

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Battle of the Books?

Battle of the Books is a program created by Wozzles in 1986 to

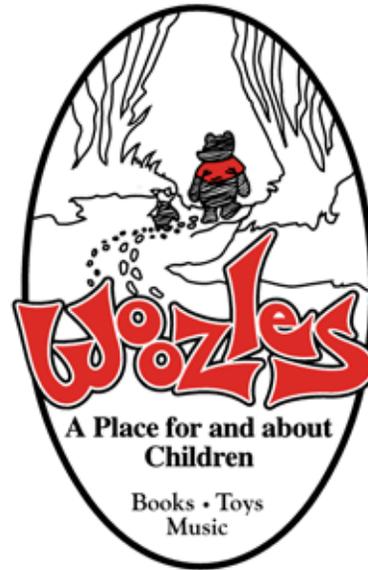
- encourage and promote the joy of reading;
- stimulate reading beyond students' individual choices;
- provide an opportunity to compete on a non-sports team; and
- recognize and reward the value of teamwork and cooperation.

The competition inherent in the Battle of the Books program takes place in the context of good sportsmanship and mutual respect.



“Battle of the Books has made a huge difference to our son. Not only is he doing what he loves (reading), but we have seen a huge and positive change in his self-esteem.”

(A PARENT)



“Thank you for organizing Battle of the Books reading competition. It was very fun and I really enjoyed it. It improved my reading ability and vocabulary. I also found some great books and book series from the list. I learned many new difficult words. I read 43 books!”

(AN ELEMENTARY STUDENT)



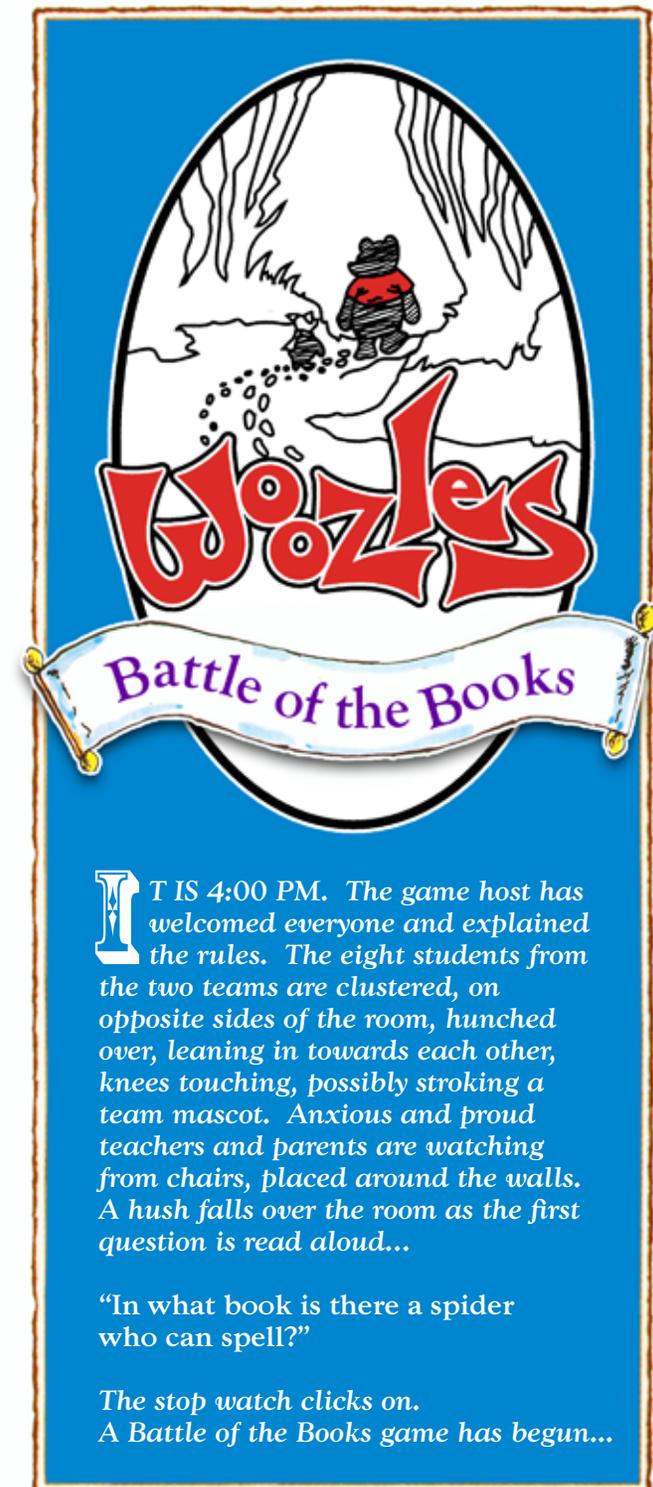
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IT IS 4:00 PM. The game host has welcomed everyone and explained the rules. The eight students from the two teams are clustered, on opposite sides of the room, hunched over, leaning in towards each other, knees touching, possibly stroking a team mascot. Anxious and proud teachers and parents are watching from chairs, placed around the walls. A hush falls over the room as the first question is read aloud...

