

Battle of the Books Question Writing Guidelines:

These are the guidelines with which Battle of the Books questions are created. We select a combination of different types of questions and include varying levels of difficulty in the questions from easy to difficult. We use these criteria to ensure that each battle event has the same level of difficulty for students.

Four different types of questions may be asked:

- A direct quote from a character
- A question or statement about something that happens in the book or about a character
- A passage taken directly from the book
- A question about something from an illustration or picture

The answers to the questions will always be the title of a book and the author, as it appears on the official booklist.

Each question can only be answered by one book on booklist. The Battle of the Books Committee is thorough in checking each question used in the battle events.

Questions can be used from ANY part of the book. This includes dedications, epilogues, author biography, back matter, etc. from front to back of the book.

Battle of the Books Sample Questions

The following are actual questions that have been asked in previous battles

Elementary School Question Examples-

1) In which book do you learn the definition of “bespoke”?

City Spies by James Ponti, page 8

2) In which book will you find Yansam?

Prairie Lotus by Linda Sue Park, page 51

3) In which book would you find the “Land of Glitter”?

Twins by Varian Johnson, page 22

4) In which book is the library portrayed as No-Man’s-Land?

Twins by Varian Johnson, page, 25

5) In which book would you find a goat named Brownie?

When Stars Are Scattered by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed, page 116

6) In which book does a character say, “I acted like a hideous old turtle”?

Witches of Brooklyn by Sophie Escabasse, page 21

7) In which book do the characters move to a city known for cloth making?

History Smashers: The Mayflower by Kate Messner, page 10

8) In which book does someone have an obsession with Cadbury Crunchies?

City Spies by James Ponti, page 177

9) In which book do kids play a game called elephant?

Isaiah Dunn Is My Hero by Kelly J. Baptist, page 62

10) Which book contains the following quote, "he's a turtle. But that's okay. Life isn't about the destination; it's about enjoying the ride"?

Notorious by Gordon Korman, page 48

Middle School Question Examples-

- 1) In which book does a character think, “You want to play hardball...Bring it on”?
City Spies by James Ponti, page 279
- 2) In which book does a character read E.B. White?
Astronauts: Women on the Final Frontier by Jim Ottaviani, page 57
- 3) Which book begins in a bakery?
War Stories by Gordon Korman, page 1
- 4) In which book is a character on his hands and knees helping his mother clean floors?
Becoming Mohammad Ali by James Patterson and Kwame Alexander, page 232
- 5) In which book does a character remember having fun while “elbow-deep in froyo trash”?
The Disaster Days by Rebecca Behrens, page 170
- 6) In which book does a character throw a rock through a window?
War Stories by Gordon Korman, page 172
- 7) In which book is a character described as looking "electrified"?
Zora and Me: The Cursed Ground by T.R. Simon, page 15
- 8) In which book is someone undergoing muscle electrostimulation?
Astronauts: Women on the Final Frontier by Jim Ottaviani, page 14
- 9) Which book is dedicated in memory of a high school art teacher?
The Crossover by Kwame Alexander, page- front dedication
- 10) Which book was written by an author with a “long-running daily comic strip”?
Wink by Rob Harrell, page- back flap author biography

Updated 9/2024