



Battle of the Books

Battle of the Books is a free annual book-based trivia tournament that promotes literacy and a love of reading. It's for elementary school children in Barrie and Oro-Medonte in grades 4 to 8. Participating schools will put together a team of students who will work together to read as many books as possible from our annual book list. The Teacher-Librarian (or other adult acting as team coach) can assist students by helping to divvy up the book list, hold practice trivia games, or complete other games and activities that will encourage the students to read as many books as possible, work together, and have tons of fun.

The Barrie Public Library will help support teams by visiting them at their schools for additional fun and games, and to help teams prepare for the semi-final battles and Grand Battle. Additional visits or meetings can be arranged with library staff upon request. Both the Downtown and Painswick locations will have multiple copies of each book on the annual book list that students can sign out on their library cards.

For the 2019-2020 school year, the semi-final battles will be held at the end of April; semi-final battles take place at both the Downtown and Painswick libraries. Teams that progress beyond the semi-final battles will compete in the Grand Battle in early May (held in the evening) at a location that will be announced at a later date.

Teams

This program is for students in grades 4 to 8. Exceptions will not be made. You may have up to 12 students as part of your school team as long as the grade and number restrictions are followed for each battle. The entire team participates in the written battle and lightning rounds. A maximum of 8 players per team will play during the oral battle rounds – one student from each of grades 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 with the other 3 players coming from any grade. However, there may be no more than 2 players from any grade playing at each battle. You can substitute players from a lower grade for a higher grade but not vice versa. As an example, if you have 3 grade 4 students and only 1 grade 6 student, you may play one of your grade 4s in a grade 6 spot. However, you could not substitute a grade 6 student for a grade 4 student spot.



Rules for Semi-Final Battles and Grand Battles

1. For the semi-final battles, each team will participate in a minimum of two oral battles against other schools plus two lightning rounds of 2 minutes each and one written battle (10 minutes). There may also be a bonus round where each team gets the same 6 questions orally. In the Grand Battle each team will play the other teams for a minimum of two battles and the top two scoring teams will meet in the final battle for the trophy. The third highest scoring team will automatically be awarded the bronze medal.
2. During the semi-final battles, a cumulative score will be kept for each team. The final scores or team placings will only be divulged to the coaches of each team. The coach makes the decision on divulging these to their students. However, the team(s) moving on to the Grand Battle will be announced. In some cases, wild card spots mean that some teams may not find out they are moving on until all of the semi-final battles have taken place.
3. The top team from each semi-final battle session with the highest cumulative score will proceed automatically to the Grand Battle round. There may also be wild card spots available to the teams with the next highest scores of all the semi-final battles.
4. Each team will have a spokesperson designated by either the team or coach. While the team is encouraged to quietly discuss the possible answer, **it is the spokesperson that must put forward the answer**. Please practice this procedure with your team prior to the semi-final battles in order to eliminate possible confusion. Teams will have a sheet of paper to write their answer on so the spokesperson can read this. Staff may also ask the student to spell the author's last name if there is confusion on pronunciation.
5. Each team will be asked 6 questions per oral battle from the following categories:
 - 1 Award-Winning & Classics
 - 1 Canadian Birch
 - 1 Canadian Maple
 - 1 Fun & Fantasy
 - 1 Graphic Novels
 - 1 Team Picks
6. Each team will be asked 6 questions per battle for the Grand Battle. The categories are:
 - 1 Award-Winning & Classics
 - 1 Canadian Birch
 - 1 Canadian Maple



- 1 Fun & Fantasy
- 1 Graphic Novels
- 1 Team Picks

For the final Grand Battle for the trophy, each team will be asked 10 to 12 questions selected from some (but not necessarily all) of the above categories. Only 12 students per team, as the rules stipulate that only 12 students may form a team, will receive medals if placing first, second or third. Staff may make exceptions for extenuating circumstances.

7. Warm-up practice questions will be given to each team at the beginning of their first oral battle.
8. During an oral battle, the team to which the question is addressed has 30 seconds to give the title and author of the book. During this time, the team may have the question repeated. No more than 3 guesses may be given for title and 3 guesses for author per question.
9. Four (4) points will be given to the team correctly identifying the title, and two (2) points will be given for identifying the author's surname. Author's first name is not necessary.
10. If at the end of 30 seconds the team is unable to answer the question correctly, the opposing team will be allowed the opportunity to give the title and/or author and will receive bonus points if correctly answered. **The answer must be immediate.** Bonus points are awarded as follows: one (1) for title and one (1) for author's surname.
11. During a lightning round, one team will be taken to a separate room. All 12 members of the team will be asked a minimum of 6 questions during a 2-minute time period about books indicated as potential lightning round titles on the booklist. The book is identified by title and author in the question read by the staff person. The questions will be about plot, character, or place name, etc. The team may make as many guesses as they wish during the 2-minute period. They can say "Pass" if they wish to skip a question or have given wrong answers and wish to skip to the next question. The staff person will then keep repeating questions until either all questions are answered correctly, or the time period is up. Each team will do two lightning rounds, usually one after the other.
12. During a written round, one team will be taken to a separate room. All 12 members of the team will participate. One sheet of paper with a minimum of 8 questions will be given to the team. The team has 10 minutes to work together to answer each of the questions. The answers in the written battle take the form of book title and author's last name.
13. The staff adjudicator's decision will be final in the case of any teams' answers which may be questionable.



- 14.** In the event of a tie between two or more teams, 3 written tie-breaking questions will be administered, with each team having to write down their answers to the written questions and submit to the adjudicator. This process will be repeated as necessary until the tie is broken, or if in the case of the Grand Battle in a medal-deciding situation and tie-breaking questions do not solve the situation, award both teams the medal in question.
- 15.** In the event of media being present, all participants are advised that consent to be photographed or filmed by the media or the library is implied. Parents/teachers/coaches must inform library staff of any exceptions to this at the start of the event(s). Photos taken by library staff may be used on the Barrie Public Library's official social media accounts.
- 16.** The recording or filming of any battles is not allowed by anyone other than for media purposes if permission has been granted by library staff. Teachers/coaches may not record in any method the questions being asked. If teachers/coaches need assistance in formulating practice questions for their team, they must speak to library staff for advice on how to do this.