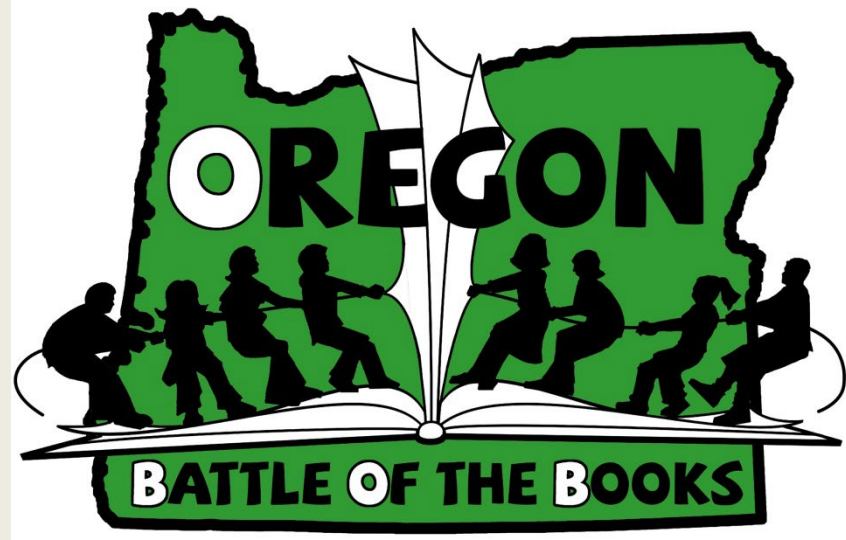


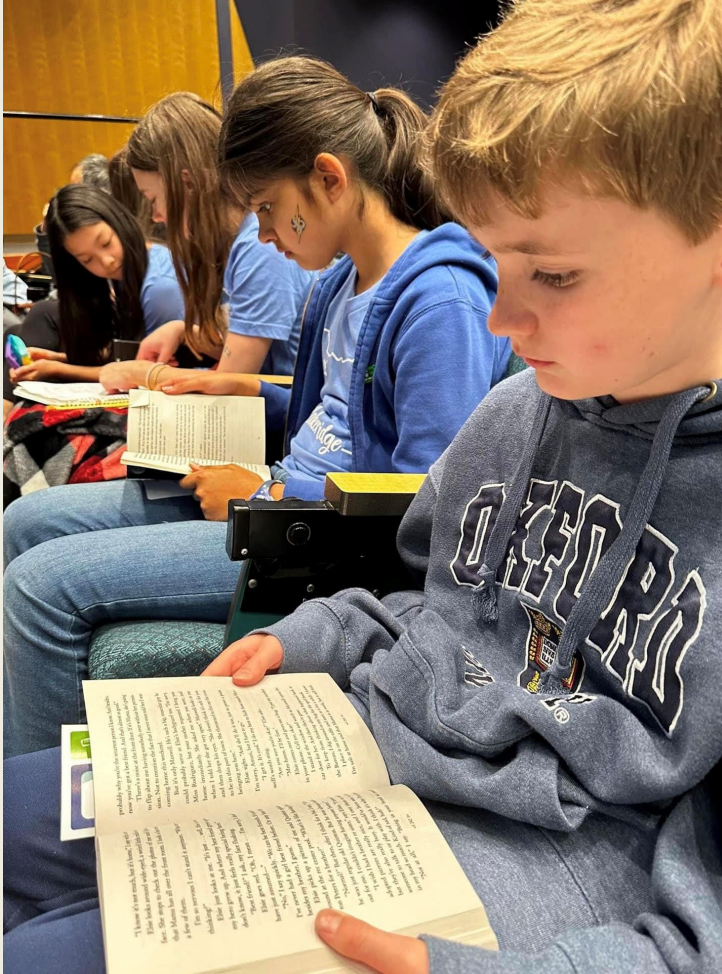
# Oregon Battle of the Books



*VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION & TRAINING*



# OBOB's Mission



- Recognize students who enjoy reading
- Broaden reading interests
- Increase reading comprehension
- Promote academic excellence
- Promote cooperative learning and teamwork

# Who We Are



- OBOB is run primarily by volunteers through the Oregon Association of School Libraries (OASL) and funded partially through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA)
- OASL, and OBOB operating under its umbrella, are committed to diversity, equity, inclusion, anti-racism, and anti-oppression in our organization, policies, and practices



# Thank you!



- OBOB depends on volunteers
- 750+ school and local competitions  
~ 8,000 teams  
> 30,000 students
- School administrators, librarians, teachers, parents, coaches, moderators, volunteers...



