Battle of the Books
A School-Wide Experience to Promote Literacy
Using Collaboration, Competition and Digital Tools

Frederick County Public Schools

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https://goo.gl/ok9eQp

More online resources can be found by clicking the links in this color!
What is Battle of the Books?

A school-wide, competition where sixteen books go head to head and classes vote to see which book is our school’s BOOK OF THE YEAR.
Purpose and Impact

We want kids to read more. We want kids to enjoy reading. We know that reading builds vocabulary, fluency, language, and background knowledge.

-- Creates motivation and excitement

-- Introduces students and teachers to books, authors, genres that they might not normally read

-- Sparks conversations about books

-- Gives older students who thought they were “too cool” for picture books a chance to rediscover them

-- Curriculum tie-in that easily align to the SOLs
Getting Started At Your School

-Selecting your team

-Picking your books

-Organization

-Display/Kickoff/End celebration
What it Looks Like in the Classroom

- As simple as a read aloud
- As in depth as an entire language arts lesson
- Can be incorporated into Daily 5 stations or literature circles
- Makes great writing prompts
- Author study
- Cross curricular
What do students say during Battle of the Books?

You should vote for the best book ever made by mankind and that book is **Ultimate Ocean Rumble**. This book is a bloody, bloody rumble massacre. The battles between alligator vs. giant squid and great white shark vs. giant manta ray were bloodbaths. Voting for **Our Tree Named Steve**, a stinky book, is the worst idea in the universe. There is no violence in that book and the tree just dies. Rumble has it all! Violence! Factual Information! Coolness! Vote for it!
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<td>Student Submissions/Promo Videos</td>
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I want to use digital tools to help with this project, but I don’t have much experience or feel comfortable with too many tools.
## Digital Tools

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Create an online version of your brackets so teachers and students can follow the tournament. They also can do fantasy brackets.

Options:
- Google Sheets
- Google Draw
Plus- Read Aloud Videos with YouTube

Use YouTube to curate playlists of the books being read. It can be ones you film and upload, or ones already available online. You can share playlists with the school so teachers do not need to search for the videos, and when watching a playlist, YouTube automatically plays the next video on the list rather than a randomly selected video.

*If you have a google account, you also have a YouTube account

Tutorial on Creating A Playlist
Use WeVideo to film and edit a Web Series documenting your tournament. WeVideo is web-based so your information is available on whatever device you log on to. There is a free version, but it is limited in how many videos and the length of the videos you can make.
**Digital Tools**

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I’m confident in my skills and am ready to learn new tools. I want to create new content for this! I am a nerdy tech person!
You can use Google Sites as a free tool to create an online home for all your Tournament information and resources. You have the ability to make the site as public or as private as you wish.
Using a combination of WeVideo and YouTube, you can create promotional videos for the books in your tournament. Students can contribute to this as well.
You can use your website to host resources for teachers to use and add to.
Timeline

- **Two Months Prior to Battle Launch**
  - Get core team
  - Pick your books - make requests, order copies
  - Set your calendar
    - 16 books: Four books per week (8 weeks total)

- **One Month Prior to Battle Launch**
  - Set your bracket (who’s against who?) and decide how to create it (board wall etc…)
  - Start creating your resources (tech and organization)
  - Explain your plan to faculty (ideally at a in person meeting)

- **Two Weeks Prior to Battle Launch**
  - Contact your authors/illustrators if you want their involvement
  - Start decorating
  - Film/Write your broadcast

- **One Week Prior to Battle Launch**
  - Gather books (check out from libraries, individuals)
## Additional Resources

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<tr>
<td>Marcie Colleen: Author</td>
<td><a href="http://www.thisismarciecolleen.com/my-teachers-guides.html">http://www.thisismarciecolleen.com/my-teachers-guides.html</a></td>
<td>Check out the teacher guides and the Picture Book Month Guide for help in selecting books and a plethora of ways picture books can be used across content areas.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12X12</td>
<td><a href="http://12x12challenge.com/about/contributors/published/">http://12x12challenge.com/about/contributors/published/</a></td>
<td>A constantly updated list of books published by a writing community, a good resource for finding newer authors and books.</td>
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<td>Picture Book Month</td>
<td><a href="https://www.facebook.com/PictureBookMonth/">https://www.facebook.com/PictureBookMonth/</a></td>
<td>A facebook group most active during November with links to why picture books are good for ALL ages from lots of different perspectives. Also info on how to use them.</td>
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