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Dear Parents of 5th Graders:

We are excited for our upcoming 5th Grade Battle of the Books, hosted by the Clinton-Macomb Public Library! This is a chance for any 5th grader to work on his or her own or form a team of up to 5 students, then read a selection of excellent books from a variety of genres. The program will conclude in a virtual trivia battle on Sunday, March 7, 2021 at 2 pm, where they will answer questions about the books. Please see technology requirements on the next page to know what students will need to participate. Winners will be announced at an additional Zoom meeting Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 6 pm and contacted about their preferred branch to pick up prizes. Winners will be notified when prizes are ready for pick up. Prizes will be given out for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place. The teams will also have the opportunity to choose their team name and best team name will also win a prize.

Each team will need one adult coach. This person will help the students prepare for the competition in whatever way he or she deems best. This person will also be the point of contact and they will be sent instructions on how to enter the Battle. Communication will be made mostly over email, so please provide an up-to-date email address. Please see the Tips for Coaches to learn how easy it is to be a coach.

While the Battle will be an official competition with scorekeeping and prizes, we will consider it a win if every student who participates reads one book that they wouldn't have otherwise! As librarians, this is our chance to introduce students to great books they may not have heard of. We believe that this program is crucial for children who are reaching an age when some of them are giving up on reading for pleasure. It is also a useful tool to get students to talk about books and reading with parents and teachers.

Each team should read all 10 titles; however, this can be achieved in whatever way the team sees fit. Each student may be assigned certain books or all team members may decide to read every one. This is entirely up to the students and their coach. If students are working alone, they will need to read each book to have the best chance at winning.

We will be kicking off the program on Monday, November 9, 2020 at 2 pm with a Facebook Live broadcast announcing the complete list of the titles in the Battle of the Books. Please make sure to like our Facebook page to view the announcement and to be notified of other exciting library events. The title list will also be available shortly after on the Battle of the Books page of our website, www.cmpl.org/BoB.

Coaches must register teams for the Battle. Registration can be done online, in person, or over the telephone. **To register online, go to www.cmpl.org/BoB. Make sure to fill out all of the information requested on the registration form. Teams must be registered by February 12, 2021. Teams who register by December 1, 2020, will receive, by email, one question that will appear in the actual battle.** Please note, both adult Battle of the Books and 5th Grade Battle of the Books are housed on the same web page. Please scroll down to find the 5th Grade Battle of the Books.

Multiple copies of the Battle titles will be available at the Main Branch of the Clinton-Macomb Public Library for checkout to those who have officially registered after November 9, 2020. The North and South Branches both own at least one copy of each title as well. All titles are also available through our Overdrive or Hoopla apps. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Youth Services Department at the Main Library at (586) 226-5030 or email our School Outreach Librarians at YSOutreach@cmpl.org.

Technology Requirements:

- Students will be asked to have access to a device with Internet that allows them to join a Zoom meeting.
- Students will need a device with Internet access that allows them to use Google Sheets as their answer page. We have found that an additional device works best, but students may choose to use one device for both Zoom and Sheets.

Optional Technology:

We understand that teams may not have the option to work in the same room during the Battle. Below is some optional technology your team may want to have if you cannot be in the same room:

- An additional device to do a call, video call, or video meet with your team.
- The ability for each team member to add to the Google Sheet (or designate one person to fill in answers).

Tips for Battle of the Books Coaches

1. Try reading the summary of each book out loud and seeing if your students can identify the title and author.
2. Have students list the main character(s) of each book.
3. Enlist another parent to read a book and write some practice questions.
4. Set up a meeting schedule for the team.
5. Practice typing each title and author in a google sheet in under 30 seconds
6. Set up a practice zoom and score sheet and see if students are able to use 1 or 2 devices to answer questions.
7. **MOST IMPORTANTLY:** have fun! This is an opportunity to work and talk with your child and his or her friends. It should be more fun than work!

Sincerely,

Brittany Wesner and Mei-Ling Thomas

School Outreach Librarians

Clinton-Macomb Public Library