**We could not do this without you!**

# What's New in 2024?



- We are excited about our second year back with a full competition calendar!
- No steals in Pool Play battles in 3-5 and 6-8 Divisions at Regionals and State
  - Local Schools and Libraries can match this rule or retain steals in all battles
- Regional and State semifinal battles will now feature 24 questions



# Tournament Structure



- **School Tournament**

- Structure varies between schools
- One team goes to regional tournament



- **Regional Tournament**

- Pool Play (round robin)
- Bracket Play (single elimination)



- **State Tournament**

- Pool Play (round robin)
- Bracket Play (single elimination)





# Regional & State Tournament Structure



## Pool Play

- Teams battle four times in pool play across two rounds
- Total points (not wins) determines bracket seeding
- No tie-breakers in pool play rounds

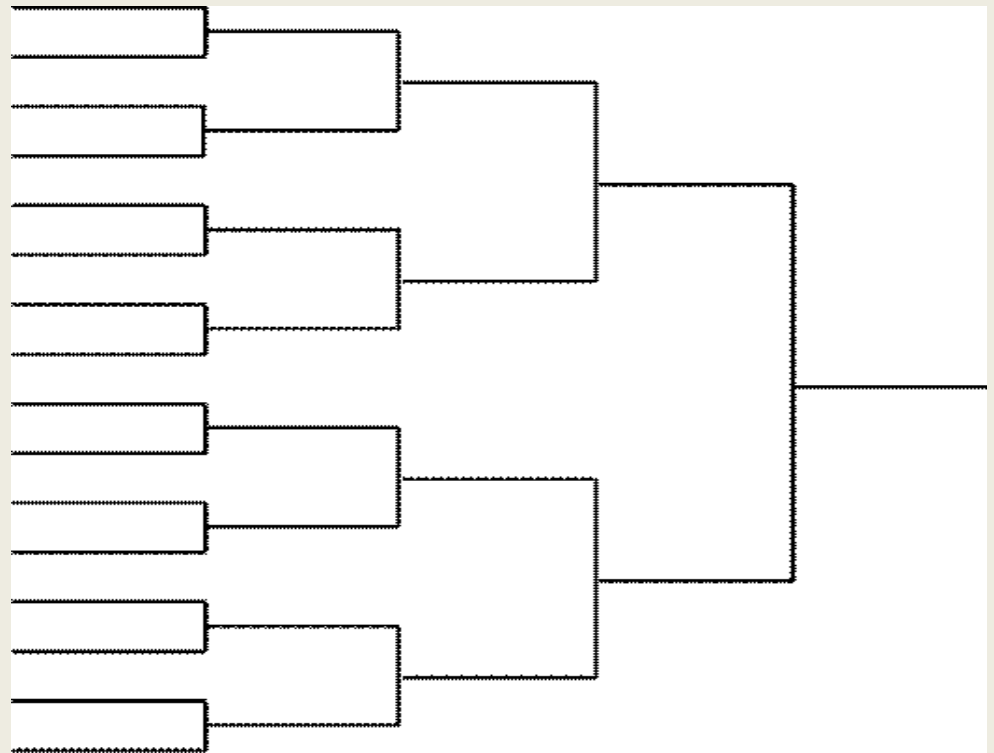


# Regional & State Tournament Structure



## Bracket Play / Knock-Out Rounds

- Single elimination
  - Sweet Sixteen
  - Elite Eight
  - Fab Four
  - Championship
- 9-12 Division starts with the Elite 8 round
- All 3 State Finals are Double-Length, 32 Questions
- All 3 Semifinals are 24 Questions





