



Middle School Battle of the Books List 2022-2023

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.

Grade Level	Title Information	Call Number
2022-2023 School Year		
5 - 8	Bowling, Dusti. <i>Insignificant Event in the Life of a Cactus</i> . New York: Sterling Children's Books, 2017. New friends and a mystery help Aven, thirteen, adjust to middle school and life at a dying western theme park in a new state, where her being born armless presents many challenges.	F B682I
4 - 6	Bradley, Kimberly B. <i>The War That Saved My Life</i> . New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 2015. A young disabled girl and her brother are evacuated from London to the English countryside during World War II, where they find life to be much sweeter away from their abusive mother.	F B7286W

- 7 - 10 Colfer, Eoin. *Airman*. New York: Hyperion Books for Children, 2008. F
C68AI
- In the late nineteenth century, when Conor Broekhart discovers a conspiracy to overthrow the king, he is branded a traitor, imprisoned, and forced to mine for diamonds under brutal conditions while he plans a daring escape from Little Saltee prison by way of a flying machine that he must design, build, and, hardest of all, trust to carry him to safety.
- 5 - 8 Fipps, Lisa. *Starfish*. New York: Nancy Paulsen Books an imprint of Penguin Random House, 2021. F
F513S
- Bullied and shamed her whole life for being fat, twelve-year-old Ellie finally gains the confidence to stand up for herself, with the help of some wonderful new allies.
- 4 - 8 Flanagan, John. *The Ruins of Gorlan*. New York: Philomel Books, 2005. F
F6133RA01
- When fifteen-year-old Will is rejected by battleschool, he becomes the reluctant apprentice to the mysterious Ranger Halt, and winds up protecting the kingdom from danger.
- 6 - 10 Holt, K.A. *House Arrest*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2015. F
H74249H
- Young Timothy is sentenced to house arrest after impulsively stealing a wallet, and he is forced to keep a journal into which he pours all his thoughts, fears, and frustrations.
- 4 - 8 Jamieson, Victoria. *When Stars are Scattered*. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 2020. B
M7253J
- Omar and his younger brother Hassan live in a refugee camp, and when an opportunity for Omar to get an education comes along, he must decide between going to school every day or caring for his nonverbal brother in this intimate and touching portrayal of family and daily life in a refugee camp
- 5 - 8 Nielsen, Jennifer A. *A Night Divided*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2015. F
N5544N.A
- When the Berlin Wall went up, Gerta, her mother, and her brother Fritz are trapped on the eastern side where they were living, while her father, and her other brother Dominic are in the West--four years later, now twelve, Gerta sees her father on a viewing platform on the western side and realizes he wants her to risk her life trying to tunnel to freedom.

3 - 6 Pérez, Celia C. *The First Rule of Punk*. New York: Viking, 2017. F
P4153F.A

Twelve-year-old María Luisa O'Neill-Morales (who really prefers to be called Malú) reluctantly moves with her Mexican-American mother to Chicago and starts seventh grade with a bang--violating the dress code with her punk rock aesthetic and spurning the middle school's most popular girl in favor of starting a band with a group of like-minded weirdos.

4 - 8 Ponti, James. *City Spies*. New York: Aladdin, 2020. *Currently
not in
collection

Sentenced to juvenile detention after exposing her foster parents' crimes, a talented young hacker is rescued by a British spy who recruits five teen savants from different world regions to become elite agents for MI6.

4 - 6 Rhodes, Jewell P. *Black Brother, Black Brother*. New York: Little, Brown and Company, 2020. F
R3467BL

Sometimes, 12-year-old Donte wishes he were invisible. As one of the few black boys at Middlefield Prep, most of the students don't look like him. They don't like him either. Dubbing him "Black Brother," Donte's teachers and classmates make it clear they wish he were more like his lighter-skinned brother, Trey. When he's bullied and framed by the captain of the fencing team, "King" Alan, he's suspended from school and arrested. Terrified, searching for a place where he belongs, Donte joins a local youth center and meets former Olympic fencer Arden Jones. With Arden's help, he begins training as a competitive fencer, setting his sights on taking down the fencing team captain, no matter what. As Donte hones his fencing skills and grows closer to achieving his goal, he learns the fight for justice is far from over. Now Donte must confront his bullies, racism, and the corrupt systems of power that led to his arrest. Powerful and emotionally gripping, *Black Brother, Black Brother* is a careful examination of the school-to-prison pipeline and follows one boy's fight against racism and his empowering path to finding his voice

4 - 6 Sloan, Holly Goldberg. *To Night Owl from Dogfish*. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 2019. F
SL523T

Sometimes zany, often touching, always funny, this novel told in emails and letters is about friendship and family - and making the best of both. Avery Bloom is intense, a bit nerdy, and afraid of many things, particularly deep water. She lives in New York City. Bett Devlin, who lives in Los Angeles, California, is fearless, outgoing, and loves animals and the ocean. What the two girls have in common is that they are both twelve years old, and are both being raised by single, gay dads. When their dads fall in love, Bett and Avery are sent, against their will, to the same sleepaway camp. Their dads hope that they will become friends - and possibly, one day, even sisters. But things soon get out of hand for the girls (and their dads, too), and they find themselves on a summer adventure that none of them could have predicted. Their families will never be the same.

- 8 - 12 Sullivan, Tara. *The Bitter Side of Sweet*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2016. F
SU56B
- Kept as forced labor on a chocolate plantation in the Ivory Coast, Amadou and his younger brother Seydou had given up hope, until a young girl arrives at the camp who rekindles the urge to escape.
- 4 - 8 Warga, Jasmine. *The Shape of Thunder*. New York: Balzer + Bray, an imprint of Harper Collins Publishers, 2021. F
W231S
- When a school bus accident leaves sixteen-year-old Jessica an amputee, she returns to school with a prosthetic limb and her track team finds a wonderful way to help rekindle her dream of running again.
- 4 - 6 Young, Brian. *Healer of the Water Monster*. New York: Heartdrum, an imprint of Harper Collins Publishers, 2021. *Available soon*
- In 1898, Moses Thomas's summer vacation does not go exactly as planned as he contends with family problems and the ever-changing alliances among his friends at the same time as he is exposed to the escalating tension between the African-American and white communities of Wilmington, North Carolina.
- 6 - 12 Yousafzai, Malala and McCormick, Patricia. *I am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World*. New York: Little, Brown and Company, 2014. B
Y887Y
- Malala Yousafzai was only ten years old when the Taliban took control of her region. They said music was a crime. They said women weren't allowed to go to the market. They said girls couldn't go to school. Raised in a once-peaceful area of Pakistan transformed by terrorism, Malala was taught to stand up for what she believes. So, she fought for her right to be educated. And on October 9, 2012, she nearly lost her life for the cause: She was shot point-blank while riding the bus on her way home from school. No one expected her to survive. Now Malala is an international symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest ever Nobel Peace Prize nominee.