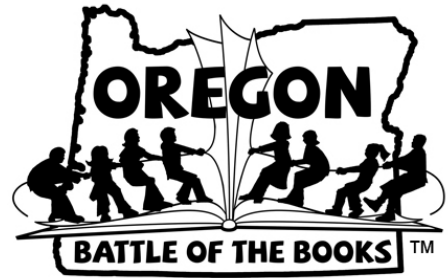


# 2023-24 Oregon Battle of the Books

## Grades 6-8

### Annotated Booklist



**Note to Parents:** The Oregon Battle of the Books is a voluntary program. These titles are selected with a wide range of reading levels and maturity in mind. You may feel that the content and/or theme of one or two of these titles are inappropriate for your child. We recommend that you read and discuss these books with your child. A book that stretches a child's thinking is a great opportunity to discuss world events and your family's values.

Lexile levels noted when available.

#### **Barefoot Dreams of Petra Luna** by Alda P. Dobbs

(2021) 273 pages. 730L

Based on a true story, the tale of one girl's perilous journey to cross the U.S. border and lead her family to safety during the Mexican Revolution.

#### **The Benefits of Being an Octopus** by Ann Braden

(2018) 256 pages. 770L

Seventh-grader Zoey Albrow focuses on caring for three younger siblings and avoiding rich classmates at school until her fascination with octopuses gets her on the debate team and she begins to speak out.

#### **The Blackbird Girls** by Anne Blankman

(2020) 345 pages. 560L

When Valentina awakes to a red sky marred by billowing blue smoke, she knows something has gone wrong in her home of Pripyat. Her worry only grows when her father doesn't return from his shift at the Chernobyl power station.

#### **The Boys in the Back Row** by Mike Jung

(2020) 240 pages. 860L

Matt and Eric are planning one big final adventure filled with hilarious hijinks and geekiness galore before Eric moves away. Text has bullying, mild violence, racism and homophobia.

#### **Focused** by Alyson Gerber

(2019) 304 pages. 750L

Twelve-year-old Clea wants to do her homework, follow instructions, pay attention in school, and play chess on the school team, but somehow she cannot focus on whatever is in front of her.

**The Girl and the Ghost** by Hanna Alkaf

(2020) 280 pages. 840L

A lonely girl, Suraya, inherits from her grandmother a pelesit, a ghostly demon, who proves to be a good companion, bringing both danger and hope. The story contains profanity and violence.

**A High Five for Glenn Burke** by Phil Bildner

(2020) 288 pages. 690L

After researching Glenn Burke, the first major league baseball player to come out as gay, sixth-grader Silas Wade slowly comes out to his best friend, Zoey, and then his coach, with unexpected consequences.

**The Hobbit** by J. R. R. Tolkien

(1937) 277 pages. 1000L

Bilbo Baggins, a respectable, well-to-do hobbit, lives comfortably in his hobbit-hole until the day the wandering wizard Gandalf chooses him to take part in an adventure from which he may never return. The official OBOB edition of The Hobbit is the 2012 edition from Mariner Books (9780547928227). You may read another edition, but page numbers and content will be taken from this edition. No questions will be created from any prefaces, introductions, afterwards, etc

**Invisible** by Christina Diaz Gonzalez and Gabriela Epstein

(2022) 208 pages. GN260L

This book tells a story about five very different students who are forced together by their school to complete community service... and may just have more in common than they thought. Book has bullying. Themes include racism and negative stereotypes. Graphic novel.

**Katie the Catsitter** by Colleen AF Venable and Stephanie Yue

(2021) 229 pages. GN340L

Twelve-year-old Katie is dreading the boring summer ahead, but then she gets a job catsitting for her mysterious upstairs neighbor, and life gets interesting. Graphic novel.

**Other Words for Home** by Jasmine Warga

(2019) 342 pages. 930L

Jude is sent with her mother to the safety of a relative's home in Ohio when their Syrian hometown is overshadowed by violence. Jude adjusts to a new life with unexpected surprises. Novel in verse.

**Partly Cloudy** by Tanita S. Davis

(2021) 240 pages.

In desperate need of clear skies as she starts a new school, Madalyn has days filled with clouds that lead to serious storms until she learns the power of community and family after disaster strikes.

**Powerless** by Matthew Cody

(2009) 277 pages. 800L

Soon after moving to Noble's Green, Pennsylvania, twelve-year-old Daniel learns his new friends have super powers that they will lose when they turn thirteen, unless he can use his brain power to protect them.

**Stowaway** by John David Anderson

(2021) 384 pages.

When scientists discover a rare and mysterious mineral buried in Earth's crust, they have no idea that it just happens to be the most valuable substance in the entire universe. Text contains mild violence and criminal activity.

**Wink** by Rob Harrell

(2020) 300 pages. 580L

After being diagnosed with a rare eye cancer, twelve-year-old Ross discovers how music, art, and true friends can help him survive both treatment and middle school.

**Yusuf Azeem is Not a Hero** by Saadia Faruqi

(2021) 368 pages.

Yusuf is excited to start middle school in his small Texas town, but with the twentieth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks coming up, it feels like the country's anger and grief is focused on his Muslim community. Text has religious/cultural bias, bullying.