



Novi Public Library Battle of the Books 2009 - 2010 Coaching Responsibilities

1. To make sure that each team member understands which books on the reading list he/she is expected to read.
2. To meet with the team regularly to offer encouragement, check on reading progress, foster team cohesiveness and to help team members learn authors' names and facts from books.
3. To act as communicating link between the library and team members and parents with all information regarding the Battle of the Books. Please keep us informed of any problems or changes. You may email us at Phyllis Weeks (pweeks@novilibrary.org) or Suzanne Carpenter (scarpenter@novilibrary.org). You may also call us at 248-349-0720.
4. To make sure your team demonstrates sportsmanlike behavior during the battle.
5. To make sure your team members and their families understand the rules of the Battle and expectations the day of the Battle.
6. Coaches may need to provide transportation to the Battle. Teams need to assemble at the **Novi Civic Center** at 12:30 p.m. on the day of the Battle.
7. By the day of the Battle coaches will need to select a team captain and team scribe.
8. During the Battle each coach will act as scorekeeper for another team. You will be asked to:
 - a. Ensure that the team you are monitoring stops writing at the end of the 30-second time limit (whether answer is complete or not.)
 - b. Record the number of points earned for each question.
 - c. Remain focused on the team you are monitoring. (Please remember that these children also need your encouragement.)

Coaching Tips

Methods of building team spirit:

1. Decorating team t-shirts.
2. Having your team wear the same color or item of clothing to the Battle.
3. Spending time together practicing and having fun.

Methods of preparing for the Battle:

1. Decide who will read each book. You will probably want more than one person to read each title.
2. Decide how often you will meet to discuss the books.
3. Hold "mock" battles or "Jeopardy" style games based on the books.

4. Have kids make up some of their own practice questions to quiz each other during the meetings.
5. Coaches may want to read all the books.
6. Seek to understand the characters and the setting of the books. Then, if the children have to guess on an answer they may be correct.

Methods of encouraging and rewarding team participants:

1. Give words of praise and encouragement.
2. Serve snacks at the meetings.
3. Play a game before your meetings.
4. Have a pizza party or ice cream outing at the completion of the Battle.
5. Keep it fun and make happy memories!

Sample Questions

The teams will need to identify the author of the book for every answer. Answers may take any form: title, character, plot, setting, detail or quote identification.

Q. **Identify the book** this quote comes from: "It's funny how when somebody does violence to you, you're the one who has to hide, as if you're the criminal."

A. *The Chocolate War*. Cormier

Q. **Identify the character** who said this: "Just a little rest now, and it'll be all right..."

A. John Barron. Paulsen

Q. **Why** doesn't anyone want to wrestle Chris Byers?

A. Chris is a girl. Crutcher

Q. **What was the shape** of the iron given to Will Stanton?

A. A cross-quartered circle. Cooper

Q. **Who is** the little monkey who makes friends with the man in the yellow hat?

A. Curious George. Rey

Q. **Where** does Dorothy find herself after the cyclone captures her house?

A. Oz. Baum