

Battle of the Books

is hosted by



Whitby Public Library



Key Dates

Registration:	September 26, 2025
Reg. Deadline:	January 30, 2026
Semi-Final:	April 23, 2026
Final Battle:	April 28, 2026
Regional Final:	April 30, 2026
— Hosted by Whitby 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 Senior division Battles (Grades 7 and 8).

Contact your local Durham Region Public Library to learn more about Battle of the Books and register your school team!

2026
BATTLE OF THE BOOKS

Durham Region Public Libraries
Intermediate Division
Official Rules & Booklist

bookbattle.ca

Sponsored by
TD Canada Trust



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 ten 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 both the correct **exact title** and **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 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 municipal Finals. The gold medal teams from Finals go on to represent their municipalities in the Durham Regional Championship.

For the full set of rules, please go to
<http://www.bookbattle.ca/downloads/JrSrRules.pdf>

2026 BOOKLIST

ADVENTURE

The Bellwoods Game

by Celia Krampien

Blood in the Water

by Tiffany D. Jackson

If We Tell You by Nicola Dahlin

Impossible Creatures

by Katherine Rundell

The Inheritance Games

by Jennifer Lynn Barnes

The Liars Society

by Alyson Gerber

FAVOURITES

Blackthorn Key by Kevin Sands

Forever Birchwood

by Danielle Daniel

Nimona [Graphic Novel]

by N.D. Stevenson

The Red Palace by June Hur

Refugee by Alan Gratz

Show Me a Sign

by Ann Clare LeZotte

RED MAPLE

The Dark Won't Wait

by David A. Poulsen

The Discovery of Finnegan Wilde

by Caroline Pignat

Finding Harmony by Eric Walters

Old School by Gordon Korman

The Time Keeper

by Meagan Mahoney

Unsinkable Cayenne

by Jessica Vitalis

FANTASY/SCI-FI

Amari & the Night Brothers

by B.B. Alston

Boy 2.0 by Tracey Baptiste

The Factory by Catherine Egan

Something's Up with Arlo

by Matteo L. Cerilli

The Sun and the Star

by Rick Riordan and Mark Oshiro

Zachary Ying and the Dragon

Emperor by Ziran Jay Zhao

REALISTIC

Fresh Start [Graphic Novel]

by Gale Galligan

How to Be a Goldfish

by Jane Baird Warren

Is There a Boy Like Me?

by Kern Carter

No Purchase Necessary

by Maria Marianayagam

Rabbit Rabbit

by Dori Hillstead Butler and

Sunshine Bacon

Tegan and Sara: Junior High

[Graphic Novel] by Tegan

and Sara Quin

