

Summer Reading Activities 2011

Dear Summer Readers,

I am so excited to announce that next year the Upper El class will be participating in Battle of the Books! The Battle of the Books is a reading program designed to encourage students to read great books and then demonstrate what they have learned in a “battle”. Attached you will find the 2011 Battle of the Books reading list. Don’t be intimidated by the length of the list, I don’t expect that you will read them all over the summer. In fact, I don’t expect that any one person will read every book on the list.

This summer I ask that you pick **four** books from the list to read. Please keep a journal as you read. You will use the journal provided to you on the last day of school to record key information about each book to help you in the “battle”. Instructions for keeping the journal are also attached to this letter. Successful participation in Battle of the books requires team effort, so make sure your journal is complete and comes to school with you on the first day. Books do not have to be purchased, please feel free to use your local library.

Further information about the Battle of the Books program will be made available to parents next September during parent orientation.

Enjoy your summer, enjoy reading, and I look forward to seeing you next September.

-Ms. Courtney

Battle of the Books Journal Instructions

Here is what I would like to see in your journal:

1. Before you read the book, look at the picture on the cover. Predict what you think the book will be about based on the cover.
2. Begin to read and keep some notes. Here are some ideas to think about:
 - Character(s):** Who are the main characters?
 - Setting:** Where does the story take place?
When does the story take place? (Past? Present? Future?)
3. Could the events in this story actually happen or is the story a fantasy?
4. Is the main character someone you would enjoy being friends with? Why or why not?
5. Did you like the book and would you recommend it to your friends? Why or why not?
6. Please feel free to write down any other observations that seem important to you.
7. Don't forget to write in complete sentences!

2011-2012 Battle of the Books List

Author	Title
Brittain, Bill	The Wish Giver: Three Tales of Coven Tree
Christopher, John	The White Mountains
Christopher, Matt	Ice Magic
DiCamillo, Kate	Because of Winn-Dixie
Dowell, Frances	Phineas L. MacGuire...Erupts!: The First Experiment
Fleischman, Sid	By the Great Horn Spoon!
Fleming, Candace	Boxes for Katje
Flournoy, Valerie	The Patchwork Quilt
Fritz, Jean	What's the Big Idea, Ben Franklin?
George, Jean	My Side of the Mountain
Gipson, Fred	Old Yeller
Hahn, Mary	Downing Time for Andrew: A Ghost Story
Hobbs, Valerie	Sheep
Jacques, Brian	Redwall
King-Smith, Dick	Harry's Mad
L'Engle, Madeleine	A Wrinkle in Time
Levine, Gail Carson	Ella Enchanted
Lowry, Lois	Number the Stars
Manes, Stephen	Be a Perfect Person in Just Three Days
Montgomery, L. M.	Anne of Green Gables
Paulsen, Gary	Hatchet
Pennypacker, Sara	Clementine
Polacco, Patricia	My Rotten, Redheaded Older Brother
Porter, Connie Rose	Meet Addy: An American Girl
Roberts, Willo	Davis Scared Stiff
Ryan, Pam Munoz	Esperanza Rising
Sachar, Louis	There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom
Scieszka, Jon	Knights of the Kitchen Table
Wiles, Deborah	Love, Ruby Lavender
Winthrop, Elizabeth	Castle in the Attic