Middle School Battle of the Books List

Battle of the Books began as a program for middle school students, grades 6-8. The program has expanded to include the elementary and high school levels. Students at participating schools read books from a list established by the state Battle of the Books committees and then compete in quiz-bowl-style tournaments to test their knowledge of these books.

Teaching Resources Center, Joyner Library
A Selective Annotated Bibliography

Titles in the Teaching Resources Center are cataloged with Dewey call numbers and are preceded by Curric. Please ask someone at the Teaching Resources Service Desk if you need any assistance.

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<tr>
<th>Lexile Score</th>
<th>Title Information</th>
<th>Call Number</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Fourteen-year-old twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan wrestle with highs and lows on and off the court as their father ignores his declining health.</td>
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<td>Drawn by the lodestone his father gave him years before, twelve-year-old orphan Ray travels south, meeting along the way various characters from folklore who are battling against an evil industry baron known as the Gog.</td>
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Stubborn, self-reliant, eleven-year-old Zoe, recently orphaned, moves to the country to live with her prickly half-uncle, a famous doctor and sculptor, and together they learn about trust and the strength of family.

In an alternate England of 1851, spirited fourteen-year-old Sophronia is enrolled in a finishing school where, she is surprised to learn, lessons include not only the fine arts of dance, dress, and etiquette, but also diversion, deceit, and espionage.

The Finches, a Connecticut family, sponsor an African refugee family of four, all of whom have been scarred by the horrors of civil war, and who inadvertently put their benefactors in harm's way.

Twelve-year-old Fella is swept away on a wild road trip by her older sister Zany to fulfill their late mother's dying wish.

Considered by many to be mentally retarded, a brilliant, impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy discovers a technological device that will allow her to speak for the first time.

To free herself from an upcoming arranged marriage, Claudia, the daughter of the Warden of Incarceron, a futuristic prison with a mind of its own, decides to help a young prisoner escape.

After heartbreaking betrayal, Carley is sent to live with a foster family and struggles with opening herself up to their love.

When Ari’s mother died four years ago, she had two final wishes: that Ari and her older brother, Gage, would stay together always, and that Ari would go to Carter, the middle school for gifted students. So, when nineteen-year-old Gage decides he can no longer live with their bossy guardian, Janna, Ari knows she has to go with him. But it’s been two months, and Gage still hasn’t found them an apartment. He and Ari have been “couch surfing,” staying with Gage’s friend in a tiny apartment, crashing with Gage’s girlfriend and two roommates, and if necessary, sneaking into a juvenile shelter to escape the cold Maine nights. But all of this jumping around makes it hard for Ari to keep up with her schoolwork, never mind her friendships, and getting into Carter starts to seem impossible. Will Ari be forced to break one of her promises to Mama?


A graphic novel adventure about a girl who discovers roller derby right as she and her best friend are growing apart.


The America that Alexander Hamilton knew was largely agricultural and built on slave labor. In contrast, he envisioned something different: along with agriculture and small towns, he imagined a multiracial, urbanized, capitalistic America with a strong central government. A poor immigrant, Hamilton believed that such an America would be a land of opportunity for newcomers. His vision put him at odds with Thomas Jefferson, Aaron Burr, and others; they envisioned a pastoral America of small towns, where governments were local, states controlled their own destiny, and the federal government remained small and weak. Hamilton died in a duel, defending his ideas and his honor. Because of the systems Hamilton set up and the ideas he left, his vision won out. Here is the story that epitomizes the American dream—a poor immigrant who made good in America.


In 1868, with his army officer father suddenly posted to India, and his mother mysteriously "unwell," fourteen-year-old Sherlock Holmes is sent to stay with his eccentric uncle and aunt in their vast house in Farnham, where he uncovers his first murder and a diabolical villain.


Presents the adventures in the northern wilderness of a dog who is part wolf and how he comes to make his peace with man.
Throughout her high school years, as her mother battles cancer, Lupita takes on more responsibility for her house and seven younger siblings, while finding refuge in acting and writing poetry.

As plague ravages the overcrowded Earth, observed by a ruthless lunar people, Cinder, a gifted mechanic and cyborg, becomes involved with handsome Prince Kai and must uncover secrets about her past in order to protect the world in this futuristic take on the Cinderella story.

Five urban middle school students, their teacher, and other community members relate how a school project to build the world's largest tetrahedron affects the lives of everyone involved.

