

Dear Parents,

We will be starting our Battle of the Books program here at NCVA. While this is an optional program, it is an excellent way to read books and introduce students to different genres. The best way to prepare for any reading test is reading and discussing the books. This program will give us that opportunity. I recommend students read at least 4 of the books listed. When we form teams for Battle of the Books, we will have a larger set of books that all students have read.

This is an optional program, which will take place as a virtual book club. It involves extra reading at home. Learning Coaches are welcome to help their students read the books, but they are not invited to participate in giving any answers at the Battle of the Books in the spring. The reading portion of this program should begin now. Attached to the end of this letter, you will find a coloring page listing of the books that will be part of the NCVA Elementary Battle of the Books program this school year.

If a student wants to participate in the program, regular attendance is needed for the program to be successful and for the student to reap the benefits of the program. "Book Club" class connect sessions will be held once a month, and students will meet with other students who are also participating and discussing our selected books.

The Battle of the Books is a fun and constructive program where the students enjoy both the reading and the competition. We do emphasize that any student who signs up to participate needs to make a commitment to their team and stay with the program until its end. If you have any questions, please contact your student's ELA teacher. Students are welcome to read the books, participate in discussions and not compete if desired.

### Getting Started...

1. What are "Book Battles"? Book Battle programs are competitions similar to jeopardy or quiz games, but questions come from a controlled list of books that participants read in preparation for the matches. Book Battle programs are a great way to get students to read. It should be noted that NCVA will NOT be battling other schools.
2. Who makes sure the team members are reading? Parents and the NCVA Staff "coaches", but it is ultimately up to the students to make sure that they read the books on the list. It will be very important that all team members show up for all the matches if they choose to participate.
3. When does the "Elementary Battle of the Books" start? In general, promotion begins in the fall, is intensified during the winter, and the battles take place in the spring.
4. How are books selected for the book list? Books are chosen by the North Carolina School Library Media Association. Considerations when selecting titles for the list include reading level, popularity, awards received, cross gender interest, promotion of excellent titles that may not be well known, titles that frequently appear on Accelerated Reader or other reading lists, and availability of in-print or paperback copies.
5. Check your local Library for a copy of each title available for checkout. Students are encouraged to utilize the Public Library in their area. I have purchased most of our books for this year at a used book store online called ThriftBooks: <https://www.thriftbooks.com>

6. How are the actual Book Battles structured? • As we are a virtual school, matches will be done virtually. On match day there will be a judge, score keeper, time keeper, and a person to read the questions. (This person may be the same as the judge). We will set a timer for 30 minutes. Your team will be against another team. Each team will take turns answering questions. There will be several opportunities to practice. You are NOT allowed to have the books in front of you during a book battle, but you should know all books and their authors.

8. What are this year's EBOB books? There are 15 titles – start reading!

#### **NCVA Elementary Battle of the Books Booklist 2018-2019**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>
• Blood on the River (James Town 1607)	Elisa Carbon
• Ruby Holler	Sharon Creech
• Stella By Starlight	Sharon M. Draper
• Ban This Book	Alan Graz
• The Missing Found	Margaret Peterson Haddix
• The Old Willis Place	Mary Downing Hahn
• The Fourteenth Goldfish	Jennifer L. Holm
• Runaway Twin	Peg Kehret
• A Wrinkle in Time	Madeleine L'Engle
• A Snicker of Magic	Natalie Lloyd
• Rain Reign	Anna M. Martin
• Jack and the Geniuses at the Bottom of the World	Bill Nye the Science Guy & Gregory Hone
• How to Steal a Dog	Barbara O'Connor
• Becoming Naomi Leon	Pam Munoz Ryan
• Save Me a Seat	Sarah Weeks

Print the Bookmark below to keep track of your reading.

<p>Books I've Read (Color the boxes as you read them.)</p>	<p><b>BAN THIS BOOK</b></p>	<p>HOW TO STEAL A DOG</p>	<p><b>Stella By Starlight</b></p>
<p><b>Blodd on the River</b> (James Town 1607)</p>	<p>The 14<sup>th</sup> Gold-Fish</p>	<p>Save Me A Secret</p>	<p>R U B Y  H O L L E R</p>
<p><b>R A I N  R E I G N</b></p>	<p>Becoming Naomi Leon</p>	<p>Jack and the Geniuses at the Bottom of the World</p>	<p>A  S n i c k e r  O f  M a g i c</p>
<p><b>Remember My Cousins</b></p>	<p>The Missing Found</p>	<p><i>The Old Willis Place</i></p>	<p>A W r i n k l e I n  T i m e</p>