

Key Dates

Registration begins: September 25, 2026
Registration deadline: January 29, 2027
Semi-Final: April 6, 2027
Final Battle: April 13, 2027
Regional Final: April 15, 2027 (hosted by Ajax Public Library)

Battle Coordinators may register teams by doing the following:

- Visit the Battle website at **bookbattle.ca**.
- Click on the Register tab.

Contact us if you do not receive a response within five business days.

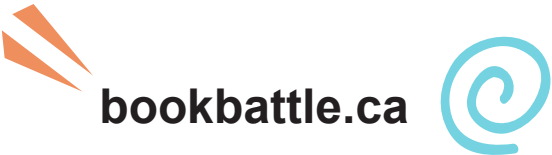
Please remember to register separately for the Junior division (Grades 4, 5, and 6) and the Intermediate division Battles (Grades 7 and 8).

Contact Information:

Samantha Aitken - Manager, Programs & Events
Clarington Library, Museums & Archives
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Battle of the Books

is hosted by



2026 Winners: Jack Miner Public School

Durham Region Public Libraries Junior Division

Official Rules & Booklist



Official Rules

1. One team of six students from Grades 7 or 8 will represent each school. Up to four substitutes may rotate between the rounds of play. **No team shall have more than 10 players in total** (six regular team members and four substitutes).
2. Each team will have a spokesperson. The team is encouraged to discuss possible answers, but **answers are only accepted from the spokesperson**.
3. Semi-Finals consist of three rounds of play. Finals will have one round. One round consists of both a Regular Battle and a Lightning Battle.
4. Regular Battle questions will be addressed to teams alternately, regardless of the last correct answer. There are 10 Regular Battle questions per round. When asked a question, teams will have **20 seconds** to provide the book's title and author (see booklist).
5. During this 20-second time period, the team may have the question repeated as needed, but this will cut into the allotted time. Teams have a **maximum of three title and three author guesses per question**.
6. Three points are awarded for the correct **exact title** and **another three for the author's surname**. The author's first name does not need to be identified.
7. Lightning Battles are at the end of each round. Each team gets **2 minutes and 30 seconds** to answer up to 10 questions about details of the named books; titles or authors are not needed. Each correctly answered Lightning question is worth **five points**. Teams can guess as many times as needed to answer each question, but this uses up time. Lightning and Regular Battle scores will be added together.
8. If a team disagrees with the moderator's ruling on an answer, the team may **challenge** the ruling immediately after a Regular question or immediately after the end of a Lightning Battle. A team may only challenge rulings on its own answers. Moderators can confirm their original ruling, award points, or provide a randomly selected alternative question as a substitution.
9. When a **tie-breaker** is necessary, each team in the tie-breaker will be asked extra Lightning Battle questions. **The spokesperson must provide one correct answer within 20 seconds**. No guesses are allowed and an incorrect answer results in elimination. The last team standing wins the tie-breaker round.
10. The **top three** teams from the Semi-Finals in each municipality play in their Finals. The gold medal teams from Finals will represent their municipalities in the Durham Regional Championship.

2027 Booklist

Adventure

Tiger Lily & the Secret Treasure of Neverland by Cherie Dimaline

Clean Getaway by Nic Stone

The Mad Wolf's Daughter by Diane Magras

Roar by Varsha Bajaj

Dawn of the Axolotl by Kit Brooks

Ink Girls (Graphic Novel) by Marieke Nijkamp

Favourites

Swim Team (Graphic Novel) by Johnnie Christmas

Save Me a Seat by Sarah Weeks and Gita Varadarajan

Pocket Bear by Katherine Applegate

The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis

The Brushmaker's Daughter by Kathy Kacer

Space for Saffron by Rie Neal

Fantasy

Styx and Stones by Gary D. Schmidt and Ron Koertge

Aru Shah & the End of Time by Roshani Chokshi

The Gate, the Girl, and the Dragon by Grace Lin

The Second Life of Snap by Erin Entrada Kelly

The Traitor Moth by Katharine Orton

Moonleapers by Margaret Peterson Haddix

Mystery

The Parker Inheritance by Varian Johnson

Thirteens by Kate Alice Marshall

The Fabulous Zed Watson! by Kevin and Basil Sylvester

The Van Gogh Deception by Deron Hicks

The Case of Windy Lake by Michael Hutchinson

Growing Home by Beth Ferry

NOTE: the Forest of Reading book list will be added on October 30, 2026.