

September

Dear Fifth Graders & Families,

I am excited to announce that I am putting together teams for this year's Battle of the Books. Battle of the Books is a nationwide program that encourages children to read quality literature by excellent authors. It is designed to be an extracurricular activity, in which students spend their own time reading and discussing books from the Battle list. Students who choose to participate spend the school year reading books from a list of forty titles, meeting to discuss the books they have read, and practicing answering questions about them. In the spring, teams of four compete in a school-wide competition in which they answer questions about the books on the list. The two top-scoring teams will represent Prairie Winds at a District Battle of the Books (a practice with no eliminations) and at the Pikes Peak regional festival at Colorado College.

Students who choose to participate are expected to do the following:

- Read, read, read as many of the titles as possible in the next six months ;
- Bring a **brown-bag** lunch once a week (on Thursdays) to the library to read, take notes, and discuss books during lunch and Read and Relax
- Participate in the Prairie Winds Battle of the Books in March, during which two teams will be chosen for the district and regional competition;
- Participate in the Lewis-Palmer Battle of the Books at the beginning of April, in which the two selected teams will have the opportunity to practice with other district teams before the regional competition;
- Attend the Pikes Peak Battle of the Books in April.

We are attaching the list of books for the 2017 competition. This can also be found on the school website on the Library Media/Technology page.

Due to the time commitment involved and the two days of classes that participating students will miss if they attend the district and regional competitions, we would like parents to show their support for their child's participation by signing below.

Many thanks,

Rachel Cleek and Tiffany Brown

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**Battle of the Books Participation Permission**

(Return by Monday, September 26th)

If you are interested in participating, please sign below.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

## Battle of the Books Tidbits

### Timeline:

#### September –

- September 22<sup>nd</sup> Introductory Meeting in library. Students who are unsure whether they would like to participate in battle are **encouraged** to attend for more information.
- Students begin coming to the library on Thursdays from 11:40-12:20.

**October** –Reading battle books in the library, team selections done in library, may begin quizzing if questions have arrived.

**November**- Begin quizzing sessions in teams

**December**-Quizzing sessions (Important to have read 10-20 books by this point); We will start double quiz sessions for the remainder of the year.

**January**-Quizzing sessions in teams

**February**-Quizzing sessions in teams

**March**-Quizzing, PWES and district battle

**April**-Quizzing and regional Battle

- Battle is an extracurricular activity and so kids will be asked to meet these expectations (behavior, attendance) if they would like to participate.
- We've found it helpful to have my own notebook/composition book where we can jot my own personal notes from each book; I recommend kids bring/keep one as well. After reading numerous battle books it becomes very difficult to remember details from one to another.
- The battle questions are very detail oriented.
- Teams are made up of four students. I will guide student selection of teams. We will have an activity to help us choose our teams.
- If each member has read at least 10 books the team is "covered"; however, if every member has read even more (20+) then the team will have a much better chance of being highly successful! Plus, they are just great books!
- It "counts" if kids listen to or read the books, so audio-recordings or parent read-alouds are great. We heavily caution kids not to rely on a movie of a battle book for accurate battle information.
- The two top scoring teams from the PWES Battle will go to district/regional battle. They will be taking an alternate student with them.
- The final two alternates will be chosen from the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place teams based on an individual quiz given after PWES battle.
- The alternates **will** be allowed to play one round at the regional battle which means one "core" team member will be asked to sit out one round to give everyone an opportunity to participate. We usually allow teams to make this decision together.
- Parents will be asked to purchase a Battle of the Books t-shirt (usually under \$10) for their child if they are in the top two scoring teams.
- Parents may attend the PWES, district, and regional Battles.
- Get started reading; there are many great books to choose from! We've found that some of my favorites are the least known battle books, so take a risk!

SPECIAL NOTE: There will be some days when battle is canceled due to school cancellation, snow delay, school-wide testing, or teacher collaboration.