



November 19, 2024

Dear Battle of the Books Families,

The MCPS Battle of the Books is an optional enrichment activity provided at most MCPS elementary and middle schools. Practices often occur during school hours and book titles are available for participating students to check out in the school library. Students may join a team and can divide the titles to be read between their team members. Individual students are not required to read all titles to participate in Battle of the Books; reading all book titles is optional for both individuals and teams.

As an organized school function where the library provides the books to be read, we notify families of all book titles in compliance with SB99. SB99 requires notification of human sexuality instruction, which is defined as “teaching or otherwise providing information about human sexuality, including intimate relationships, human sexual anatomy, sexual reproduction, sexually transmitted infections, sexual acts, sexual orientation, gender identity, abstinence, contraception, or reproductive rights and responsibilities.”

Parent/Guardian permission is required for students to participate in the 2024-2025 Battle of the Books.

The following titles are included in the 2024-25 Battle of the Books:

<u>Odder</u> by Katherine Applegate	<u>The Elephant Girl</u> by James Patterson
<u>The Ogress and the Orphans*</u> by Kelly Barnhill	<u>The Clackity</u> by Lora Senf
<u>Swim Team</u> by Johnnie Christmas	<u>I Must Betray You*</u> by Ruta Sepetys
<u>The Stars Did Wander Darkling</u> by Colin Meloy	<u>The Last Mapmaker</u> Christina Soontornvat
<u>The Girl Who Fell Beneath the Sea*</u> by Axie Oh	<u>A Song Called Home*</u> by Sara Zarr

*\*denotes titles that may include components of SB99*

The titles included in this year's Battle are available in each participating library. Families are welcome to preview any of these titles before permitting their student to participate in Battle of the Books.

Please contact CS Porter Principal Ty Solberg or CS Porter Librarians Brianna Lipke or Kim Rieley with any questions.

Sincerely,

Ty Solberg

Brianna Lipke

Kim Rieley

## Battle of the Books 2024-2025 Permission Slip

Parent/Guardian permission is required for students to participate in the 2024-2025 Battle of the Books. Please complete the form below to grant permission for your child to participate.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ WIN Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ has my permission to participate in the 2024-25 Battle of the Books. I understand that with participation my student may be exposed to topics, themes, and questions that meet the Montana SB99 definition of human sexuality.

<u>Odder</u> by Katherine Applegate	<u>The Elephant Girl</u> by James Patterson
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Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date