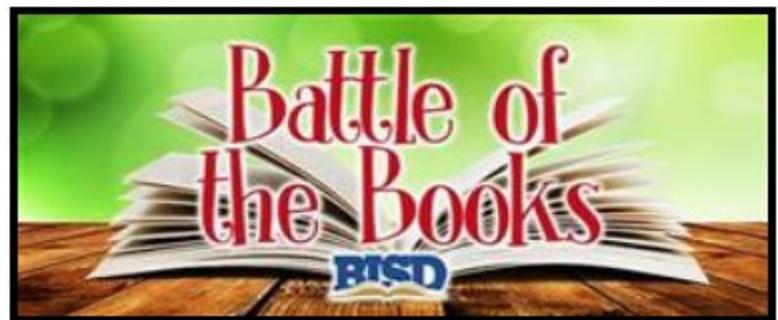


BISD

BATTLE OF THE

BOOKS

HANDBOOK



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Goal and Objectives

The goal of the Battle of the Books program is to promote close reading in a wide variety of genres, diverse literature, and multiple narrative styles that introduce students to numerous authors.

Four objectives support this goal for the Battle of the Books (BOB) program:

- Foster academic competition
- Encourage students to collaborate as a team
- Enhance reading comprehension levels and critical thinking
- Create a statewide recognized list of exemplary titles for elementary students

Book Selection

Criteria

Both fiction and nonfiction books are eligible. Selected books must meet the following criteria:

- Receive positive reviews from two reputable sources
- Contain relevant content for the targeted age groups
- Represent high literary quality
- Textbooks are excluded from BOB consideration

The final list will:

- Represent diversity in authors, cultural backgrounds, and gender preferences
- Include a variety of genres
- Encompass a multiplicity of narrative styles
- Contain 12 books for the primary students (Gr. K - 3) and 8 books for intermediate students (Gr. 4 - 5)
- Aim for at least half of the selections available in paperback

Process

The process of selecting books for BOB runs from February through January of each calendar year. Librarians, teachers, and parents connected to BISD may suggest and comment on nominated books for the final list. Nominations will relate to the above criteria and reflect the goal and objectives of the program.

A list of the current nominations can be found in Appendix A where there is also a form for outside comments. In addition, Appendix B contains a form for parents, teachers, and administrators to suggest books for the forthcoming year. Anyone who suggests a title must have read it in its entirety.

The elementary school librarians will meet periodically throughout the year to discuss suggested titles and have the final decision about books included on the list. Immediately following the BOB competition in January, librarians will narrow the list of suggestions, paying particular attention to distribution of genres, diversity, comments from the BISD community, and the like. One week after the BOB competition, librarians will vote on the list, but will hold publication of the list for three weeks to double check on book availability. At this time, the selection process for the next year will begin.

Questions

Librarians will select the books for which they will write questions: 4 titles from the elementary list and 3 titles from the intermediate list.

By August 1, librarians will submit their questions and the chairs of the BOB committee will compile all the questions. Soon thereafter, but before school starts, librarians will meet and finalize the questions that will be used in the competition.

The BOB committee chairs will send all unused questions to the team coaches in October.

Practical Guidelines

In order to ensure equitable access to books, each school is limited to the number of titles available to students. Schools with 1-300 ADA will have a maximum of 3 copies of each title; those with an ADA of 301-500, 4 copies per title; those with an ADA of 501-700, 5 copies per title; and those with an ADA over 700, 6 copies per title. Books available through online databases, such as Tumblebooks, do not count in the above totals.

In addition to the above number of books, each school may purchase an audio recording (if available) for each BOB book.

Library books can be circulated over the summer to teachers and students.

Prior to team selection in October, books will be available for general library circulation. During the first six weeks of the school year librarians and teachers will showcase the books through book talks, interactive read-alouds, and the like. Once teams have been selected, only BOB participants will circulate the books. When the competition ends, books will again be available for general library circulation.

Team Member Selection

In August at the question writing meeting, librarians will create a test for all students interested in participating in BOB. These students will take the test in October; coaches will use these scores as one criterion for team selection. Other points considered will be attendance, conduct, and overall grades. Teams will be finalized by the first of December.

Two separate groups (one drawn from grades K-3 and one from grades 4-5) of seven members each will comprise a school's BOB team. Each will have seven members all of whom will compete. There will be no alternates.

Practice sessions will be held before and after school only -- no mandatory Saturday or holiday practices.

