Virtual 2021-2022 Battle of the Books Guidelines and Rules

What is Battle of the Books?

- Battle of the Books, also known as BOB, is a program created and offered by Bartlett Public Library, Gail Borden Public Library, and Poplar Creek Public Library. This program also relies upon collaboration with School District U-46.
- Battle of the Books encourages quality reading for 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students.
- Students read from a list of award-winning and professionally-reviewed books and then answer questions about these books at meets. There are 6 rounds in each season. Scores are kept at each meet and winners are recognized at the Final Event.
- Emphasis is placed on the fun of participation and the satisfaction that comes from reading.
- This program is not affiliated with any other Battle of the Books programs; it is completely administered by these three partner libraries.

Who can participate?

- 4th, 5th, and 6th graders in a public school, private school, or homeschool located within the library district boundaries of one of the sponsoring libraries, or in District U-46.
  - Homeschool or neighborhood team members must reside within the library district boundaries of one of the sponsoring libraries.
  - Neighborhood teams may only be created if there is no team for their public school.

How do you participate?

- Team coaches must fill out a registration form by the deadline of September 17
  - Coaches must be responsible adults over the age of 18.
  - Coaches do not need to be a school employee.
- There are no restrictions on the size of your team. The method of choosing team members is up to the individual team.

- If you are interested in creating a homeschool or a neighborhood team, please contact: Niki Marabotti at NMarabotti@gailborden.info for details.

How are the virtual meets organized?

- The season begins in November and goes through February with the Final Event in March
- Since all meets are virtual, meets will continue regardless of school or district closings due to weather.
- Coaches receive the CrowdPurr link ahead of the meet and then share with their team.
- Students participate individually and the individual scores are then averaged to get the team score.
- Meets will be held virtually via CrowdPurr on Tuesdays at 4 PM
  - Participants must be on time for each meet.
    - Students should sign into CrowdPurr by 3:55 PM
- A schedule, a few sample questions, this list of guidelines and rules, and an example of a Crowdpurr trivia game will be sent to the coaches for practice use.

How have coach responsibilities changed?

1. Register the team and tell us the number of students they will have participating

2. Email the meet links to the students ahead of the meets

   i. *Optional*: Coaches can also have virtual practices if they choose

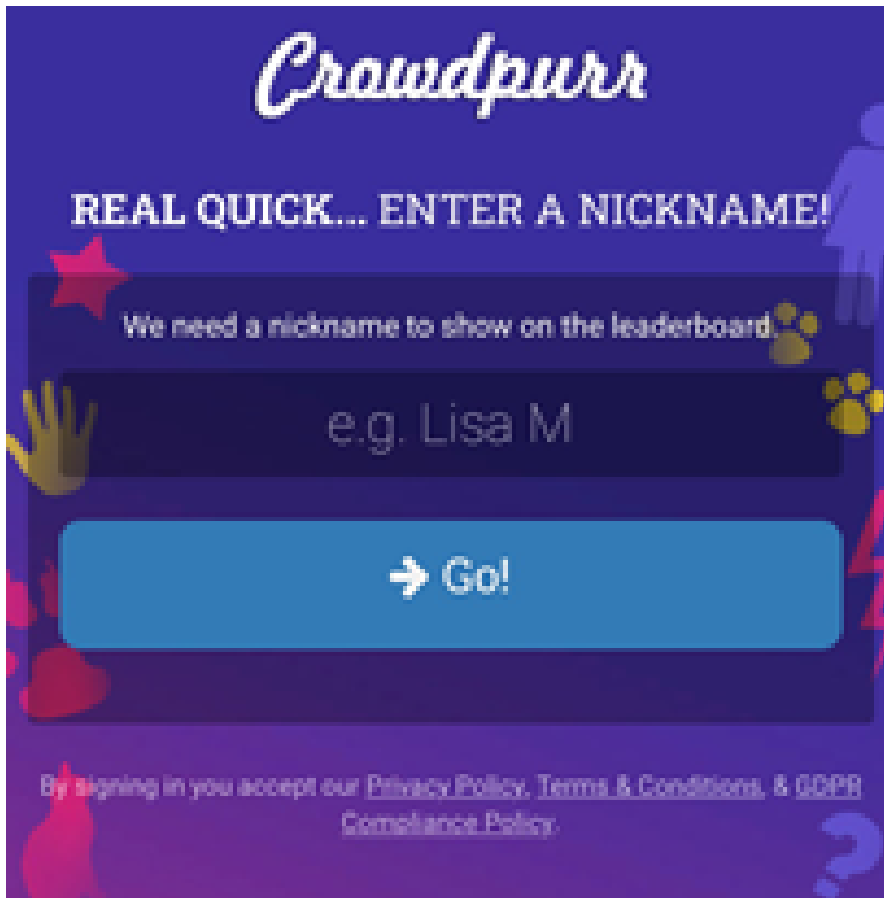3. Email the final event link to the students

What types of questions are asked at meets?

- The questions for virtual Battle of the Books will all be multiple choice using a platform called Crowdpurr. We will have these types of questions:
  - Title Questions – Students read a multiple-choice question and must select the correct book title.
  - Content Questions – Students read a multiple-choice question based on book content
  - Illustration Questions – Students see an image of an illustration from a Picture Book, Non-Fiction book, and a Fiction book (graphic novel)
- Each virtual meet will have approximately 40 questions in multiple choice format.

How will the season be organized?

- Coaches will receive an email with the link to the virtual meet a week before.
- Coaches will then send the meet link to their students.

- Students will use the meet link to join the meet at the designated time on the schedule.
  - Students will be asked to "Enter a Nickname" (see image below)
  - Students need to enter their School Name first in the name field and then their first name.
    - Example Nickname: **Coleman II Tabatha** ; **St. John's Lisa**
  - Each team member will answer all the questions at each meet. **Students need to answer at least half the questions for the score to count towards the final team score.**
  - Each team member has 45 seconds to read and answer the question.
  - Team scores will be calculated by averaging the scores of each team member who participates.
    - **If a student does not identify their Team Name in their Trivia Name (like example above), that student's score will not count toward their team score.**
- Coaches can "watch" the meets by playing along but not answering any of the questions and designating themselves at beginning of the meet by writing "COACH" in the name field.

What are the rules or expectations during a meet?

●   Students enter their real names in the format described above: SCHOOL NAME and their First Name

        ○   Foul language, racists slurs, and other forms of bullying behavior will not be tolerated and will lead to a school's forfeiture of that meet.

●   Teams suspected of cheating on multiple occasions during a season may incur other penalties, including dismissal from the current season and opportunities for participating in the future.

What Technology Requirements will be needed to play?

·   Students can use the following devices to play Crowdpurr:

       o Smart Phone, tablet, desktop computer, laptop, Chromebook,

·   Students need an email to receive the meet links -- we suggest using your school email account ONLY if you are receiving the link from your coach.

·   This does not require the use of video conferencing: like zoom or google meet.

·   Participants are not required to download anything to participate, you do not need to download the crowdpurr app.

·   A new URL is generated for each meet and a new link will be sent for each scheduled meet and the link will expire after the event.

The Battle of the Books program is sponsored by the Gail Borden, Poplar Creek and Bartlett Public Libraries.

Updated 8/19/2021