

## Williamson County Battle of the Books

Heritage Middle School is seeking students who like to read, have fun and demonstrate knowledge. Six top readers will advance to a district-level contest in the spring to participate in a “quiz-bowl”-style tournament which tests knowledge of a list of books selected recently by a committee of librarians and language teachers.

The 10 books selected for the first annual middle school “battle” are all from the Volunteer State Book Awards list; committee members considered gender, genre, high-interest and engagement levels in making the selections.

Books can be read in any order and are available at school and public libraries and area bookstores. In early March, five team members and one alternate will be selected at HMS on the basis of highest scores on a qualifying test (a written test with questions from each book). The qualifying test will be administered by language teachers to all students who wish to participate. Questions will be chosen from submitted questions from teachers, parents and students.

The district’s eight middle schools will send teams to compete, with three top-performing schools recognized at the April tournament. One team from each school will represent 6-8 grades.

Interested students should begin reading the selections and submit questions from each book. For additional information, e-mail librarian Marion Moore at [marionm@wcs.edu](mailto:marionm@wcs.edu)

Books chosen for the 2008-2009 Battle of the Books include:

1. ***Blood on the River: James Town in 1607*, Carbone, Elisa** Lexile 820, Grades 5-8  
Traveling to the New World in 1606 as the page to Captain John Smith, twelve year-old orphan Samuel Collier settles in the new colony of James Town, where he must quickly learn to distinguish between friend and foe.
1. ***Double Identity*; Haddix, Margaret Peterson** Lexile 810 *Grades 5-8*  
Thirteen-year-old Bethany's parents have always been overprotective, but when they suddenly drop out of sight with no explanation, leaving her with an aunt she never knew existed, Bethany uncovers shocking secrets that make her question everything she thought she knew about herself and her family.
2. ***Rules*, Lord, Cynthia** Lexile 780 Grades 4-7  
Frustrated at life with an autistic brother, twelve-year-old Catherine longs for a normal existence but her world is further complicated by a friendship with an young paraplegic.
3. ***Heat*; Lupica, Mike** Lexile 940 Grades 5-8  
Pitching prodigy Michael Arroyo is on the run from social services after being banned from playing Little League baseball because rival coaches doubt he is only twelve years old and he has no parents to offer them proof.
4. ***Behind the Curtain: An Echo Falls Mystery*; Abrahams, Peter** Lexile 650 Grades 6-9  
An avid Sherlock Holmes fan, eighth grader Ingrid Levin-Hill is kidnapped while investigating mysterious happenings in her home town.

5. ***Standing Against the Wind*; Jones, Traci** Lexile 780, Grades 6-8  
As she tries to escape her poor Chicago neighborhood by winning a scholarship to a prestigious boarding school, shy and studious eighth-grader Patrice discovers that she has more options in life than she previously realized.
6. ***Hattie Big Sky*; Kirby Larson** Lexile 700, Grades 6 & up  
After inheriting her uncle's homesteading claim in Montana, sixteen-year-old orphan Hattie Brooks travels from Iowa in 1917 to make a home for herself and encounters some unexpected problems related to the war being fought in Europe.
7. ***All of the Above*; Pearsall, Shelley** Lexile 1000, Grades 5-8  
Five urban middle school students, their teacher, and other community members relate how a school project to build the world's largest tetrahedron affects the lives of everyone involved.
8. ***The Lightning Thief*; Riordan, Rick** Lexile 740 Grades 6-9  
After learning that he is the son of a mortal woman and Poseidon, god of the sea, twelve-year-old Percy is sent to a summer camp for demigods like himself, and joins his new friends on a quest to prevent a war between the gods.
9. ***Listening for Lions*; Whelan, Gloria** Lexile 900 Grades 5-8  
Left an orphan after the influenza epidemic in British East Africa in 1918, thirteen-year-old Rachel is tricked into assuming a deceased neighbor's identity to travel to England, where her only dream is to return to Africa and rebuild her parents' mission hospital.