Coaches

Each school may have a maximum of six coaches, but only four can be on the floor during the competition. Each team must have 4 certified teachers.

Roles and Responsibilities of Coaches

- Attend a meeting with all other district coaches to review procedures, share ideas, and collaborate about the process.
- Meet with teams before and after school
- Design team t-shirts
- Make bus and lunch arrangements for their teams
- Read the books in their assigned areas
- Create, or supervise the creation, of practice questions for the team

- Coordinate each team's voting for their favorite book
- Curtail day-of-competition practice among teams while others are competing
- Ensure that only one team is on the floor at the time during BOB competition

Roles and Responsibilities of Librarians

- Read every BOB book nominated for the list
- Participate in book selection
- Write questions on selected books
- Process all BOB books
- Introduce and promote the list in cooperation with teachers
- Create and select questions for competition
- Create powerpoint programs for day of competition
- Freely circulate books until teams are chosen
- Attend competition
- Act as judges where needed

Day of Competition

- The number of substitutes allowed for each school's coaches and paid for by the district is 4. In addition, the district will cover the cost of substitutes for each elementary librarian and additional EA's (selected on a rotating basis if needed.)
- Librarians should make arrangements to arrive at least 45 minutes before the competition begins to set up the site
- Each school's team is responsible for bringing a set of books for each of the competitions. These books will be stored with the competing teams and are not to be used for last minute practice at the back during the competition
- Four coaches attend competition with the students (all must be BISD teachers.) Additional coaches may sit with the general audience
- Two coaches will be present on the floor during competition; the other two coaches will sit at the back with their respective team members.
- Team captains should sit (or stand) in the middle of the team for easy access to cards.

- Challenges can not be issued for questions including a quotation
- Two librarians sitting near challenge teams will act as judges. Librarians can not serve as judges for either their home campuses or for the teams they are overseeing during the competition.
- During challenges all students are to remain on the floor. Coaches will sit behind their respective teams when their teams issue a challenge
- Each school should provide snacks for their respective teams
- There will be two rounds -- one for the primary students and one for the intermediate students
- Awards will be given as follows:
 - First, second, and third place winners in the primary division
 - First, second, and third place winners in the intermediate division
 - First, second, and third place winners overall.
- If needed, there will be a tie-breaker for overall competition. The tie-breaker will involve both primary and secondary teams and will consist of 7 questions. There will be no sudden death
- At the conclusion of the competition, campus teams may wish to have lunch away from school. Each school will cover these costs
- At the conclusion of the competition, elementary librarians will meet for a final discussion of the books nominated for the next year's list

Annual BOB Calendar

January

- Competition
- After competition, librarians meet for final discussion
- for the next year's BOB list
- Librarians post pictures of the BOB winners and the titles of the teams' favorite books on the district website
- Librarians vote remotely on final list

February

- Librarians release and order the final list
- Librarians begin process of nominating books for the following year's competition
- Librarians open district website for nominations for the following year's competition

March

- Librarians continue with selection of titles
- Librarians discuss field nominations
- Librarians begin writing questions
- Field nominations and comments continue

April

- Librarians continue with selection of titles
- Librarians discuss field nominations
- Librarians continue writing questions
- Field nominations and comments continue
- Teachers and librarians introduce BOB books to students

May

- Librarians continue with selection of titles
- Librarians discuss field nominations
- Librarians continue writing questions
- Field nominations and comments continue
- Teachers and librarians introduce BOB books to students

June/July

- Librarians complete writing questions and send to BOB coordinators by the end of the month
- Students and teachers may circulate books over the summer

August

- Librarians meet to select questions for competition
- Librarians create test for selection of teams
- Librarians and teachers continue introducing books to students
- BOB books available for general circulation in the school libraries

September

- Librarians and teachers continue introducing books to students
- BOB books available for general circulation in the school libraries
- Coaches are selected for each school's team

October

- Librarians send qualifying test to teachers
- Teams are selected
- Practice sessions begin
- Books are taken from general circulation and restricted to team members

November

- Practice sessions continue
- Books are taken from general circulation and restricted to team members

December

- Practice sessions continue
- Books are taken from general circulation and restricted to team members
- Team members vote on their favorite authors

Comment on a Nominated Title

The nominations for the Primary BOB books are [here](#)

The nominations for the Intermediate books are located [here](#)

Please use [this form](#) to comment on any nominated titles

Nominate a Title

If you wish to nominate a book, use [this form](#)