

PARENTAL/CUSTODIAL GUARDIAN FORM FOR CONSENT AND COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

The Battle of the Books Program is a VOLUNTARY reading competition designed to promote the love and appreciation of reading to elementary school fifth- and sixth-grade students. Teams consist of three students apiece; a team of two students is acceptable, as long as it is understood that another member may not be added to the team after the first competition has begun unless a team member moves away. Replacements cannot be from another team. All formation of the teams and accountability for scores rests with the school librarian/school sponsor. As a model for your child's behavior, we ask all parents who wish for their child to participate in this VOLUNTARY program to agree to the following conditions:

1. If attending my child's school competition, I promise not to transcribe, write down, or in any way record any of the questions. Also, if there is audible prompting from the audience, the question will be disqualified.
2. Only members of the team are allowed to challenge any of the questions, and they may do so only immediately upon giving their answer and being found incorrect.
3. There is etiquette for challenging questions. Realizing that we are all imperfect, we are receptive to the idea of improving our ways of questioning the students; however, this must be done in an appropriate and civil manner, and all decisions of the librarians and judges are final. In the interest of good sportsmanship, only team members may enter challenges.
4. The public and school librarians realize that not all books appeal to all people; however, based upon recommendations from school and public librarians, we are proud of our recommended titles for this program, and believe they all have a degree of literary value. We hope this program will encourage students to read a variety of books and remember information about the plots, characters, and settings of the books. If you have a concern with your child reading any book on this list, we suggest that he or she not participate in this program. Once again, this is a VOLUNTARY program and no student may be required to participate in this program.
5. Additional efforts are being made this year to ensure that all Battle of the Books teams have an equal chance to advance in this competition. Over the years we have come to understand that all Battle questions are not created equal! Some are harder than others for teams to answer, but we try very hard to balance the questions.
6. Team members may not enter or exit the competition area during a round, whether at the school level, the semifinals, the all-city level, or the regional competition.
7. To maintain the integrity of the questions and the yearly competitions, the videotaping of competitions is not allowed.

Return signature below to the school and keep the information above. Thank you!

I, _____, the parent/legal guardian
of NAME OF CHILD _____,
AGREE TO THE ABOVE CONDITIONS.

PARENTAL SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

PARENT EMAIL FOR COMMUNICATION:

CLASSROOM TEACHER NAME: _____

These are the names of the
members of my team:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

*if you do not sign up as a team
of 3, you may be moved around
in order to make teams of 3.
Teams of 2 may be separated.