

Global Reading Challenge

A Battle of the Books Program

**Manual for Public Librarians, Teachers &
Coaches**

Sponsors



Objectives of the Global Reading Challenge

- To promote the love of reading and to have fun.
- To foster teamwork among students with various reading abilities.
- To promote the use of public libraries as neighborhood and community resource centers.
- To introduce children to a wide variety of literature including multicultural reading materials.
- To provide a recreational outlet for readers.
- To encourage children to read for retention.
- To provide positive experiences between children, librarians, teachers, and parents.
- To form partnerships with local schools and strengthen community ties.
- To build confidence and integrity in young readers.
- To participate in a public library activity that promotes reading as a pleasurable lifelong experience.

Adapted with permission from Seattle Public Library

Welcome to the Challenge

What is the Challenge? In the late 1930's, two Chicago school librarians developed a program to test young readers' knowledge of good literature. The program reached thousands of Chicago school children and was quickly turned into a weekly radio quiz program known as "Battle of the Books". Teams representing public elementary schools answered questions about characters, plots, and settings.

The Global Reading Challenge uses a format developed by the Portage Public Library with their successful Battle of the Books program. However, the Global Reading Challenge also promotes the reading of fiction and non-fiction that celebrates the world's diverse community. The Global Reading Challenge is limited to 4th and 5th graders within the King County Library System's service district in both public and private schools. The Global Reading Challenge program has been an important outreach to schools since the fall of 2000. During the 2014-2015 challenge year, 77 challenges were held with 9,062 in total attendance.

Each year, King County Library System Librarians will select six books especially suited to the reading interests of 4th and 5th graders. A range of reading levels is represented by selected books so that students of all reading levels can participate in the Challenge. Questions are based on specific and factual information found within the contents of the six books.

School Challenges will be conducted in each school building by KCLS library staff. The top team from each school proceeds on to (in some districts) an intra-district challenge, then a School District Challenge and then possibly on to a Regional Challenge. Schools may need to arrange transportation to these challenges.

Preparing for the Challenge

Once you decide to take the Challenge, begin forming teams.

- A team may consist of a combination of fourth and/or fifth grade students.
- A team must consist of **at least three** students with below grade level reading skills, so each team has a mix of below and at grade level readers.
- A team made up of all above grade level readers is not allowed.
- A team will consist of six students. In each round, one team member will perform the role of messenger.

- The messenger will perform the job of taking the team's answer to the judge's table.
- Messengers may not participate in answering questions during a round, but may rotate with another team member after each round. **Why this rule? There are times when a messenger must be pulled from the audience at a challenge because of an absent team member. If messengers were allowed to interact with their team this would give teams with a full team an advantage over the team with a substitute.**
- Each team will elect a team captain who will act as the spokesperson for the group and will be responsible for writing the team's answers.
- First year participating schools may form no more than two teams. Second year participating schools and schools who have participated for more than two years may form up to 5 teams. Schools are welcome to exceed 5 teams if they choose, but they must have a school organized run-off before the in-school challenge with the KCLS librarian to bring the final number of teams down to 5. No matter how many teams a school initially forms, KCLS will provide a **maximum** of five sets of books (one set per team) + one extra set per school, as well as five sets of prizes + two extra prizes for the In-School Challenge.

Just Scream "Challenge"

The excitement begins on **Monday, October 12**, with the announcement of the Challenge booklist. Books will be delivered to schools during this week or arrangements may be made for a school representative to pick up books at their coordinating KCLS library beginning October 12. Each school will receive a maximum of five sets of books, + one extra set per school, no matter how many teams they have. These books are given to your team members to keep at the end of the year's Global Reading Challenge.

At the same time that the books are distributed, schools will be given forms for their team members to take part in an **optional creative writing activity** based on one or more of the books. In addition, this optional activity will be open to all 4th and 5th graders at the school. It is designed to give students another way to convey their knowledge and enthusiasm about what they have read, and to exercise their imaginations. A due date will be announced for these written works. Students who choose to take part in this activity will be awarded a certificate of participation. One winner for each school district will be chosen and awarded a small prize, and the winning pieces will then be read aloud at the four final Regional Challenges.

After books are distributed, students should be preparing for the challenges by reading and discussing their books and building team spirit by designing Challenge banners or posters, decorating hats or t-shirts, etc. You might want to ask for an adult volunteer from the community to assist your teams.

During this time, you and/or the adult coach should talk with the team on a regular basis to offer encouragement, check progress and foster team cohesiveness. Make sure that each team member understands which books on the list he or she is expected to be reading. Some schools ask team members to read a minimum of 2 books.

Strategy is up to you and your teams. Some readers will want to read some or all of the books, while others are more comfortable focusing on just one book. One way to more deeply involve team members is to have them highlight important facts in the books and create questions from the books.

