



Coach's Information

Thank you for being a Battle Coach!

Coach responsibilities:

- Assist students in naming their team.
- Ensure team is registered between September 1st and January 6th.
- Submit any final changes in registration information to battleinfo@carr.org or your battle representative no later than February 1st.
- Ensure each team member understands which book/books on the reading list they are expected to read. Coach may assign specific students to be "experts" on certain books.
- Meet with the team regularly to offer encouragement, check on reading progress, foster team cohesiveness, and practice identifying the books and authors.
- Model good sportsmanlike behavior and encourage your team to always do the same.
- Encourage team spirit. Students are encouraged to dress in team shirts or other spirit wear on the competition day. Team members and coaches may not include the titles of books or authors anywhere on their attire.
- If any student on your team needs accommodation for the night of the Battle, please contact battleinfo@carr.org and your school media specialist so it can be made.

Suggestions for facilitating meetings:

- Keep the atmosphere fun.
- Give kids time to socialize and share a bit before "getting serious".
- Have snacks.
- Check-in with kids regularly. Ask them how they are doing with the reading.
- Keep in mind that children have different learning styles. Try planning a variety of activities to address the different types of learners you may have on your team. Example: some children learn better when they see a question and hear it read aloud. Every child will not respond the same way to an activity, so it's important to be flexible with students.
- Assign books if necessary. Who will read which books? Ideally, you will want to have more than one child reading each book. Please remember to be flexible with the children.
- Play games to help children get to know the title and authors of books. Examples: Matching games, memory games, showing book covers with title and author covered up. Ask kids to share a favorite or least favorite part of a book. Use a ball to facilitate discussion by having whoever catches it share something about the book they are reading. Explore using games (online or otherwise) like Kahoot, Jeopardy Labs, Hangman, and Pictionary. Challenge kids to write their own questions from the books they're reading and have their teammates answer.
- Ask out of the box questions to facilitate discussion: what kind of food would the characters like and why? If you could take the character anywhere, where would you go? Why?



Timeline:

Getting started (November-January):

- Form and register the team.
- Team name and registration **MUST** be finalized by February 1.
- Decide who will read which books.
- Begin reading and getting to know the Battle books.
- Plan to meet regularly.

Ramping up (by January):

- Meet regularly to check in with each other. Use different methods to keep meetings lively but on task.
- Students should be familiar with the titles on the Battle book list.
- Begin practicing answering questions in the Battle format. You may wish to use the answer sheet found online as a guide.

The Month Before (date will vary depending on Battle Region):

- Make T-shirts or team spirit wear.
- Be comfortable answering questions in Battle format.
- Remind team members of battle night/time and rules.
- Decide who will be recorder(s) for the night of Battle. Give recorder(s) an opportunity to practice.

Updated November 2023