

2017-18 Oregon Battle of the Books

Grades 3-5 Annotated Booklist

Note to parents: Oregon Battle of the Books Division 1 is open to third, fourth and fifth grade students. However, the titles are selected with the reading level and maturity of fourth and fifth graders in mind. You may feel that the content and/or theme of one or two of these titles are inappropriate for your child. We recommend that you read and discuss these books with your child. A book that stretches a child's thinking is a great opportunity to discuss world events and your family's values.

Blast-off! By Nate Ball (2014)

Science Fiction AR level 4.6; points 2, 690L, 143 pages

When an alien crashes through Zack's window, a hilarious adventure begins.

The Case of the Case of Mistaken Identity by Mac Barnett (2009)

Mystery AR level 4.1; points 4, 590L, 179 pages

Steve, a fan of detective novels, is mistaken for a real detective in this mystery adventure.

Dash by Kirby Larson (2014)

Historical Fiction AR level 3.9; points 6, 570L, 256 pages

Mitzi is separated from her beloved dog Dash when her family must move to an internment camp.

The Door by the Staircase by Katherine Marsh (2016)

Fantasy AR level 5.1; points 10, 750L, 273 pages

Orphan Mary is rescued from the asylum, but soon learns a terrifying secret about her new mother.

Ella Enchanted by Gail Carson Levine (1997)

Fantasy AR level 4.6; points 8, 750L, 232 pages

Ella struggles against the childhood "gift" of obedience.

EllRay Jakes the Recess King! by Sally Warner (2015)

Realistic Fiction AR level 4.4; points 4, 690L, 176 pages

EllRay needs more friends, so he decides to audition other boys for the role of Spare Best Friend.

Esperanza Rising by Pam Muñoz Ryan (2000)

Historical Fiction AR level 5.3; points 6, 750L, 262 pages

A sudden tragedy forces Esperanza and her mother to flee their life of privilege in Mexico during the Great Depression.

I Survived the Eruption of Mount St. Helens, 1980 by Lauren Tarshis (2016)

Historical Fiction AR level 4.4; points 2, 640L, 94 pages

Jess's vacation on peaceful, familiar Mt. St. Helens, takes a deadly turn as Jess finds herself in the middle of the deadliest volcanic eruption in U.S. history.

Masterpiece by Elise Broach (2008)

Mystery AR level 4.8; points 8, 700L, 292 pages

Two unlikely friends work together to help recover a famous stolen drawing.

My Life in Dog Years by Gary Paulsen (1999)

Biographical Fiction AR level 5.6; points 3, 1150L, 137 pages

Paulsen describes some of his amazing dogs and how they enriched his life.

Mystery on Museum Mile by Marcia Wells (2014)

Mystery AR level 4.9; points 6, 710L, 248 pages

When the police are stumped by an art thief, they turn to young Eddie and his special talents to help solve the crime.

Poppy by Avi (1995)

Fiction AR level 4.5; points 4, 670L, 156 pages

Poppy the deer mouse wants her family to move near a field of corn big enough to feed them forever, but they must first deal with the scary owl, Mr. Ocax.

The Red Pencil by Andrea Davis Pinkney

Poetry AR level 4.2; points 3, 620L, 308 pages

After Amira's village is attacked, she flees to a refugee camp, where she finds hope in the form of a red pencil.

We the Children by Andrew Clements (2010)

Mystery AR level 5.2; points 3, 860L, 142 pages

Ben is drawn into an effort to keep his school from being destroyed after the janitor gives him a mysterious old coin.

Wild Life by Cynthia DeFelice (2011)

Adventure AR level 5.5; points 9, 860L, 177 pages

Erik's military parents send him to live with his North Dakota grandparents while they are in the Middle East. When his grandfather refuses to let him keep the dog Erik rescues, Erik runs away, confident he can survive on his own.

Wild Wings by Gill Lewis (

Fiction AR level 4.1; points 6, 600L, 287 pages

In Scotland, Callem and his new neighbor, Iona, determine to save an injured osprey on Callem's farm, setting in motion a remarkable chain of events.