Ghost. Lu. Patina. Sunny. Four kids from wildly different backgrounds with personalities that are explosive when they clash. But they are also four kids chosen for an elite middle school track team -- a team that could qualify them for the Junior Olympics if they can get their acts together. They all have a lot to lose, but they also have a lot to prove, not only to each other, but to themselves. Ghost has a crazy natural talent, but no formal training. If he can stay on track, literally and figuratively, he could be the best sprinter in the city. But Ghost has been running for the wrong reasons -- it all starting with running away from his father, who, when Ghost was a very little boy, chased him and his mother through their apartment, then down the street, with a loaded gun, aiming to kill. Since then, Ghost has been the one causing problems -- and running away from them -- until he meets Coach, an ex-Olympic Medalist who blew his own shot at success by using drugs, and who is determined to keep other kids from blowing their shots at life.

During the 1967 school year, on Wednesday afternoons when all his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school, seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood stays in Mrs. Baker's classroom where they read the plays of William Shakespeare and Holling learns much of value about the world he lives in.
In 1941, fifteen-year-old Lina, her mother, and brother are pulled from their Lithuanian home by Soviet guards and sent to Siberia, where her father is sentenced to death in a prison camp while she fights for her life, vowing to honor her family and the thousands like hers by burying her story in a jar on Lithuanian soil.

When Nick and Allie are killed in a car crash, they end up in Everlost, or limbo for lost souls, where although Nick is satisfied, Allie will stop at nothing—even skinjacking—to break free.

Twelve-year-old genius and outsider Willow Chance must figure out how to connect with other people and find a surrogate family for herself after her parents are killed in a car accident.

Needing money for school, a college boy accepts a job as guide on a desert hunting trip and nearly loses his life.

Twelve-year-old orphan Crow embarks on a journey to discover who her parents were and why they abandoned her as an infant.

The author shares her childhood memories and reveals the first sparks that ignited her writing career in free-verse poems about growing up in the North and South.

In this memoir adapted for young readers, William Kamkwamba describes the drought that struck his tiny village in Malawi, his subsequent interest in science, and his idea to build a windmill. Made out of scrap metal and old bicycle parts, William's windmill brought electricity to his home and helped
his family pump the water they needed to farm the land.


Native American Jim Thorpe became a super athlete and Olympic gold medalist. Indomitable coach Pop Warner was a football mastermind. In 1907 at the Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Pennsylvania, they forged one of the winningest teams in American football history. Called "the team that invented football," they took on the best opponents of their day, defeating much more privileged schools in a series of breathtakingly close calls, genius plays, and bone-crushing hard work.

**2017-2018 School Year**


2016-2017 School Year


2015-2016 School Year


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<tr>
<th>LCCN</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Year</th>
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*Currently not in collection*

**2014-2015 School Year**

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<th>Call Number</th>
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<tr>
<td>660L</td>
<td>Chadda, Sarwat</td>
<td><em>The Savage Fortress</em></td>
<td>New York: Scholastic, Inc., 2013</td>
<td>F C3447S01</td>
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<td>910L</td>
<td>Clayton, Emma</td>
<td><em>The Roar</em></td>
<td>New York: Chicken House, 2009</td>
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<td>520L</td>
<td>DiCamillo, Kate</td>
<td><em>Flora and Ulysses</em></td>
<td>Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2013</td>
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<td>630L</td>
<td>Erskine, Kathryn</td>
<td><em>Mockingbird (Mok'ing-bûrd)</em></td>
<td>New York: Philomel Books, 2010</td>
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<td>790L</td>
<td>Flores-Galbis, Enrique</td>
<td><em>90 Miles to Havana</em></td>
<td>New York: Roaring Brook Press, 2010</td>
<td>F F66319N</td>
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<td>750L</td>
<td>Frazier, Sundee T</td>
<td><em>The Other Half of My Heart</em></td>
<td>New York: Delacorte Press, 2010</td>
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<td>760L</td>
<td>Gratz, Alan</td>
<td><em>Prisoner B-3087</em></td>
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<td>780L</td>
<td>Hemingway, Edith M</td>
<td><em>Road to Tater Hill</em></td>
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<td>740L</td>
<td>Hoobler, Dorothy and Thomas</td>
<td><em>The Ghost in Tokaido Inn</em></td>
<td>New York: Philomel Books, 1999</td>
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<td>730L</td>
<td>Lupica, Mike</td>
<td><em>Hero</em></td>
<td>New York: Puffin Books, 2010</td>
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<td>760L</td>
<td>Magorian, Michelle</td>
<td><em>Good Night, Mr. Tom</em></td>
<td>New York: Harper &amp; Row, 1986</td>
<td>F M27588G.A</td>
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<td>770L</td>
<td>Qamar, Amjed</td>
<td><em>Beneath My Mother’s Feet</em></td>
<td>New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2008</td>
<td>F Q112B</td>
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<td>650L</td>
<td>Riordan, Rick</td>
<td><em>The Red Pyramid</em></td>
<td>New York: Disney/Hyperion, 2010</td>
<td>F R4792K1</td>
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