When the Challenge is scheduled at your school, it can be held in any way you and your teams feel most comfortable. In-School Challenges have been held in a variety of settings, from a small kindergarten room or library to a gymnasium filled with an audience of parents, teachers, and 3rd, 4th, & 5th grade students. Many teachers take this opportunity to use selected titles as classroom read-alouds. Some schools encourage all the 3rd graders to attend the challenge so they will be engaged and excited to participate the following school year. Having an audience for challenges raises the level of excitement and showcases the great achievements of students.

How the Challenge Works

Physical Set-up

Five team members will each sit in chairs closely grouped in a circle and be given paper and pencils. The sixth member of each team is the messenger. The messenger will stand next to the team with his or her back to the team captain and not participate in answering questions. Messengers may rotate into the circle after each round.

Two to three tables will be placed in the front of the room, along with two or three chairs.

Please have a list of team and student names available one week before the challenge, and send that list via email to your coordinating KCLS Librarian.

Questions

There will be *three* rounds of *eight* questions in all challenges except the Regional. The regional challenge will consist of *three* rounds of *ten* questions. Extra questions will be asked in the event of a tie. Teams will have 30 seconds to write down an answer to each question on the provided paper. Correct spelling is not essential, but the words/letters must be identifiable.

Points

Each correct answer earns a team five points; an incorrect answer earns zero points. The team with the highest total points becomes the In-School Challenge winner and proceeds on to the Intra-District Challenge if needed, or directly to the School District Challenge. The team with the highest points at the School District Challenge will then advance to a Regional Challenge. There will be four Regional Challenges: North, South, East, and Central. The teams with the highest points at the Regional Challenges will be declared their Region's winner and will receive a trophy. A new trophy will be awarded each year.

Awards, School Trophies, Certificates & Venues

Each school will receive a school trophy that is engraved with their winning team's name. Teams will receive certificates and a small prize at the end of the In-School Challenge.

At the Intra-District Challenges (if needed) and the School District Challenge, participating students will receive a certificate. These Challenges will be held at one of the schools or at a King County Library, so transportation will need to be arranged by school administrators, librarians or teachers.

Regional Challenges will be held at either a King County Library or at a school that is convenient for all competing teams. All teams will receive certificates. The winning teams at the Regional Challenges will receive a trophy and each team member will receive a medal.

Global Reading Challenge Calendar 2015-2016

September

- Invitations issued.

October

- October 1: Last day to confirm participation.
- October 12: Booklist announced; books distributed to schools sometime during the week; creative writing activity forms distributed.

November

- KCLS Librarian will schedule In-School Challenges to be held between January 25 and February 12.
- KCLS Librarian will schedule Intra-District Challenges (if needed) and School District Challenge to be held between February 16 and March 4.
- KCLS Librarian will schedule Regional Challenge to be held between March 7 and March 18.
- Teams continue reading and developing strategies.

December

- Teams continue reading and developing strategies.
- Teams prepare banners and artwork for Challenge (*optional*).

January

- Team member lists due one week before In-School Challenges.
- In-School Challenges begin.
- KCLS Librarians distribute forms for student & team names.
- Teams continue reading and elect a captain and messengers.
- Teams select names.

February

- In-School Challenges continue.
- School District Challenges begin.

March

- Regional Challenges are held.

2015-2016 Global Challenges

In-school Challenges

January 25 – February 12

Venue: Individual Schools

Top team from each individual school



Intra-District Challenges & School District Challenge

February 16 – March 4

Venue: Local School District Elementary School or King County Library

Top team from each school district



Regional Challenge

March 7 –18

Venue: School or Regional King County Library

East

South

Central

North



Four Winning Teams!

Web Links to the Challenge on the KCLS Kids Page: www.kcls.org/kids

Internet Information for parents, teachers and librarians will be posted in September.

- General information about the Challenge can be accessed through a link on the KCLS Kids Page. The booklist will be posted on October 12.

Sample Questions & Answers from Past Challenges

From *Superfudge* by Judy Blume

Q. What did Fudge call Mrs. Hildebrandt when he said good-bye?

A. Rat Face, p. 72

From *Sing Down the Moon* by Scott O'Dell

Q. What did the old Apache woman hide in her mouth?

A. A silver coin, p. 32

From *Shadow of a Bull* by Maia Wojciechowska

Q. What was the name of the town Monolo lived in?

A. Arcangel, p. 56

From *Go Fish* by Mary Stolz

Q. Thomas' cat kept chasing a skink. What is a skink?

A. lizard, p. 50

From *Julie of the Wolves* by Jean Craighead George

Q. What color are Miyax's eyes?

A. Black, p. 8

From *Sounder* by William Armstrong

Q. Who shot Sounder, the sheriff or the deputy?

A. the deputy, p. 26

From *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred Taylor

Q. How old was Cassie when she beat up Lillian Jean?

A. 9 years old, p. 181

From *Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli

Q. after Mars Bar saved Russell, where did he take him?

a. to the store, b. home, c. to a friend's house

A. Home (b), p. 178