# Battle Procedures

## Teams

- Two to four members compete in a battle
- One spokesperson
- Only the spokesperson may answer for the team



# Battle Officials



- Moderator
- Scorekeeper
  - Must record score on score sheet
  - May also record score on white board for audience
- Timekeeper
  - Use stopwatch on phone

# Battle Procedures



## Set Up

- Teams sit in groups on either side of the moderator
- Begin questions with the team on your left
  - Always get ODD questions first
- Alternate questions with the team on your right
  - Always get EVEN questions first

# Battle Procedures



## Determining Sides

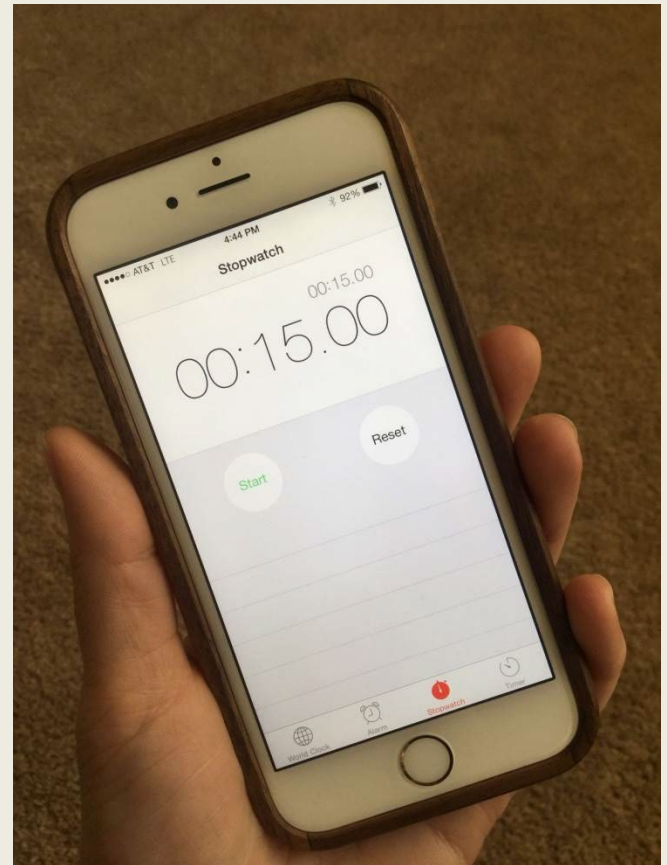


- Spokesperson calls coin toss (often administered by the timekeeper)
- Winner chooses where to sit
  - On your left = ODD numbers first
  - On your right = EVEN numbers first

# Battle Procedures

## Timing

- Time begins after question is completely read once = 15 seconds
- Question may be repeated, but timer does not restart
- Answer must be given immediately after 15 seconds
- Do not set an alarm; just call “time”



# Battle Procedures



## In Which Book (IWB) Questions

- Ask all eight IWB questions first
- Answers consist of title AND author
- Write any incorrect answers on the card

Div. 3-5 Oregon Battle of the Books 2019 Set: 1  
Local Competition

**"IN WHICH BOOK" QUESTION**—*Answer includes both title and author*

**QUESTION:**

In which book does a character pick an old padlock with a bobby pin?