“In what book is there a spider who can spell?”

The stop watch clicks on.
A Battle of the Books game has begun...



Battle of the Books • Frequently Asked Questions

How Does It Work?

Battle of the Books has an **Elementary Division** and a **Teen Division**. The Elementary Division is for students up to and including Grade Six; the Teen Division is for students in grades 7 and higher.

For each school who registers for Battle of the Books, a **team of 4 students** is formed to compete against teams from other schools. **We can only accommodate one team per school.** 'Independent' teams can also register for Battle of the Books in cases when there is no support forthcoming from a school.

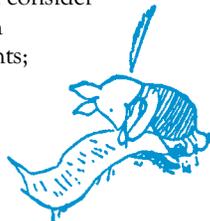
While each team formally plays with four students, teams often have one or two **spare players** who can be substituted in if someone is sick or can't make a scheduled game.

In early May, Wozzles publishes two **lists of books**—one for the Elementary Division and the other for the Teen Division. These lists are available in print form at Wozzles or can be reviewed and downloaded from www.wozzles.com or faxed or e-mailed to you on request.

Teams register with Wozzles by the end of October. **Starting in January**, we begin Round 1 in which each team plays two games. After Round One, some teams advance to Round Two and beyond until 2 teams end up in the Final Game, typically held in May.

Except for the Final Game, **all games are held at Wozzles**, starting at **4 pm**. Most games take about hour to play although some have lasted more than an hour.

Each game consists of **30 questions** and both teams are asked these questions simultaneously. Teams have up to 90 seconds to huddle and consider their answer. If the title is given correctly, the team scores 3 points; if the author is given correctly, the team scores an additional 2 points.



What Information Do Schools Need to Provide to Register?

To register, send Wozzles (by mail, fax or e-mail) the address, phone and fax number of the school; the name and e-mail address for the contact person; and select the Elementary Division or the Teen Division or both.

When are the Dates for the Games Sent Out?

The schedule for the games in Round One is sent out no later than the first week in January.

What Happens if There is a Storm?

If schools are closed for the day because of a storm, then any Battle of the Books game for that day will be cancelled and rescheduled.



Who Makes Up the Battle of the Books Questions?

The staff at Wozzles (and some 'friends of Wozzles') read the books and make up questions which are coordinated by one person who puts together the 30 questions for each game. Questions are (a) unique to that book alone; and (b) relate to something important in the book.

Are There Any Prizes?

Every team member who plays in Battle of the Books receives a gift for participating at the end of the competition, when the Final game is played. Both teams who make it to the Finals win brand new books and gift certificates to Wozzles. The two finalist schools also receive gift certificates.

Where Can the Books Be Obtained?

Wozzles always stocks all books on the Battle of the Books lists. Some schools review what books they already have in their school collections and then order what is missing. Other schools try to get books through their own school library and the public library system. And still other schools have PTAs which provide the funds to acquire the collections.

Any school buying any of the books from Wozzles qualifies for a 20% discount (and the purchase helps support Battle of the Books).

Where can I get more information and/or can I talk to someone who has done this before?

There are a number of schools who have participated for years and their teachers/librarians/parents are usually willing to give tips and advice to new "coaches".



Please visit our website (www.wozzles.com) for answers to other questions to see a short film clip about Battle of the Books.



“I don't know of a program that does as much for improving reading skills as Battle of the Books. We've never missed a year!” (A TEACHER)