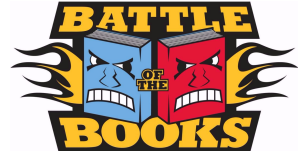


2025-2026 Eastern Iowa BATTLE OF THE BOOKS 4th-6th Grade



What is the Battle of the Books?

The Battle of the Books tests grade teams on their knowledge of titles from the current year's Iowa Children's Choice Award nominees. **Teams of three** are formed in their schools. Battles are performed at three levels to determine the final grand champion for the Eastern Iowa region.

The basic run down of determining the Battle grand champion is:

1. **School Level** – Schools determine a team to represent them in the next level of competition using whatever method works best. Schools have used paper tests, mini bracketed battles at recesses, and even formal battles during school time in a mini assembly format. All North Scott participants will receive a ribbon. The winning teams from each school will receive medals.
2. **District Level** – The District and Regional Battles are styled like a trivia night. One team from each participating school in the district will battle each other for the right to represent their district in the final Eastern Iowa Regional Battle of the Books. The North Scott District Battle takes place in early March and is usually held at the Scott County Library System Eldridge Branch. The top two teams will receive individual trophies. The winning team will also receive a traveling trophy to live at their school until the next district battle.
3. **Final Battle** – The Eastern Iowa Regional Battle of the Books takes place in late March/early April and is usually held at the Bettendorf Public Library. Teams from North Scott, Davenport, Pleasant Valley, Bettendorf, and other school districts will compete to determine the ultimate champion. All participants will receive a certificate; the top two teams will receive individual trophies; and the winning team will take home a large traveling trophy to house until the next year's battle.

Ask your school's teacher librarian or classroom teacher for specific information about signing up for Battle of the Books, forming teams, and school competition dates. This information will vary from school to school. The Scott County Library System staff can help with locating books and answer questions about the North Scott District Battle.

Jump to the [Official Rules](#) section for in-depth details regarding the competition.

Who can participate?

Students in 4th, 5th, and 6th grades may participate. Teams are made up of three students, with the option for a fourth alternate.

Homeschool teams are also welcome to participate and should contact Emily Haage at emily.haage@scottcountylibrary.org to get started.

While Battle of the Books is optional, please take your commitment seriously once you have signed up at your school. If you drop out of the competition it may mean that your teammates can no longer participate.

What books do participants read?

Participants read the Iowa Children's Choice Award nominee books for the current year. The ICCA nominees are chosen by students and teachers across the state of Iowa and one book is selected as the best title of the year via student vote in the spring. Anyone can read the ICCA books; participation in Battle of the Books is not mandatory. Also, Battle participants do not necessarily have to read all of the ICCA books.

Only 15 of the 25 ICCA books will be used for the 2025-26 Battle.

Where can I find the books?

Copies of each book are available for checkout at all branches of the Scott County Library System, including the Bookmobile: <https://bit.ly/sclsbattle24>

Some titles are available in large print, read along, Playaway, and e-book/e-audio formats as well.

School libraries and some classroom libraries also have copies of the title in print.

Where can I learn more about the books?

For information about the books, how battle works, and more, visit this interactive site: <https://bit.ly/sclsbattle>

How do I prepare for Battle?

- Start reading the ICCA books now!
- Take notes as you read. Jot down character names, details about the setting, important plot points, and other things that stand out to you. Here are some ideas for remembering what you have read:
 - Use sticky notes or index cards to organize your notes
 - Fill out a graphic organizer, like this one: <https://bit.ly/3TYtnV5>
- Form your team. Choose teammates that have the same goal as you.
 - Do you want to try something new and read some awesome books? Great! Look for other students who have that same goal.
 - Are you in it to win it? Great! Find teammates who have the same passion as you.
 - Sometimes this may mean you are not on a team with your friends and that is okay.
- Collaborate with your teammates to divide up the books. You may choose to each read 6-7 books or maybe you will each read all of the books. Decide on your strategy.

- Memorize the titles and authors of the books. You are not allowed to take any notes with you to Battle, but you are given blank paper to write notes once the competition has started. Many teams take a minute at the start of the competition to jot down all of the titles and authors.
- Practice. Meet with your team during recess, lunch, before or after school, virtually, etc. to talk about the books and quiz each other.
- Ask an adult to help coach you. This could be a parent or other family member. Your school librarian and teachers may have special meetings to help all of your school's teams practice, too.
- Have fun! Choose a team name, make posters or t-shirts, treat yourselves to snacks, rate the books you read—enjoy the process!

Official Rules

All Teams Rounds

1. Teams of up to three students in 4th, 5th, or 6th grade will be seated at their own individual table. Teams are allowed and encouraged to decorate their table to show their school/library spirit as long as current Iowa Children's Choice book titles/authors are not included on decorations.
2. Team members may not switch out for an alternate team member once the competition has begun. Alternates are only to be used in the case of illness or emergency situations involving an original team member.
3. Cell phones and other mobile devices and/or notes prepared ahead of time cannot be used during the competition.
4. Scratch paper provided to the teams may only be used while the competition is in session, not prior to the start of the competition or during allotted breaks.
5. 100 questions will be given in ten rounds of ten and will be read aloud for each team to answer individually on an answer sheet. Only one answer sheet will be completed for each team, for each round.
6. Questions will be read twice and will be asked in the following format: "In which book..." The answer will always be the title of the book (for 5 points) and the author (for 5 points). Teams may give either the full or last names of the author to receive credit.
7. If a team has an incorrect title, they can still receive points for a correct author. Also, if a team has an incorrect author, they can still receive points for a correct title.
8. Students will have 30 seconds between questions to correctly write down each question's correct answer. The timer starts as soon as the question has finished being read for the second time.
9. If a team has time remaining during a round, they are allowed to go back to previous questions in that round in order to add or alter answers.
10. Correct spelling on the answer sheets is not required, however, answers must be legible and the judges must be able to easily recognize your answers. More than one answer per question will automatically be scored as incorrect.
11. After each round of ten questions is completed, the emcee will ask teams to place their pencils down and promptly hold their papers high in the air for judges to pick up and score.

12. Teams will be given a 15 minute break after the first five rounds are completed. Scores will be posted during the breaks after judges have compiled them.
13. Audience members may not coach members of the team, or talk to competitors while the battle is in progress. Team members may not leave their tables except during the scheduled 15 minute break.
14. After all ten rounds are completed, the scores will be tallied and a winner will be declared.

Tie Breaker Round

1. In the case of a tie, the teams that are tied will be given a tie-breaker round of five questions to be answered on an answer sheet.
2. After the round is completed, the scores will be tallied and a winner will be declared.