

Battle of the Books

Texas Bluebonnet Books *or* Texas Lone Star Books



Trivia Games for Readers Who Enjoy a Challenge!

“Family Feud Format on Competition Day
8 Texas Bluebonnet Selections: Grades 3-6
8 Texas Lone Star Selections: Grades 6-8

What You Need to Know:

- **Apply online to participate in one of the Battle of the Books Trivia Games.**
- **Register online between May 13 and June 13**
(different from other summer registrations)
- **You will be contacted about team placement**
- **Teams should have 2-4 members**
- **Yes, you can create your own team, talk with Ms. Marie**
- **Get busy reading at any time!**
- **Both book lists can be found online – Also game play details.**
- **Study and discuss the books with your teammates**
- **Be ready to play on Game Day, July 30th beginning at 1pm**
- **Friends & family are encouraged to attend both competitions & the combined awards reception that follows on July 30.**



www.dscl.org

How to prepare:

Selected titles are taken from the twenty books on the 2013-2014 Texas, Bluebonnet or Lone Star Reading Lists.

The BOB questions will come from the 8 selected for each competition, but please go ahead and read all twenty books on either of the state reading lists if you like.

The BOB selections may be found at www.dscl.org or ask for a title list.

Team members may read titles individually or work together with other teammates. If working together, each person should carefully read their assigned books and discuss them with the other team members. If you decide to meet as a team, you might want to consider possible questions that may be encountered during battle. Team Sponsors can help the children prepare by asking questions and having trial runs.

Each book on the reading list should be **read by at least one team member**. Team sponsors should check, and update, the team reading log to ensure that each book has been read by someone. Please encourage discussion among the team members even if each person is reading all of the titles.

Share titles as you read them so the team reading log sheet is kept up to date and your team members know which books have been read and which have not.

How it works on Competition Day, July 30, Beginning at 1pm:

During game play, two teams play against each other, answering questions that the coordinator asks. Questions usually focus on identifying characters, key plot events or settings. Sometimes the team hears a description of a book and has to identify it within the list. A coin toss decides which team goes first.

New questions alternate between the two teams in a round. Tournament play depends and number of teams involved.

1. Name of team member to answer question is announced.
 2. Question is read to the team (second reading upon request)
 3. The team member's name is again announced & must answer with no prompting from team members. Audience members may not help.
 4. If correct, the team earns 10 points. If incorrect, the other team has a chance to "steal" the points with the correct answer. The team is allowed discussion time of approx. 30 seconds.
 5. If the second team does not answer correctly, the first team gets the 10 points by default.
 6. The team to score 100 points first, wins.
- **Celebration Reception & Special Awards Will Follow for Contestants and Audience Members**

Bluebonnet Battle of the Books Reading List – Grades 3-6

All eight books must be read by at least one team member. Discussion and practice questions are encouraged.

1. Applegate, Katherine. 2012. ***The One and Only Ivan.***

Illustrated by Patricia Castelao.

New York: Harper.

The Exit 8 Big Top Mall and Video Arcade is home to a mangy group of performing animals which includes friends Ivan the gorilla, Stella the elephant and a stray dog, Bob. They are soon joined by Ruby, a baby elephant who is frightened and confused, after being torn away from her elephant family. Ivan is philosophical and expresses his view of life through art, which is sold by the owner of the mall. The financial situation causes both fame and the changes which accompany notoriety.

AR Book Level: 3.6 AR Interest Level: MG – grades 4-8 305 pages

2. Chin, Jason. 2011. ***Coral Reefs.***

New York: Roaring Brook Press.

Imagine opening a book and suddenly finding the room filled with water and animals from the ocean. Take a journey to the coral reefs in this informative story that mixes reality with fantasy.

AR Book Level: 6.4 AR Interest Level: LG – grades K-3 32 pages

3. Fern, Tracey. 2012. ***Barnum's Bones.*** Illustrated by Boris Kulikov.

New York: Margaret Ferguson Books / Farrar Straus Giroux.

Even as a young boy, Barnum Brown collected rocks and fossils; as he grew so did his passion, which eventually led to the discovery of the infamous dinosaur, Tyrannosaurus Rex. With larger-than-life illustrations, readers will follow Barnum's expeditions through this lively biography.

AR Book Level: 6.2 AR Interest Level: LG – grades K-3 32 pages

4. Kalman, Maira. 2012. ***Looking at Lincoln.***

New York: Nancy Paulsen Books.

Maira Kalman's bright illustrations and intriguing story create a unique portrait of our 16th president. This fresh perspective on Abraham Lincoln is filled with unusual facts as well as personal musings.

AR Book Level: 4.1 AR Interest Level: MG – grades 4-8 32 pages

5. Palacio, R.J. 2012. ***Wonder.***

New York: Alfred A. Knopf.