**ANSWER (TITLE):**

*Waylon! One Awesome Thing*

**ANSWER (AUTHOR):**

Sara Pennypacker

**PAGE:** 171

**SCORE:** Team 1 (odd): \_\_\_\_\_ Team 2 (even): \_\_\_\_\_



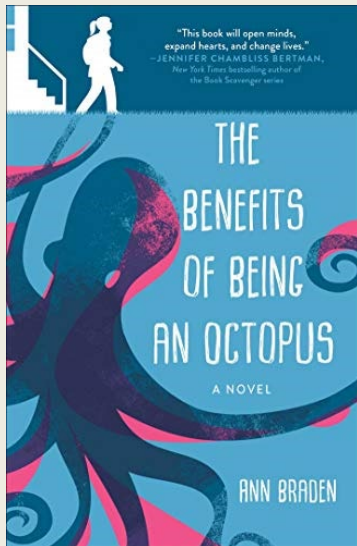
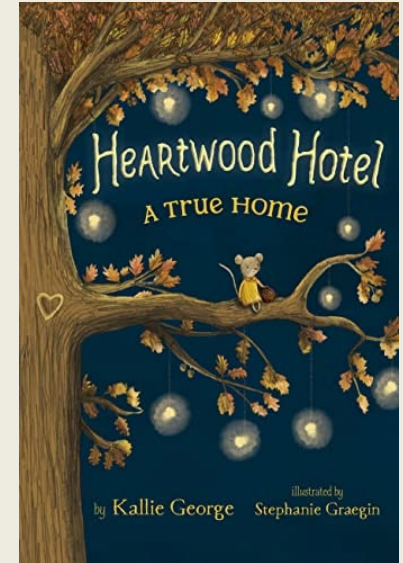
# Battle Procedures

## IWB Tips & Examples

NO SERIES TITLES!

*Heartwood Hotel: A True Home* = **Incorrect**

*A True Home* = **Correct**



Can omit “A/An/The” from beginnings of titles  
*The Benefits of Being An Octopus* = **Correct**  
*Benefits of Being An Octopus* = **Also Correct**  
*The Benefits of Being The Octopus* = **Incorrect**  
(wrong article in the middle of the title)

# Author Names



Author pronunciations should be reasonable and recognizable...

... but do not need to be pronounced exactly how the author would pronounce their own name ...

- Tracey Baptiste (3-5)
  - bah-TEEST, BAP-tist, bap-teest
- Yamile Saied Méndez (9-12)
  - sha-MEE-lay, yah-MEEL, yah-MILE, yah-MEE-luh
- Angeline Boulley (9-12)
  - AN-ge-line BULL-ee, BOO-lee, BOW-lee



# Author Names (con't)



- Names must be given exactly as stated on the card, including any initials or middle/multiple names
  - e.g., E. L. Konigsburg (3-5); J. R. R. Tolkein (6-8); Rachel Lynn Solomon (9-12)
- Exception: Books with two authors can be given in either order
  - e.g., Colleen AF Venable and Stephanie Yue OR Stephanie Yue and Colleen AF Venable would be acceptable (6-8)
  - However: If a team gives only one of the two authors, there is no credit – “incorrect”

# Battle Procedures



## Content Questions

- Ask all eight content questions after IWB questions
- Give teams the title of the book first
- Inform team of any two-part questions
- Write any incorrect answers on the card

<b><u>Oregon Battle of the Books 2018</u></b>	<b>Set: 3</b>
Local (School) Competition	
Div. 6-8	
<b>CONTENT QUESTION</b> — <i>Read title before asking question</i>	
<hr/>	
<b>TITLE:</b>	
<i>Kalabari</i> , by Jessica Khoury	
<b>QUESTION:</b>	
"W" is the atomic symbol for what element?	
<b>ANSWER:</b>	
Tungsten	
<b>PAGE:</b> 125	
<b>SCORE:</b> Team 1 (odd): _____ Team 2 (even): _____	

# Battle Procedures



## Content Questions

- Parentheses = not a required part of answer
  - Q: What color are Jennifer's eyes?
  - A: (light) Blue
- Underlines = required part of answer
  - Q: What magical creature eats clothes off of clothes lines?
  - A: Invisible salamander
- “OR” = multiple potentially correct answers
  - Q: Who gives Sarah a *Lord of the Rings* backpack?
  - A: Her mom OR Mrs. Smith

# Battle Procedures



## Questions

- Only the spokesperson's answer will be accepted
- Answer can be correct if mispronounced, *if* it is a logical, recognizable, or phonetic pronunciation
- Answer must be given immediately if any team member interrupts moderator
  - ✦ Whispering together is not an interruption



# Battle Procedures



## Questions

- Answer will be disqualified if . . .
  - Other team members talk while spokesperson is answering
  - Anyone prompts the spokesperson while answering
  - Anyone other than the spokesperson answers after time is called
- Questions answered incorrectly are repeated to the other team (EXCEPT in pool play in 3-5 + 6-8 at Regionals and State)
  - They get another 15 seconds to collaborate
  - Answer provided by moderator if neither team is correct

