

# THE 2021 BATTLE OF THE BOOKS

## PARENT GUIDE

### WHAT IS IT?

Battle of the Books is a reading competition for all 5<sup>th</sup> grade residents of Rochester, Rochester Hills, and Oakland Township. Students read six titles and participate in a week-long series of events showcasing their knowledge and creativity.

### WHAT DOES MY 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADER NEED TO DO?

- Form a team of 5<sup>th</sup> graders or participate individually
  - They do not have to be from the same school. They do not have to be enrolled in the RCS district. They DO need to be residents of Rochester, Rochester Hills, or Oakland Township and have a valid RHPL library card.
  - This year students do not need to form a team. If you choose to form a team, they may be virtual only or formed from a pod.
  - Coaches are not required this year, but please register your child with a preferred, valid email address to receive all communications.
- Register
  - Register by calling the Youth Reference desk at 248-650-7140. Have your child's library card handy. Please use a valid, preferred email address to receive all communications
  - **Registration begins Monday, November 23. You have until Monday, February 1, 2021 to register. There is no cap on registration.**
- Create a team name and a team costume.
  - Team names and costumes are not required, but they are fun to create. Three awards each are given for best team name and best costume.
- READ!
  - There are six titles, and a little more than three months in which to read them. Titles will be announced in a video sent to all 5<sup>th</sup> grade RCS classrooms and posted online at rhpl.org on Monday, November 23.
  - We have 20 copies of each title available to check out to Battle participants only. (You must be registered to check them out).
  - **Holds for checkout can be placed by calling the Youth Reference Desk at 248-650-7140. Holds can be sent to the lobby or to the drive up window.** (At the time of filming, the library was open for Grab & Go service, currently we are closed to public entry and Bookmobile services are suspended.)
  - We will also have reserve collections for each elementary school – these are only for students.
  - Parents of participating students may check the books out if there are multiple copies available – please allow 5<sup>th</sup> graders to check them out first
  - You may check out two at a time for one week each. You may purchase titles if you wish.
- Prepare.
  - Teams should come up with their own reading and studying strategy.
  - Pay attention and keep notes on favorite characters and scenes. Take notes on the overall theme of the book and the voices and dominant characteristics of each character.

- Have Fun!
  - This is a voluntary program and is meant to be fun! Our biggest goal for this experience is that you and your child read six books that you may not have chosen yourself.

## WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

- Ensure that your 5<sup>th</sup> grader's library card is up-to-date.
- Make sure they are registered. You can register by calling the Youth Reference Desk at 248-650-7140.
  - Registration begins on Monday, November 23 and runs through Monday, February 1. There is no limit as to how many teams or 5<sup>th</sup> graders can participate.
- READ!
  - Read the books together with your 5<sup>th</sup> grader. Discuss. Laugh. Cry. Enjoy!
- Have fun!
  - This program is entirely voluntary and is meant to be fun! Our biggest goal for this experience is that you and your child read six books that you may not have chosen yourself.
  - Support your 5<sup>th</sup> grader. Read together, have a conversation, create memories, and celebrate small victories.
  - Our books are selected by all six salaried librarians. They are based on content, awards received, professional scholarly reviews, and overall quality. If you disagree with any titles, please remember this is not a compulsory program and we are not requiring you to read every book.

## WHAT CAN I EXPECT ON BATTLE WEEK?

- Battle week takes place Monday, March 15-Saturday, March 20. This is just when submissions are due, you may work on the prompts at any time.
- RHPL will publish a calendar of events the first week in February with each prompt or assignment. Prompts and assignments include but are not limited to: recreating your favorite scenes, video confessionals about your favorites, cover art challenges, costume showdowns, character studies, author videos, quizzes, and more!
- 5<sup>th</sup> graders will post submissions online using Flipgrid, Quizlet, and other secure platforms. Only participants will be able to see submissions. We may ask permission to showcase costume entries on our RHPL Facebook page and other social media.
- Outside of the team name and costume contests, entries will not be scored or judged.

## OK. BUT I STILL HAVE QUESTIONS.

- Contact Betsy Raczowski, Head of Youth Services at [betsy.raczowski@rhpl.org](mailto:betsy.raczowski@rhpl.org) or 248-650-7142.