Sequoyah Battle of the Books Tournament: Official Rules and Regulations
Disclaimer: These are guidelines. Librarians are welcome to adapt to their individual entity and will receive the Questions/Answers Packet regardless of the Battle of the Books format.

Committee
A Battle of the Books Committee (BOBC) should be established by participating entities. Members include a Chair and as many volunteers as needed.
The BOBC tasks are:

- Designate the day of the Battle of the Books Tournament (BOB).
- Fill out the form on the OLA Sequoyah website, and request the Official Questions/Answers Packet. The packet will be emailed just before your BOB date to ensure secrecy and it must be kept in a secure location.
- Establish classrooms for teams to compete plus one large classroom for the Final Battle.
- Decide the number of teams competing.
- Design your bracket. The BOBC will use a blind draw to place the teams within the brackets. Each team competes in two rounds of competition before elimination. No two teams should meet in more than one round unless they meet in the Final Battle.
- Have copies of the books available for challenge consultations.
- Create the agenda packet for competitors. This includes: the bracket, classroom assignments, and competing teams.
- Create signs for designated classrooms.
- Designate volunteers outside the committee as Reader Officials and Timekeeper/Scorer/Judge Officials for each classroom.
- Take the Official Questions/Answers and divide them into groups of ten (10) and place in sealable envelopes. Each envelope should be carefully numbered indicating which round. The sealed envelopes will be given to the Reader Officials one round at a time. Keep these envelopes in a secure area.
- Provide stopwatches, clipboards, rules, official title list, score sheets and pencils for each Timekeeper/Scorer/Judge Official.
- Assign competing teams to their rooms for the round of play.

Day of the Battle of Books Tournament
- Post the tournament brackets and team match-ups on classroom doors.
- Give teams and audience a copy of the agenda packet.
- Meet with all Reader Officials and Timekeeper/Scorer/Judge Officials and review the rules. Each Reader Official receives one (1) Official Questions/Answers packet clearly marked for each round. They should review the questions ahead of time for pronunciation.
- The Timekeeper/Scorer/Judge Officials should each be given a stopwatch, clipboard with the BOB rules, the official Masterlist titles, a score sheet, and a pencil.
- A BOBC member should be designated to keep posted brackets updated throughout the tournament.
Tournament Rounds and Scoring

1. The team that sits on the left will be given first chance at the odd number questions, and the team on the right will be given first chance at the even questions.

2. Each team will tell the Reader who is serving as Captain. This should be recorded on the score sheet.

3. The “odd” team will go first and be read question number one.

4. Each team has 30 seconds after the reading of the question to give its response through the team Captain. Teams are encouraged to confer before giving a response. Only the first answer given by the Captain will be acceptable. Teams cannot use remaining time to guess other titles.

5. If the title is correct, the team is awarded 5 points. Then the team may have an additional 5 seconds to confer on the author and give its response. An additional 5 points will be awarded for the correct author.

6. Regardless of who scored what on the last question, even numbered questions will be read to the even team, and odd numbered questions will be read to the odd team.

7. If a team has begun its response before time is called, it will be allowed to complete it.

8. After 5 questions have been asked, half time score will be announced.

9. In the event of a tie, Reader Official will request from the BOBC an additional packet for another round until a winner is declared.

Acceptable answers

The answer is considered correct even if mispronounced, as long as the judge can discern it. That may mean that an incorrect article in the title may be used or answers that are slightly off (such as “Miss Peregrine’s and the Peculiar Children” instead of “Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children”) are acceptable. Not acceptable is: “That Women with the House of Weird Kids.” A correct author’s name is one that is quoted as it appears on the OLA Sequoyah Masterlist. Only giving the last name of the author is also acceptable.

Challenges

The questions are proofread and worded carefully to avoid mistakes. A common challenge may be a question that will have two correct answers. When the error has been proven by consulting the book, both teams will receive credit for a correct title. The challenges must occur before the round is completed.
Default

- Any team which does not appear for a round will automatically default to the team which was to be its opponent.
- Do not share the Official Questions/Answers. Do not rewrite or tamper with the Official Questions/Answers. Please keep them for use at one location for one use only. If you are planning more than one Battle of the Books Tournament, please re-request the Official Questions/Answers Packet from the OLA Sequoyah Administrative Team. Notify OLA Sequoyah Administrative Team if you have questions, concerns, or suggestions email: sequoyah@oklibs.org
- The OLA Sequoyah Book Award Reading and Administrative Teams are proud to provide this opportunity to your school or library. Good luck!

Administrative Chair duties

- Upon receipt of form submission, count back a minimum of five (5) working days from the requesting library’s event. Put a reminder alert on your calendar.
- Contact the requesting librarian with your direct contact information and let them know when you will send the questions to them.
- On the specified day, email the Questions/Answers Packet to the requesting librarian.