# Battle Procedures



## Scoring

- Scorekeeper fills out the official paper scoresheet
  - Another volunteer keeps score on the board
  - The two scores are compared
- All questions worth a maximum of 5 points
  - Only Two-Part & IWB questions can be split for partial credit
  - 3 points for the first partially correct answer
  - Other team can steal remaining 2 points (except 3-5, 6-8 Pool Play)



# Battle Procedures



## Sample Score Sheet:

	<b>School Name:</b> (Receives odd-numbered questions first) <i>School of Readers</i>	<b>School Name:</b> (Receives even-numbered questions first) <i>OBOB Academy</i>
<b>“In Which Book” Question</b>	<b>Points Earned</b>	<b>Points Earned</b>
1	5	-
2	-	5
3	5	-
4	-	5
5	5	-
6	-	5
7	3	2
8	-	5
<b>“In Which Book” Subtotal:</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>22</b>

<b>Content Question</b>	<b>Points Earned</b>	<b>Points Earned</b>
1	5	-
2	2	3
3	0	5
4	-	5
5	5	-
6	-	5
7	3	0
8	5	0
<b>Content Subtotal:</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>18</b>

<b>Battle Total:</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>40</b>
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**Keep it neat!**

- *No notes*
- *No answers*

# Battle Procedures



## Challenges

- Chance to challenge must be offered at end of battle
- Teams have 15 seconds to decide if they will challenge
- Each team may challenge one question they answered and got incorrect or partially incorrect (teams cannot challenge that one of the other team's answers should have been wrong)
- Teams have 2 minutes to find text evidence with the book in hand to defend their original answer. No more than 2 books.
- Score is amended appropriately

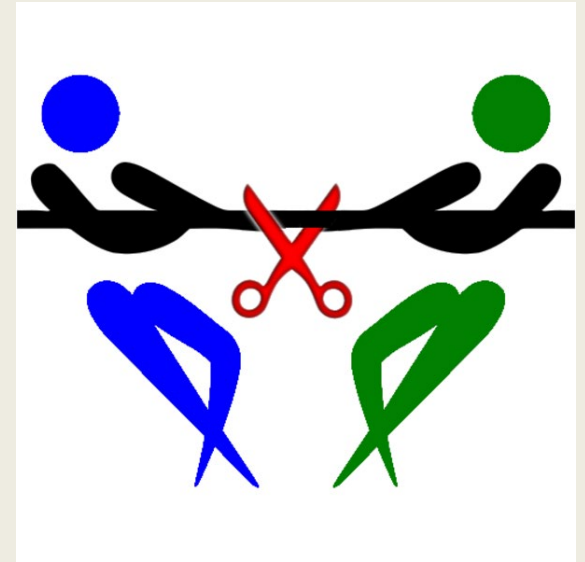


# Battle Procedures



## Tie Breakers in Bracket Play

- One IWB and one Content question asked to each team
  - New question for each team
- Steals = **No**
- Challenges = **Yes**
- Total score (of 2 questions) determines winner
- Process repeated if teams remain tied

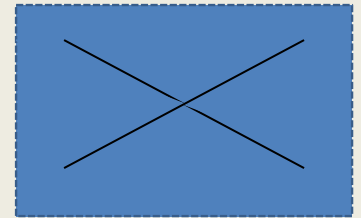


# Moderator Mistakes



Mistakes happen! It's OK. Here's what to do:

- If you spoil the question, discard it
- Pull a new question from the backups
- NEW(ish) RULE: If the first team has already answered a Q incorrectly (or partially incorrectly) before the spoil occurred, they do not get asked the new question – it goes only to the receiving team for a steal attempt, if appropriate





# Examples



Let's go through some  
sample questions...

# Example 1



**Q:** The final clue in the treasure hunt is engraved on what item?

**A:** (Bronze) Plaque

**Team says:** “A big plaque”

# Example 1



**Correct – 5 points**

They said “plaque.” Information in parentheses is not a required part of the answer.

