

REVISITING THE BATTLE OF THE BOOKS

In 2001, the International Reading Association and the National Middle School Association issued a joint call to action urging classroom teachers, school-based educators, educational policy makers, family and community members to focus on the importance of reading and literacy. Now five years later, the need to focus on reading and literature is as great as ever.

Adolescents today are bombarded with written, visual and auditory text. A literate middle school student today must understand print and non-print material in an increasing complex environment. Literacy for the 21st century middle school student means much more than reading traditional literature in class only. Students will need to be able to develop a love of reading, of words, and all that they have to offer. They will need to be able to discern and comprehend information from a variety of sources. Students will need to link strategies and skills from one context to another. What a challenge and yet, what an opportunity we have as educators to help them achieve!

In each issue, this column will focus on a link to literacy—a way to encourage literacy in and outside of the classroom.

In Which Book: Encouraging Reading Using Battle of the Books

Fortunately for today's 'tweeners and teens, there is a plethora of wonderful materials just waiting to be read. The choices in young adult literature (YAL) have exploded. So how can classroom teachers get students connected to reading outside the classroom?

One reading incentive program is having success across the country. Battle of the Books has been around since the 1930s and continues to receive rave reviews from students, parents, librarians and teachers. Students read a list of books and then enter competitions where all questions begin, "In which book..."

In NC, this program works at the individual school level as well as the district, regional and state levels. Sponsored by the NC School Library Media Association, Battle of the Books is designed to promote a love of reading and familiarity with the best in literature. Battle of the Books program is for all students, regardless of ability. Just imagine the possibilities! The program exposes middle school students to high quality literature from a variety of prominent authors.

Battle of the Books is a good place to start if you are looking for a list of high quality literature for your students. It also can be an excellent way to increase reading, after all, isn't that our goal?

For More Information Contact your Media coordinator or visit <http://www.ncslma.org/BookCompetitions/BoBstate/bobinfo.htm>

NCSLMA Battle of the Books Booklist 2006-2007

2006-2007	
Title	Author
Watership Down	Adams, Richard
Little Women	Alcott, Louisa May
Chasing Vermeer	Balliett, Blue
Peter and the Starcatchers	Barry, Dave & Ridley Pearson
Tarzan of the Apes	Burroughs, Edgar Rice
Storm Warriors	Carbone, Elisa
Notes from a Liar and Her Dog	Choldenko, Gennifer
The Misadventures of Maude March	Couloumbis, Audrey
Bud, Not Buddy	Curtis, Christopher Paul
Play to the Angel	Dahlberg, Maurine
Chicken Boy	Dowell, Frances O’Roark
Phineas Gage	Fleischman, John
Coraline	Gaiman, Neil
Summer of My German Soldier	Greene, Bette
Bronx Masquerade	Grimes, Nikki
Stormbreaker	Horowitz, Anthony
Invitation to the Game	Hughes, Monica
The Lottery Rose	Hunt, Irene
Castaways of the Flying Dutchman	Jacques, Brian
The View from Saturday	Konigsburg, E.L.
The Kite Rider	McCaughrean, Geraldine
Airborn	Oppel, Kenneth
Criss Cross	Perkins, Lynne Rae
Freak the Mighty	Philbrick, Rodman
Esperanza Rising	Ryan, Pam Muñoz
the Spirit Line*	Thurlo, Aimée and David
Dealing with Dragons	Wrede, Patricia

*Note: In the book *the Spirit Line*, “the” is in lower case because the title appears that way on the title page.

References

Battle of the books. Retrieved July 8, 2006, from <http://www.battleofthebooks.com/>

NCSLMA book competitions. Retrieved July 8, 2006, from <http://www.ncslma.org/BookCompetitions/bookcompetitions.htm/>

Supporting young adolescents' literacy learning: a position paper jointly adopted by International Reading Association and National Middle School Association. Retrieved July 8, 2006, from <http://www.nmsa.org/AboutNMSA/PositionStatements/ReadingInstruction/tabid/284/Default.aspx>

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