Born with a severe facial deformity, Auggie's life has consisted of an endless series of surgeries, while being home schooled by his mother. For the first time in his life, he is going to attend the local school as a fifth grader. Author R.J. Palacio's first novel is an uplifting, powerful, realistic read, and you will be cheering for Auggie all the way!

AR Book Level: 4.8 AR Interest Level: MG – grades 4-8 315 pages Additional copies in LONE STAR area

6. Potter, Ellen. 2012. ***The Humming Room.***

New York: Feiwel and Friends.

Mystery, ghosts, gardens, oh my! Twelve year old Roo Fanshaw's specialty is hiding. After being sent to live with an eccentric uncle she never knew in an uninhabited mansion on Cough Rock Island. What does she discover in the mansion and what are the strange noises she hears? This new mystery is loosely-based on the classic book *The Secret Garden*.

AR Book Level: 5.2 AR Interest Level: MG – grades 4-8 184 pages

7. Shannon, David. 2012. ***Jangles: a BIG Fish Story.***

New York: The Blue Sky Press.

"I am more than a fish. I am a storyteller and a story." –Jangles. Tall tales of the biggest fish ever caught are centuries old. David Shannon has created a colorful tale from the fish's point of view. Readers will be hooked by Shannon's lively illustrations and exaggerated text.

AR Book Level: 4.1 AR Interest Level: LG – grades K-3 32 pages

8. Sherry, Maureen. 2010. ***Walls Within Walls.*** Illustrated by Adam Stower.

New York: Katherine Tegen.

In her debut novel, Maureen Sherry takes us on an adventure through Manhattan. The Smithfork family moves into an old apartment and find themselves solving a mystery with clues all around them. Who can they trust? How do they read the clues built into their apartment to find the treasure before it's too late?

AR Book Level: 5.2 AR Interest Level: MG – grades 4-8 349 pages

Lone Star Battle of the Books Reading List – Grades 6-8

All eight books have been selected from the 2013-2014 Texas Lone Star Reading List.

All of the 8 selections must be read by at least one team member.

See competition rules online for helpful hints.

Bauer, Joan. Almost Home. Viking, 2012.

Still grieving her beloved grandfather and with no father to count on, Sugar and her mother suddenly find themselves homeless. Life has dealt them a devastating blow, but Sugar Mae Cole is not one easily knocked down.

AR Book Level: 5.3.7 AR Interest Level: MG Gr. 4.8 264 pages

Blumenthal, Karen. Steve Jobs: The Man Who Thought Different. Feiwel and Friends, 2012.

Love him or hate him, one cannot deny the impact Steve Jobs had on the twentyfirst century. This is the honest story of the complicated man who truly thought different.

AR Book Level: 8.2 AR Interest Level: MG+ Gr. 6 and Up 310 pages

Carvell, Tim. Planet Tad. Harper Collins, 2012.

Tad begins the New Year with a blog and a resolution to survive the seventh grade. His blog posts chronicle his struggles with his annoying little sister, science projects, an embarrassing summer job, and many more middle school mishaps.

AR Book Level: 5.4 AR Interest Level: MG Gr. 4-8 238 pages

Kindl, Patrice. Keeping the Castle: A Tale of Romance, Riches, and Real Estate. Viking, 2012.

Althea Crawley lives in a deteriorating castle with her mother, younger brother, and two stepsisters. Strong-willed, beautiful, and cunning, Miss Crawley must find a wealthy man to marry in order to preserve her family's home.

AR Book Level: 7.2 AR Interest Level: MG+ Gr. 6 and Up 261 pages

Morpurgo, Michael. An Elephant in the Garden.

Feiwel and Friends, 2011.

Lizzie, an ailing elderly woman, recounts her childhood memories of life in Dresden, Germany during the 1945 allied bombings that destroyed the city. She and her family fled the city, taking with them an orphaned elephant her mother has cared for since its birth.

AR Book Level: 5.2 AR Interest Level: MG Gr. 4-8 199 pages

Nielsen, Jennifer A. The False Prince.

Scholastic Press, 2012.

Sir Conner, a nobleman in the kingdom of Carthya, scours the country searching for an orphan who will pass as the long-lost prince and carry out his deceptive plan. The four orphans must compete to be chosen as the prince or face certain death.

AR Book Level: 5.1 AR Interest Level: MG Gr. 4-8 342 pages

Petrucha, Stefan.

Philomel, 2012.

Ripper.

Orphan Carver Young is taken in and trained by a retired detective. Carver's first assignment is to find his long lost father, and all he has to go on is a letter, a letter with handwriting that matches that of the infamous murderer, Jack the Ripper.

AR Book Level: 5.0 AR Interest Level: MG+ Gr. 6 and Up 426 pages

Sonnenblick, Jordan.

Scholastic Press, 2012.

Curveball: The Year I Lost My Grip.

How do you go on when your whole life has been about baseball and an elbow injury ends your playing career in an instant? Devastated Peter Friedman is forced to find out.

AR Book Level: 5.1 AR Interest Level: UG Gr. 9-12 285 pages