Coach’s Information

Thank You for being a Battle Coach!

Coach responsibilities:

- Assist students in naming team.
- Assure the team is registered between September 1st – January 6th.
- Submit any final changes to registration information to battleinfo@carr.org no later than February 1st.
- Ensure each team member understands which books on the reading list s/he is expected to read. Coaches may assign a certain student to be an "expert" on certain books.
- Meet with the team regularly to offer encouragement, check on reading progress, foster team cohesiveness, and reinforce that team members learn authors’ names and other facts from the books. Teams will need to identify the title and author of the book for every answer.
- Keep in mind that children have different learning styles. It is a great idea to plan a variety of activities to address the different types of learners you may have on your team. For example, some children learn better when they see a question as well as hear a question as it’s read out loud. Every child will not respond the same way to an activity. It is important to be flexible with the students.
- Model good sportsmanlike behavior and encourage your team to always do the same at all times.
- Encourage team spirit. Students should name their teams and are encouraged to dress in team shirts or other spirit wear on the competition day. Team members and coaches may not include the titles of books or authors anywhere on their attire.
- If any student needs a modification during the night of the battle, please contact battleinfo@carr.org and your school media specialist

Suggestions for facilitating meeting: Have snacks, keep the atmosphere fun. Give kids time to socialize and share a bit before “getting serious”. Check-In with the kids. Ask them how they are doing with the reading.

In the beginning- Nov-Jan

- Plan games to help children get to know the title and authors of books. For example, matching games, memory games, show book covers to team members with title and author covered up. Challenge students to write the title and the author down.
- Assign books. Who will read what books? You will want to have more than one child assigned to each book. Please remember to be flexible with the children.

Getting into Things

- By January your team should be meeting on a regular basis as a book discussion group.
• Ask kids to share a favorite part of a book/least favorite part of a book.
• Create a book discussion Jenga game, or something like it. We bought a cheap Jenga Game and wrote book discussion questions on the blocks. Like name the main character in one of the books you are reading.
• Use a ball to facilitate discussion. When you throw the ball to a team member, they need to share something about the book they are reading.
• Create a matching game with titles and authors, characters and titles, characters and setting.
• Challenge kids to write questions from the books they are reading and exchange questions with other students.
• Ask out of the box questions to facilitate discussions like: What type of food would the main character like and why? If you could take the main character anywhere where would you go together and why?
• Explore using/playing online games with your group such as Kahoot, Jeopardy Labs, Hangman, Pictionary using the white Board feature, and memory match games

Month Before

• Make T-Shirts or plan team spirit wear.
• Be sure to practice answering questions in the Battle format. You may want to use the answer sheet found online as a guide.
• Appoint one or two recorders for the group. Give recorders an opportunity to practice.

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