

## Battle of the Books Frequently Asked Questions

### ***What is it?***

The Battle of the Books is a motivational and competitive reading program that provides a fun environment and encourages students to read good books. Each school sponsors teams of 6-7 students that read 20 books through the academic year and discusses them. Students quiz each other on the content and compete with students on other teams in their school. The top two teams who win at the school level will advance to the regional competition.

The goals of the program are to broaden reading interests, increase reading comprehension, and promote academic excellence. In addition, Battle of the Books fosters fair competition and encourages team building skills. If you have questions about Battle of the Books not listed in this document, please email [ragrover@fcps.edu](mailto:ragrover@fcps.edu).

### ***Does it cost anything to join?***

Battle of the Books costs \$10 to participate. This covers your team shirt and medal at the end of the year. Please see Ms. Grover if you would like to participate but your family cannot afford the \$10 fee. It is your parent's responsibility to arrange transportation for all activities, including meetings, school battle, and regional competitions.

Applications to join Battle of the Books indicate a commitment to the program. Application refunds will not be given in the event a student decides to drop out once he/she is assigned to a team.

### ***How many students can be on each team?***

There are 5-7 students per team. In the battles, only five team members will compete and the other 2 students will serve as alternates in case someone cannot compete for some reason.

### ***Do all of the team members need to be in the same grade?***

No. Teams can be a mixed group of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, or all from the same grade.

### ***So, are teams just made up of students?***

Yes, but you need a teacher sponsor. Be sure the teacher agrees to be your sponsor before submitting your application.

### ***How are the teams formed?***

On your application, you will select days that you would be available to participate in Battle of the Books. Applications are then sorted by days available (everyone who can meet on Wednesdays, for example) and grouped into teams, with a sponsor who can also meet on that day.

Students can indicate on their application if they prefer a particular sponsor. In that case, the student must confirm that the sponsor can meet on the same day they can.

Should students want to form their own team, it must meet the guidelines of a standard team: everyone must be able to meet on the same day and there be 5-7 members. A particular sponsor can be requested or randomly assigned. All applications should be turned in together. *NOTE: Student-formed teams are not guaranteed, but every effort will be made to accommodate students' preferences.*

### ***How often do teams meet?***

Twice a month on a particular day of the week (every other Thursday, two Thursdays in a row, etc). It's up to your team and your sponsor to decide when you will meet.

### ***What should we do when we meet?***

You can discuss books, give book talks about the title you just read, or practice creating and answering questions about the books you have read.

***Does every person have to read every book?***

No, but it is suggested that everyone reads as many books as possible. Also, it is suggested that each team delegates members to be “experts” on different books. This will help during competitions!

***How many books do we need to read, and who decides which books are on the list?***

The Rocky Run Chapter of Battle of the Books belongs to the Piedmont Region, which sets the list of books for the region. There are 20 books every year made up of a variety of genres and reading levels.

***Where do I get all these books?***

Each team will get one copy of each book. Other than that, students are responsible for accessing these books. You can get them at the public library, bookstore, as an e-book, or wherever else books are available. After the school Battle, books from Battle of the Books will become literature circles for the English department to use.

***When do we compete?***

The Piedmont Region holds an “Open” competition in January for teams to get a feel for competition and the types of questions being asked. During the Open, points will be given but there is no “winner” of the tournament.

There will be a school battle at the end of March/beginning of April. All teams at Rocky Run will participate. The top 2 teams with the most points in the school-wide Battle will represent Rocky Run at the Piedmont Regional Competition after Spring Break.

***What kinds of questions will be asked?***

Each book will be covered using a multiple choice written test, team vs. team battles, and a group written answer round. There are questions around theme, plot, characters, setting, and important quotations from each book. There are also questions about specific items from the book.

*If you have additional questions, feel free to stop by the library and ask Ms. Grover. ☺*