

Battle of the Books Spring 2026
Oxford Public Library & Oxford Middle School
Information for Adults

Battle of the Books is an annual reading event sponsored by Oxford Public Library and Oxford Middle School. It is open to all OMS students, grades 6th-8th. It is a *fun, friendly trivia competition* in which students read books chosen by OPL Librarians and the OMS Media Specialist and then answer questions based on the books read. **This year's battle will take place on Thursday, April 16th, 2026, at 7:00 pm in the OMS Media Center.**

Interested students will make teams of 2- 6 students. Each team will also need 1 adult advisor over 18 (parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, etc). Team advisors must be present at both the Battle of the Books competition and their team's meetings leading up to the event.

Role of the Team Advisor:

- Help your team decide on locations and times for regular meetings.
- Supervise your team at the regular team meetings.
- Keep contact information for each team member for communication purposes.
- Make sure that all team members are reading the assigned books.
- Attend the Battle of the Books event with your team.

Your role as Advisor is to simply supervise team meetings, **not** organize practice battles or coach the teens in any way. A typical meeting would have teens ask each other questions about the books. Please let the teens decide what they think is important and should remember about each book.

At the Battle of the Books Event Thursday, April 16th, 2026 at 7:00 pm in the OMS Media Center

Please have your team at the OMS Media Center **no later than 6:40 p.m.** so that we can start promptly. Teams will sit together on the stage. You will not be sitting with your team the night of the Battle. Your role will be to supervise your assigned team and keep them from shouting answers to the questions. Please **do not** assist any students with their answers in any way.

Registration Deadline Friday, February 20th 2026, no later than 2:30 p.m.

Completed team registration forms are to be turned into the Oxford Middle School Media Center staff. Teams will not be allowed to change members or the team's name after this deadline.

Multiple copies of the assigned books will be available for checkout at Oxford Public Library and the OMS Media Center beginning **Friday, February 20th**. Team members will need to request battle books from library staff because they are kept on reserve behind the desk. Each team member will only be allowed to check out two books at a time.

If you have any questions about the event, please feel free to contact:

Rachael Quinn & Alissa Bach
Teen Services
Oxford Public Library
(248) 628-3034
RQuinn@miopl.org
ABach@miopl.org

Catherine Willoughby
Media Specialist
Oxford Middle School
(248) 969-1847
Catherine.Willoughby@oxfordschools.org

Battle of the Books 2026

Information for Students

If you wish to participate in **Battle of the Books**, please do the following:

1. Talk to other students at OMS and organize a team of 2-6 people.
2. Ask an adult over 18 (parent, grandparent, etc.) to be your team advisor. OMS staff cannot be a team advisor.
3. Decide on a team name.
4. Bring your team registration form **and** a signed permission slip for each team member to the OMS Media Center by **Friday, February 20th 2026 at 2:30p.m.**

IMPORTANT: Once your team is formed and the registration form is turned in, members and team names **may not** be changed.

Your team:

- You may have 2-6 people on your BOB team.
- Only students from Oxford Middle School can be in a team, but they can be from any grade.
- If you like, you can wear team costumes for BOB night (Optional). For example: Matching T-shirts, hats, or wigs to go along with your team's name.

What to do at team meetings, and between meetings:

- Read all the books!
- Take notes on what you think is important from each book, ask each other questions, and do whatever you think will help you to work together as a team.
- Decide who will be the team Scribe (the person who writes the answers at the competition). This should be someone with clear writing so that the judges can read your team's answers.
- Know the authors of each book and how to spell their last names correctly.

The Battle of the Books competition will be Thursday, April 16th, 2026, at 7:00 pm in the OMS Media Center. All team members and their advisors are expected to be there by 6:40 p.m.

This is what happens on the night of the Battle of the Books:

- Teams will sit together on the stage.
- Each team's Scribe will be given a clipboard, blank answer sheets, and a pencil.
- 25 questions will be asked about the books you've read (*In case of a tiebreaker, additional questions will be asked*).
- After each question, teams will have one minute (60 seconds) to quietly discuss the question and have their Scribe write the answer on a blank answer sheet. *Please remember to keep discussions quiet so you don't accidentally give away the answer to another team 😊*
- Teams must also write the author's last name for each book. *Yes, spelling counts!*
- Team advisors will pass the answer sheets to the judges for scoring.
- Teams can earn a total of 6 possible points for each question: 5 points for the correct answer, 1 point for the correct spelling of the author's last name.
- Once all the answer sheets are submitted for scoring, the answer will be given and the next question will be asked.
- At the end of the evening, the team with the highest score wins the Battle of the Books.
- There will be only ONE winning team. We hope you enjoy the experience of being in BOB with your friends!

Battle of the Books Spring 2026 Team Registration Form

Team Name: _____

Team Advisor's Name: _____

Team Advisor's Phone Number: _____

Team Advisor's E-mail Address: *(required)* _____

Team Members: (must be 2-6 members)

First and Last name (with correct spelling for the program, please)

1. _____ Phone# _____ Email: _____

2. _____ Phone# _____ Email: _____

3. _____ Phone# _____ Email: _____

4. _____ Phone# _____ Email: _____

5. _____ Phone# _____ Email: _____

6. _____ Phone# _____ Email: _____

It is important that we have good contact information for everyone, especially team advisors. Oxford Public Library Teen department will handle all concerns and questions after the forms have been handed in to OMS media center.

► Teams should hand in one registration form per team with a signed permission slip from each team member to the OMS Media Center by Friday, February 20th 2026 at 2:30 p.m. ◀

Team Advisors – Please keep a copy of this form so you can communicate with your team!

Here's a list of books to read:

- Restart by Gordon Korman*
- The Inn Between by Marina Cohen*
- A Dash of Trouble by Anna Meriano*
- This Was Our Pact by Ryan Andrews*

My teen, _____, has my permission to participate in the Battle of the Books and will be able to attend on Thursday, April 16th, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the OMS Media Center.

Parent's Signature

Today's Date

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