

South Texas ISD  
*Battle of the Books*  
Rules and Regulations

**Eligibility**

- The South Texas ISD *Battle of the Books* competition is open to all STISD schools.
- Students in grades 7-12 may participate in the competition. Team members must attend the same STISD campus. Team selection is at the discretion of the sponsor.
- A team is comprised of three students and one alternate. An alternate member is optional.
- Campus level competitions will be held for each STISD campus to determine which team will advance to the district level competition.
- Additional students from the school are welcome to observe if space permits.

**Battle of the Books Reading List**

- The official list of books to be read will be posted on all the district library websites and will also be distributed to sponsors by district library staff.
- The list of 12 books is based on state and national notable book lists as well as recommendations from district librarians.

**Procedures**

- Campus Competition Round One consists of a timed 20 question written test. Team members will work on the written test together. The four teams with the highest score on the written test will advance to Round Two of the Campus Competition. In the event of a tie, the team with the fewest spelling mistakes on their written test will advance to the Campus Competition Round Two. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place teams will compete in Round Two but cannot advance to Round Three.
- Campus Competition Round Two consists of 20 questions answered orally by team members, and will be a face-to-face competition between two teams.
  - Questions/statements will be read by an announcer one time only.
  - Each question will be addressed to both teams at the same time.
  - Questions may address book characters, story lines, settings, and other important information from the book. For some books, physical, visual or audio clues are also possible. An audio clue might be a sound clip of a song, and teams would have to identify the book the song came from. A physical clue might be an object that played an important role in the plot of the book.
  - The team that buzzes in first will be given the opportunity to answer. One point will be awarded to the team for a correct answer. If the team answers incorrectly, the other team will be given the opportunity to answer the question.
  - If a team buzzes in before the question is read in its entirety, the announcer will stop reading the question and the team must answer. If the team answers incorrectly, the question will be reread in its entirety and addressed only to the opposing team.
  - Team members who buzz in must answer the question immediately. Any attempt

- to delay in answering will result in forfeiture of question and the opposing team will be given the opportunity to answer.
- Team members are not allowed to re-state the entire question first before answering.
  - Team members cannot correct, override, or assist their teammate who is answering the question.
  - A panel of three STISD staff members will serve as scorekeepers and also act as judges for any answer that may not exactly match the correct answer provided.
- In the case of a tie at the end of Campus Competition Round Two, a 'sudden death' round of additional questions will be asked until only one team remains.
  - The winning team from the Campus Competition Round Two will advance to the District Competition.
  - The District Competition will consist of five rounds of competitions with 12 questions each to allow each team to compete against all other teams. The team with the most points at the end of all five rounds will be the district champion.
  - In the case of a tie at the end of the District Competition, a 'sudden death' round of additional questions will be asked until only one team remains.
  - Alternates:
    - Teams can substitute members up until Round Two (even if they didn't list an alternate on registration form).
    - After Round Two no substitutions are allowed.
    - If teams use a substitute/alternate in Round Two, that substitute/alternate must compete in Round Three. If a team wants their original member to be able to compete in Round Three, they can elect to compete in Round Two with just two team members.

### **Judges/Scorekeepers**

- A panel of three STISD staff members will serve as judges and scorekeepers.
- Judges will arbitrate questions about answers and ties.
- Judges may penalize and/or dismiss teams for inappropriate behavior such as outbursts, disrespectful behavior, or unsportsmanlike conduct.
- All judges' decisions are final.

### **Awards**

- A trophy will be awarded to the campus who wins the District Competition.
  - Individual plaques will be awarded to winning team members of the District Competition.
- Certificates and medals will be awarded to all District Competition participants.

***Battle of the Books 2015-2016***  
**Official Book List**

*A Monster Calls* by Patrick Ness

*Chasing Lincoln's Killer* by James L. Swanson (*nonfiction*)

*Department Nineteen* by Will Hill

*Don't Kill the Birthday Girl: Tales from an Allergic Life* by Sandra Beasley (*nonfiction*)

*Guantanamo Boy* by Anna Perera

*Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen

*Running Dream* by Wendelin Van Draanen

*The House of the Scorpion* by Nancy Farmer

*The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* by Kate DiCamillo

*The Naturals* by Jennifer Barnes

*The Veldt* by Ray Bradbury (*short story*)

*The Year We Disappeared: A Father-Daughter Memoir* by Cylin Busby and John Busby  
(*nonfiction*)

# Battle of the Books Registration Form 2015-2016

Registration deadline: NOVEMBER 15, 2015

All information regarding the contest will be sent out via email to the sponsor listed below. Sponsors are responsible for keeping their student teams updated on contest information. Please submit only one registration form per team. Return this form to your campus librarian.

Campus Competition Round One (*Written Exam*): January 11 - 15, 2016

Campus Competition Round Two (*Face-to-Face Competition*): January 18 - 22, 2016

District Competition (*Face-to-Face Competition*): February 24, 2016

**Note: Contest dates are tentative.**

I am a staff member at:  BETA  Med High  Sci Tech  Med Academy  STPA  Rising Scholars

I agree to be a contest sponsor for a *Battle of the Books* student team from my campus. Please use the following sponsor contact information for all contest updates:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Team members:

	Name	ID#
1.	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____ ( <i>Optional alternate</i> )

**Registration forms must be received by NOVEMBER 15, 2015**

I agree to serve as a contest sponsor for *Battle of the Books* and will ensure my team complies with all contest rules and regulations. In the event my team needs to withdraw from the competition, I will inform my campus librarian immediately.

Sponsor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Battle of the Books 14-15 Sample Questions

These are some sample questions from last year's competition.  
This IS NOT the book list for the 2015-2016 competition.

1. ***The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky**  
What does Charlie witness happening between his sister and her boyfriend?
2. ***Wonder* by R.J. Palacio**  
What does Auggie lose in the woods?
3. ***Eleanor and Park* by Rainbow Rowell**  
Why does Richie get mad at Eleanor's mother after they eat Christmas dinner?
4. ***The Lottery* by Shirley Jackson**  
What happens to Tessie?
5. ***Winter's Bone* by Daniel Woodrell**  
How does Ree's father earn money?
6. ***Girl Who Fell From the Sky* by Heidi Durrow**  
Aunt Loretta dies after getting cut by glass. What causes her to die?
7. ***Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank**  
What does Anne have to leave behind when her family goes into hiding?
8. ***Sarah's Key* by Tatiana de Rosnay**  
What concentration camp are Sarah's parents sent to?
9. ***The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green**  
What is one of Gus and Isaac's favorite activities to do together?
10. ***The Giver* by Lois Lowry**  
What assignment does Jonas receive at the Ceremony of Twelves?
11. ***To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee**  
Who saves Scout from Mr. Ewell?
12. ***The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak**  
Who places Liesel in foster care?
13. ***Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson**  
How does Melinda tell Rachel about the party and Andy Evans?
14. ***Airborn* by Kenneth Oppel**  
How does Kate escape when she is locked in her stateroom by Miss Simpkins?