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

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**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
• 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
**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 . . .
  o Other team members talk while spokesperson is answering
  o Anyone prompts the spokesperson while answering
  o 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)
  o They get another 15 seconds to collaborate
  o 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)
Sample Score Sheet:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>“In Which Book” Question</th>
<th>School of Readers</th>
<th>School Name: (Receives even-numbered questions first)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Points Earned</td>
<td>Points Earned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“In Which Book” Subtotal:</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content Question</th>
<th>School of Readers</th>
<th>School Name: (Receives odd-numbered questions first)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Points Earned</td>
<td>Points Earned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Content Subtotal:</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Battle Total: 38  40

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”
Correct – 5 points

They said “plaque.” Information in parentheses is not a required part of the answer.
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”
Partial credit – 3 points

3 points for “cinnamon”
An apple is not the same thing as apple pie
(semantic 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”
Incorrect – 0 points

A “plain peanut butter” sandwich is a different thing than a “peanut butter and jelly” sandwich
Q: What piece of furniture sits under the picture window in the Johnsons’ kitchen?

A: Sofa

Team says: “Couch”
Correct – 5 points

Direct synonyms are acceptable
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.
Q: What food item does Jared order to eat in the coffee shop?
A: Scone

Team says: “A really large blueberry scone”
Correct – 5 Points
Scone is the required term; over specific is usually correct.
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
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

- Facebook
  “Oregon Battle of the Books” group