

Battle Book Selection Steering Committee

First BOB Meeting (May):

The committee chairperson who was named at the April meeting will collect the forms for new books to be considered. The form will be available on the website and should be printed, completed and brought to the first meeting. The committee chairperson will also ask for volunteers to join the committee at this meeting. Committee members are required to have read all 40 books currently on the Battle List and will be required to read all books that are submitted for consideration and to attend a committee meeting or meetings in December to make recommendations for the Battle List for the next school year. Representatives from schools new to the BOB program will not be involved in this process until after their first year.

End of May:

The committee chairperson or representative compiles the list of books to be considered for addition to the Battle list for the next school year. A list of suggested titles will be e-mailed to the entire membership so everyone is aware of what new books are being considered. The committee members will read all the books on this list.

December Meeting - committee only:

The committee meets early in December to discuss and make recommendations on two things: which books should be added to the list and which books should be removed. The committee will recommend four books to be added to the list and four books to be removed from the list. These will be announced to all following the meeting. The following criteria is used by the committee:

Adding books to the list:

Books will be considered for addition to the list on the basis of:

1. Number of people who recommended the book for addition to the list and their reasons for requesting the addition.
2. Age and content appropriateness.
3. Reading level--challenging but not overwhelming.
4. Representation of award-winning authors.
5. How the book would enhance or balance the existing list including:
 - a. Multi-cultural contribution.
 - b. Genre
 - c. Current issues facing 5th graders.
 - d. Filling a needed niche or theme.
 - e. Portrayal of characters in the story.
 - f. Fifth grade social studies, reading or science curriculum.
6. Reading appeal.

Removing books from the list:

Books will be considered for removal from the list on the basis of:

1. Adult recommendations of those involved in the Battle of the Books as noted on the recommendation forms received at the October meeting.
2. Student recommendations of Battle of the Books team members as noted on the forms they completed at the Regional Battle.
3. Attempting to keep the over-all list balanced in representing cultures, genre, themes, historical periods, strong male and female characters.
4. Whether a book recommended for addition to the list by the committee could logically replace a book of a similar genre, theme or historical period on the existing list.
5. Over-popularity and movie exposure.

April BOB Meeting prior to the Regional Battle:

The membership will be asked to vote by written ballot, one vote per school, on which two books should be added to the list and which two should be deleted from the list. People will vote only if they have read all four books being considered. These votes will be collected and compiled by the committee. The results of the vote will be e-mailed to the entire membership as soon as the tally is completed.

Battle of the Books Regional Competition:

The student recommendation ballots will be included in the judges' packet and distributed to all team members and alternates following the third round of competition at Colorado College. Once students have completed their ballots, the forms are collected by the judge in each room and returned to a box on the registration desk. The committee chairperson will take the ballots and compile the information to use for consideration in selecting books for the following school year.