

Alaska State
Battle of the Books Titles 2025-2026
Grades 5-6

Many districts require that summaries be given to all participants prior to participation.

365 Days to Alaska by Cathy Carr

Rigel Harman loves her life in Alaska. But then her parents divorce, and Rigel has to move to Connecticut. Her only hope is a pact with her father: stick it out for one year, and he'll bring her back home. At first, surviving the year feels impossible. But then she befriends a crow living behind her school and decides if it can live in the suburbs, maybe Rigel can too.

History Smashers: The American Revolution

by Kate Messner

Myths! Lies! Secrets! Uncover the hidden truth behind the Revolutionary War with beloved educator/author Kate Messner. Packed with a fun mix of sidebars, illustrations, photos, and graphic panels.

Breadcrumbs by Anne Ursu

Inspired by Hans Christian Andersen's "The Snow Queen," *Breadcrumbs* is a stunning fairy tale of modern-day America, a dazzling ode to the power of fantasy, and a heartbreaking meditation on how growing up is as much a choice as it is something that happens to us.

Bridge to Terabithia

by Katherine Paterson

When Jess Aarons is outpaced as the fastest runner in fifth grade by the new girl in school, Leslie Burke, the two become fast friends and invent an enchanted land called Terabithia in the woods behind Leslie's house - until tragedy strikes.

Hoops by Matt Tavares

It is 1975 in Indiana, and the Wilkins Regional High School girls' basketball team is in their rookie season. Despite being undefeated, they practice at night in the elementary school and play to empty bleachers. This graphic novel about the ongoing battle of women striving for equality in sports rings with honesty, bravery, and heart.

Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus by Dusti Bowling

Aven Green was born without arms. When her parents take a job running Stagecoach Pass, a rundown western theme park in Arizona, the family moves across the country. Here she bonds with Connor, a classmate who also feels isolated because of his own disability, and they discover a room at Stagecoach Pass that holds bigger secrets than Aven ever could have imagined.

The Lion of Mars

by Jennifer L. Holm

Bell is just like any other kid. He loves cats, eats all kinds of cake, and is curious about everything. Oh, and he lives on another planet! Then a virus breaks out among the grown-ups, and the children are the only ones who can help. Suddenly it's up to Bell to uncover the truth and save his family ... and possibly unite an entire planet.

The Lost Library by Rebecca Stead & Wendy Mass

When a mysterious little free library appears overnight in Martinville, Evan and his best friend Rafe quickly discover a link between one of the old books and a long-ago event that none of the grown-ups want to talk about. The

two boys start asking questions whose answers will transform not only their own futures, but the town itself.

Number the Stars by Lois Lowry

As the German troops begin their campaign to "relocate" all the Jews of Denmark, Annemarie Johansen's family takes in Annemarie's best friend, Ellen Rosen, and conceals her as part of the family. Through the eyes of ten-year-old Annemarie, we watch as the Danish Resistance smuggles almost the entire Jewish population of Denmark across the sea to Sweden.

A Rover's Story

by Jasmine Warga

Resilience was built to explore Mars. He was not built to have human emotions. But as he learns new things from the NASA scientists who assemble him, he begins to develop human-like feelings. Maybe there's a problem with his programming....

The Superteacher Project

by Gordon Korman

Oliver Zahn, self-declared rule-wrecker of Brightling Middle School, is not a fan of his new homeroom teacher. As the weeks go by, kids start to realize that Mr. Aidact is not what they expected and suspect that something fishy is going on...

Zeus: Water Rescue

by W. Bruce Cameron

Some dogs were born to lend a helping hand (or paw!). Zeus, a chocolate lab puppy, is one of them. With his courage, smarts, and strength his purpose seems clear: he'll become a water rescue dog!