you might already have or dollar store items.
- Costumes should be designed and created by the students with minimal adult assistance.

TOURNAMENT RULES:

- The tournament is carried out in SILENCE.
- “Silent Competition” consists of team members writing the answers on slips of white paper and passing them to the team captain. The captain then writes the team’s official answer on the team’s designated colored paper. If the team members talk, the team can be disqualified from the tournament.
- The answer slips will have a space for the author’s name. Have each team member know how to spell all authors names.
- Fifty questions will be asked. The moderator reads each question aloud to all teams. There will be 25 questions, then a brief intermission, and then the final 25 questions.
- Teams have 60 seconds to submit their final answer. A timekeeper will call out “30 seconds”, “10 seconds”, and “time” at 60 seconds.
- The runner picks up the team answer and takes it to the Judge’s table.
- There are four possible points for each answer. One additional point awarded for naming the correct author for each question.



- In the event of a tie, a tie-breaking question or questions will be asked of the teams involved in the tie.
- Prizes are awarded to the top three placing teams, posters and costumes.

Any questions, please don't hesitate to contact either:

- Mrs. Minnick, librarian: minnick.michelle@bphawks.org

Or

- Lea Costanzo, PTO President: leacostanzo@gmail.com

IMPORTANT DATES:

- December 17, 2018-permission slip forms due to Mrs. Minnick
- January 4, 2019-Team names to be emailed to Lea Costanzo for approval
- January 31, 2019-Posters due to Mrs. Minnick
- February 22, 2019-Battle of the Books

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION! HAVE FUN READING!