



EVENT MODEL: QUIZ BOWL FOR BOOK LOVERS

QUIZ BOWL is a fun and fast-paced competition based on book-related trivia; and it can be played by any number of readers who would like to test their literary knowledge. Participants can compete individually or interested parties (as in the case of store-affiliated book clubs or reading groups) can be organized into teams. Remember to make-up a team name to add to the fun! **QUIZ BOWL** is modeled on the popular televised game show JEOPARDY with questions organized into specific categories. Phrases, keywords, common themes, specific genres, or similarities shared by titles can all be sources of inspiration for formulating questions. A point value is assigned to each question (or category) based on the degree of difficulty.

These questions – concerning both children’s and adult literature – should be based on titles, materials, and sources that are commonly known by most avid readers. Questions have commonly drawn on the following references:

- The Book Sense lists including the original Book Sense 76 selections, the current monthly Book Sense picks, Book Sense notables, and special themed or seasonal handouts developed by the ABA;
- Titles recognized by literary award including the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Awards, the National Book Critics’ Circle Awards, the Quills, the Newbery, the Caldecott, et cetera;
- Classic works – regardless of time or country of origin;
- Customer and book group favorites including the Oprah Book Club selections;
- Favorite handsets;
- Nationally recognized bestseller lists including the New York Times, Publishers Weekly, USA Today, and regional bestseller lists such as the one compiled weekly by NAIBA: and
- Reader references such as Nancy Pearl’s excellent volume, BOOK LUST.

Here’s an example. Based on the Book Sense selections for 2007, how many books can you identify that reference a specific animal in the title? Answer – Water for Elephants, Bad Monkeys, The Tenderness of Wolves, Coal Black Horse, A Buffalo in the House, A Pig in Provence, and so on. Now try your hand at creating a list of popular volumes that reference royalty in the title. Hint – look for the keywords, KING, QUEEN, EMPEROR, EMPRESS, PRINCE, PRINCESS, LORD, LADY, DUKE, DUCHESS, SIR, and MADAM.

Short annotations can be drawn easily for publisher websites, catalogues, and book-related databases (such as Ingram and Baker & Taylor) and fashioned into small, descriptive passages or clever hints and clues to serve as your questions.

Why play **QUIZ BOWL**? The reasons are many:

- **QUIZ BOWL** can serve as a fun and engaging non-author event.
- **QUIZ BOWL** can be an effective and entertaining ice-breaker for a book club meeting or reading group social.
- **QUIZ BOWL** can provide fascinating content for your store website or newsletter. Make it a regular feature!
- **QUIZ BOWL** can be used as a warm-up for your own in-store (or off-site) pick-of-the-list presentations.
- **QUIZ BOWL** can add a bit of levity to staff meetings.

So let the games begin! Have fun. Ham it up. Lamé jokes, bad puns, and silly word play are strongly encouraged. And remember to keep a notebook at hand – you never when inspiration will strike.