

Turner Creek Battle of the Books Rules and Procedures

Teams: Teams consist of 4-5 fourth/fifth grade students. Each student is required to read 4 books and write 5 questions for each book.

Officials:

- a. **READER/JUDGE-** This person will have a copy of all questions to be asked during each round and will ask all questions. This person is also the official judge.
- b. **TIME KEEPER/SCORER-** This person will have a score sheet, timer, and copy of each book available. This person is responsible for maintaining official time for teams to answer questions, which team is answering, and assist with any challenges.

Process and Scoring of the Battle:

1. The team that sits on the left will be always be given first chance at the odd numbered questions, and the team on the right will always be given first chance at the even questions.
2. Each team will tell the READER who is serving as its CAPTAIN. The READER will accept answers from only that CAPTAIN; no other team member's answer shall be heard and recorded.
3. The "odd" team will go first and be read question number one.
4. The team shall have 30 seconds after the reading of the question to give its response through the team CAPTAIN. Teams are encouraged to confer before giving a response. Only the first answer the CAPTAIN gives will be acceptable--the team cannot use up the time left to guess other titles.
5. If the title is correct, the team is awarded 5 points. Then the team may have an additional 10 seconds to confer on the author and give its response. An additional 2 points shall be awarded for the correct author.
6. If a team gives an incorrect title or author, the opposing team may pick up points for title (5 points), or author (2 points), or both. The question will be repeated to the "acquiring" team, which will then have 10 seconds in which to come up with their answer.
NOTE: If the acquiring team does not answer correctly, play does NOT pass back to the other team.
7. Regardless of who scored what on the last question, even numbered questions will be read to the even team, and odd numbered questions will be read to the odd team. This means that an "acquiring" team will get to answer two questions in a row--the one it acquired, followed by their own.
8. If a team has begun its response before time is called, it will be allowed to complete it.
9. After 10 questions have been asked, the reader must allow 15 seconds for challenges to be articulated through the team captain only. If there are no

challenges, the final score will be announced and a winner will be declared. The round will be considered complete and no further challenges will be entertained. The teams will be sent on to their next round.

10. Each team will participate in 3 rounds. The 3 top scoring teams will have a final round battle.

Challenges

If the Reader has declared a title incorrect but the team feels strongly that their answer is nevertheless correct, the Team Captain may challenge the decision. **Only the Team Captain may declare a challenge.** To declare a challenge, the Team Captain states "Challenge". The challenge must be declared in the 5 second pause that is provided between the time the Reader announces that the response was incorrect but before the Reader directs the question to the opposing team for a possible steal. A Team Captain may only issue a challenge with cause. The Team Captain must provide a brief explanation of why his/her team feels their answer is correct. If necessary the Team Captain may consult with team members to clarify the rationale after the challenge has been called, but the Team Captain must be the one to communicate the rationale to the Reader and Timer. Other team members and audience members may not call for a challenge. If any team member other than the Captain calls "Challenge", the challenge will be ignored unless the Captain calls "Challenge" before "TIME" is called. If any member of the audience calls "Challenge", the challenge will be denied. A Team Captain can only make a challenge to the question directed to that team. After the Reader and Timer have deemed a challenge to be with cause, the challenge will be researched for correct answer. Play will cease until an answer is received. No discussion is permitted in the room while awaiting the reply. When received, the Reader will communicate the decision. This decision is final. The score will be recorded and play then continues.

Clarifications

- An answer is considered correct even if mispronounced, as long as the Reader can discern it. That may mean that an incorrect article in the title may be used or an answer may be slightly off (such as Zekmet the Stone Cutter instead of Zekmet the Stone Carver). If the main title is given but the subtitle omitted, the answer will still be deemed correct. For example, if Meet Josephina: An American Girl was the complete title, simply Meet Josephina would still be acceptable.
- The author's name should be given as it appears on the Battle of the Books List. Giving only the last name of the author is acceptable. Author names are considered correct even if mispronounced, as long as the Reader can discern it.
- If there is some inaccuracy or mispronunciation in an answer, the Reader may consult with the Timer before announcing the answer to be correct or incorrect. The decision is final.
- Should any team member other than the Team Captain provide an answer, the officials will ignore the response and continue to wait for the Team Captain's response. Only Team Captain's responses will be considered for judgment.

- If the Team Captain begins to give the answer but becomes unsure of part of the response, the Team Captain may readdress his/her team members for clarification as long as "TIME" has not yet been called. For example, if the Team Captain begins his/her answer with "Charlotte's Web by..." and can't remember what the author's name was, he/she may readdress their team to gather the additional information. The Team Captain may then complete the answer as long as this whole process is completed within the 30 second answer period.
- Should the Reader misread or mispronounce a part of a question, the Reader may correct him/herself and continue. If the Reader mistakenly gives the answer to the question, a new question will be substituted. Should an audience member disclose an answer, the question will be eliminated and another question substituted. **The offending audience member will be excused from the room for the duration of the Battle.**
- **Decisions made by the Readers and Timers are final.**