## Example 2



**Q:** [Two Parts] What two foods does Mrs. Smith smell like after she comes home from the diner?

**A:** Apple pie AND Cinnamon

**Team says:** “Apples and cinnamon”

## Example 2



Partial credit – 3 points

3 points for “cinnamon”

An apple is not the same thing as apple pie  
**(semantics matter)**

Question goes to other team for remaining 2 points  
(EXCEPT 3-5, 6-8 Pool Play at Regionals and State)

## Example 3



**Q:** What is Ben's favorite kind of sandwich?

**A:** Peanut butter OR Plain peanut butter

**Team says:** "Peanut butter and jelly"

## Example 3



**Incorrect – 0 points**

A “plain peanut butter” sandwich is a different thing than a “peanut butter and jelly” sandwich

## Example 4



**Q:** What piece of furniture sits under the picture window in the Johnsons' kitchen?

**A:** Sofa

**Team says:** "Couch"



# Example 4



Correct – 5 points

**Direct synonyms are acceptable**

## Example 5



**Q:** [Two Parts] Name two of James's favorite breakfast foods. Be specific.

**A:** ANY TWO: Cornflakes; Sourdough toast;  
(homemade) Honey butter

**Team says:** “Homemade butter and Cereal”

## Example 5



**Homemade butter = Incorrect**

“Homemade” is in parentheses (not required)

“Honey” is underlined (required)

**Cereal = Incorrect**

Not specific enough; **under-specific is generally incorrect.**

## Example 6



**Q:** What food item does Jared order to eat in the coffee shop?

**A:** Scone

**Team says:** “A really large blueberry scone”

## Example 6



Correct – 5 Points

Scone is the required term; **over specific is usually correct.**

## Example 7



**Q:** What is the name of the horse that pulls the family's wagon?

**A:** Old Bob

**Team says:** “Bob”

## Example 7



### Incorrect – 0 Points

Since both words are capitalized and “old” is not in parentheses, both words are part of the name.

**Remember – no partial credit unless it is an IWB or Two-Part Content question.**

## Example 8



**Q:** What is the name of the character who kicked snow in Peter's face?

**A:** Alexa OR Lexie

**Team says:** Alexia



# Example 8

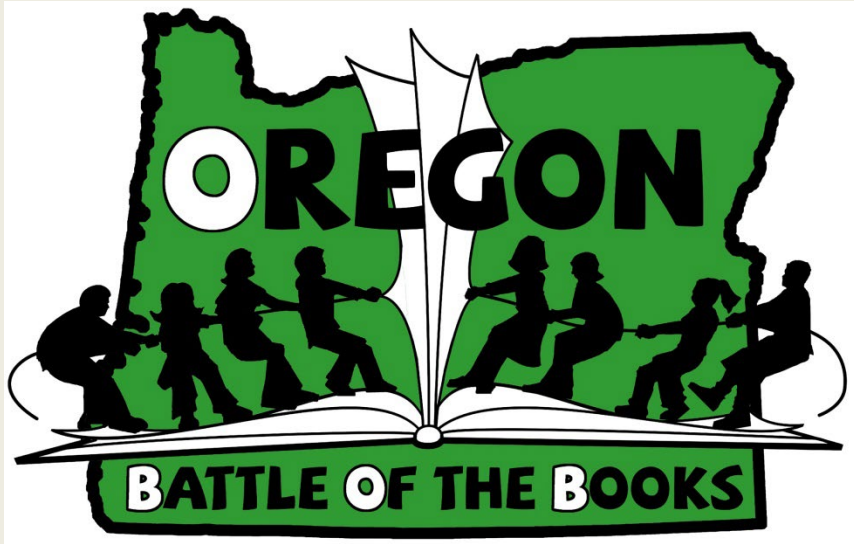


**Incorrect – 0 Points**

Alexia is a different name than Alexa.

Teams can always challenge (at the end of the battle) if they are sure the name/answer they provided is correct.

# Thank you for your support of Oregon Battle of the Books!



- OBOB Website  
[www.oregonbattleofthebooks.org](http://www.oregonbattleofthebooks.org)
- Facebook  
“Oregon Battle of the Books” group