



Battle Of the Books - 2024
Reading List
Grades 6, 7 & 8



*The way this book must be written for "The Battle"

1. *Merci Suárez Changes Gears* by Meg Medina
Pub. 2018 --- 368 pages

* *Merci Suárez - Medina*

Merci Suarez knew that sixth grade would be different, but she had no idea just how different. When bossy Edna Santos sets her sights on the new boy who happens to be Merci's school-assigned Sunshine Buddy, Merci becomes the target of Edna's jealousy. Things aren't going well at home, either: Merci's grandfather and most trusted ally, Lolo, has been acting strangely lately — forgetting important things, falling from his bike, and getting angry over nothing. No one in her family will tell Merci what's going on, so she's left to her own worries, while also feeling all on her own at school.

2. *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown
Pub. 2016 --- 256 pages

* *Boys in the Boat - Brown*

Out of the depths of the Great Depression comes the astonishing tale of nine working-class boys from the American West who at the 1936 Olympics showed the world what true grit really meant. With rowers who were the sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers, the University of Washington's eight-oar crew was never expected to defeat the elite East Coast teams, yet they did, going on to shock the world by challenging the German boat rowing for Adolf Hitler.

At the center of the tale is Joe Rantz, a teenager without family or prospects, whose personal quest captures the spirit of his generation—the generation that would prove in the coming years that the Nazis could not prevail over American determination and optimism.

3. *This Was Our Pact* (Graphic Novel) by Ryan Andrews
Pub. 2019 --- 336 pages

* *Our Pact - Andrews*

It's the night of the annual Autumn Equinox Festival, when the town gathers to float paper lanterns down the river. Legend has it that after drifting out of sight, they'll soar off to the Milky Way and turn into brilliant stars, but could that actually be true? This year, Ben and his classmates are determined to find out where those lanterns really go, and to ensure success in their mission, they've made a pact with two simple rules: No one turns for home. No one looks back.

4. *Unseen Magic* by Emily Lloyd-Jones
Pub. 2022 --- 352 pages

* *Unseen Magic - Jones*

The magic-infused town of Aldermere is the first place eleven-year-old Fin has ever felt safe--and she'll do whatever it takes to save her home when she accidentally unleashes a shadow self who wreaks havoc everywhere she goes.

5. *How to Stay Invisible* by Maggie C. Rudd
Pub. 2023 --- 240 pages

* *Invisible - Rudd*

Twelve-year-old Raymond Hurley has never had a place to call home. His free-wheeling parents move their family from town to town, and he's living in a trailer in a brand-new state when one day, they just up and abandon him. All alone with nothing but a duffle bag full of clothes and his reliable pup, Rosie, he is forced to live in the woods behind his middle school.

Raymond scrapes by and doesn't tell anyone his secret. This isn't the first time he's had to rely on himself. Soon, he learns that his fate will depend not just on his wilderness skills, but on the people and animals he chooses to trust.