

Battle of the Books 2010

Each team will be given a minimum of one question from each book on the list. One point will be awarded for the author's name and four points will be awarded for each correct answer.

REALISTIC

Paper Towns by John Green

One month before graduating from his Central Florida high school, Quentin "Q" Jacobsen basks in the predictable boringness of his life until the beautiful and exciting Margo Roth Spiegelman, Q's neighbor and classmate, takes him on a midnight adventure and then mysteriously disappears.

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime by Mark Haddon

Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, Christopher, a mathematically-gifted, autistic fifteen-year-old boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secret information about his mother.

Shattering Glass by Gail Giles

Rob, the charismatic leader of the senior class, provokes unexpected violence when he turns the school nerd into Prince Charming.

Dreamland by Sarah Dessen

After her older sister runs away, sixteen-year-old Caitlin decides that she needs to make a major change in her own life and begins an abusive relationship with a boy who is mysterious, brilliant, and dangerous.

The Longest Fall by Lee Krinsky

Julien and the other boys on the cross country team try to regain their reputation and take the county title, despite their apparent lack of talent, and they slowly realize the fall season will be their toughest yet.

American Born Chinese by Gene Luen Yang

Alternates three interrelated stories about the problems of young Chinese Americans trying to participate in the popular culture. Presented in comic book format.

After Tupac and D Foster by Jacqueline Woodson

In the New York City borough of Queens in 1996, three girls bond over their shared love of Tupac Shakur's music, as together they try to make sense of the unpredictable world in which they live.

HISTORICAL FICTION

Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini

A novel set against the three decades of Afghanistan's history shaped by Soviet occupation, civil war, and the Taliban, which tells the stories of two women, Mariam and Laila, who grow close despite their nineteen-year age difference and initial rivalry as they suffer at the hand of a common enemy: their abusive husband.

Northern Light by Jennifer Donnelly

Sixteen-year-old Mattie, determined to attend college and be a writer against the wishes of her father and boyfriend, takes a job at a hotel in 1906 where the death of a guest renews her determination to live her own life.

When the Emperor Was Divine by Jennifer Donnelly

A novel in which the members of a Japanese American family present their unique perspectives on the experience of being forced into an internment camp during World War II.

SUSPENSE/MYSTERY

The Andromeda Strain by Michael Crichton

For five days, scientists struggle to identify and control a deadly new virus threatening the United States.

The Samurai's Wife by Laura Joh Rowland

After being sent into exile to investigate a high-level murder in Miyako, Sano Inchiro must put aside his pride and accept his wife's help in the difficult case.

The Lost Symbol by Dan Brown

Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon, at the U.S. Capitol Building to deliver a lecture, is drawn into a desperate search through the hidden tunnels and temples of Washington, D.C., when his mentor Peter Solomon, a prominent Mason and philanthropist, is kidnapped and the only clue to Solomon's whereabouts lies in an ancient invitation to a long-lost world of esoteric wisdom.

NONFICTION/BIOGRAPHY

Starbucked: A Double Tall Tale of Caffeine, Commerce, and Culture by Taylor Clark

Traces the history of the Starbucks Corporation, discussing how, over the last fifteen years, American culture has been influenced by the company and exploring key issues, such as gentrification and fair trade, that have arisen as Starbucks becomes more popular and powerful.

Bad Boy: A Memoir by Walter Dean Myers

Author Walter Dean Myers describes his childhood in Harlem in the 1940s and 1950s, discussing his loving stepmother, his problems in school, his reasons for leaving home, and his beginnings as a writer.

A Whole New Mind: Why Right-Brainers Will Rule the Future by Daniel H. Pink

Explores how the business world is changing in the twenty-first century, becoming more "right-brain" based and allowing people more creative and artistic than earlier generations succeed more than those with left-brain dominance.

Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking by Malcolm Gladwell

Presents a study of how people think without thinking, looking at the brain processes involved in making snap decisions, discussing why some people seem to have great instincts while others consistently choose unwisely, and examining ways to control the process.

SCI-FI/FANTASY

The Compound by S.A. Bodeen

Fifteen-year-old Eli, locked inside a radiation-proof compound built by his father to keep them safe following a nuclear attack, begins to question his future, as well as his father's grip on sanity as the family's situation steadily disintegrates over the course of six years.

Dune by Frank Herbert

The story of a young prince, Paul Atreides, scion of a star-crossed dynasty, and of his journey from boy to warrior to ruler of a dying planet destined to become a paradise regained.

Good Omens by Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman

When Agnes Nutter predicts that the end of the world is days away, the demon Crowley and his angel friend, Aziraphale, team up to save humankind.

Mortal Engines (Series: The Hungry City Chronicles) by Philip Reeve

Tom, a third class apprentice in a distant future in which technology has been lost and tiered cities move about the Earth on caterpillar tracks, often absorbing smaller locales, has many dangerous adventures after being pushed off London by Thaddeus Valentine, a historian who is trying to resurrect an ancient atomic weapon.

CLASSICS

This Side of Paradise by F. Scott Fitzgerald

The coming of age story of, Amory Blaine, a young college man in his twenties including his years in prep school and his times at Princeton.

Murder on the Orient Express: A Hercule Poirot Mystery by Agatha Christie

Detective Hercule Poirot has a wealth of suspects to choose from when a wealthy American is stabbed to death en route to Paris on the Orient Express.

Cat's Cradle by Kurt Vonnegut

In the year 2000, a young man discovers ice-nine, which can set off a chain reaction more deadly than a nuclear bomb, and a new prophet whose teachings sweep the world.