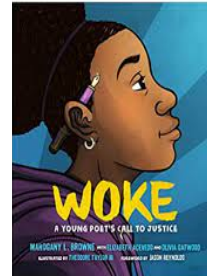
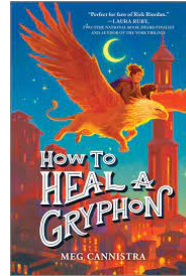
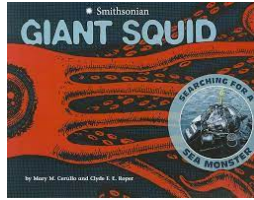
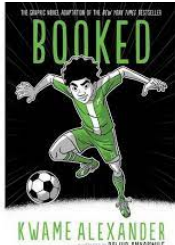


# Rogers Battle of the Books

Parent Newsletter



**Welcome** to Roger's twelfth annual Battle of the Books! The Battle of the Books is a reading challenge for all 4th and 5th grade students in which students are placed on a team, read from a selected list of books, and then compete against other teams by answering questions about those books. The Battle encourages students to read various genres of books to enhance their reading. Families are encouraged to read with our students and to help prepare them for the Battle! The Battle is a reading challenge above and beyond the regular school work and curriculum. Because of this, **both the parents and students are required to sign a permission slip in order to participate.** In the accompanying pages, you will find professional book summaries of each of the titles. Please check the important dates located below. The Battle is an enriching and challenging opportunity for students. If your student is unsure about his or her ability to participate, please speak with me, so we can see what we can do to make this a successful activity for all students. Of course, feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns!

## Family Involvement

Adult family members are needed for Battle team coaches. Contact Mr. Duffey for more information!

-Daniel Duffey, daniel.duffey@berkleyschools.org

## Book Access

- Rogers Media Center
- Public libraries
- Bookstores: Toadvine in Berkley, BookBeat in Oak Park, and Books-A-Million in Beverly Hills (Also online)

## Important Dates

- Friday, December 1st - Permission slips due
- Tuesday, December 12th - Teams Announced at **LUNCH MEETING**
- Wednesday, January 10th - first book should be read **LUNCH MEETING**
- Wednesday, January 24th - second book should be read **LUNCH MEETING**
- Wednesday, February 28th - third book should be read **LUNCH MEETING**
- Tuesday, March 19th - **LUNCH MEETING**  
ALL books need to be read by this date. **No exceptions.**
- **Wed, March 20th @ 10-12am BATTLE**

## Student Participation Responsibilities

- Turn in permission slip by 12/1
- Read at least 4 books
- Become an expert on at least two books
- Take notes while reading your books
- Attend team meetings (6 total)
- Work and communicate with teammates and coach
- Do your personal best

Title	Author	Genre	# of Pages
High Score	Destiny Howell	Realistic Fiction	304
Booked	Kwame	Graphic Novel	320
Giant Squid	Mary M. Cerullo	Non Fiction	48
How to Heal a Gryphon	Meg Cannistra	Fantasy	304
Woke	Mahogany L. Browne	Poetry	56
Iceberg	Jennifer Nielsen	Historical Fiction	352

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## Battle Book Summaries

(From Amazon)

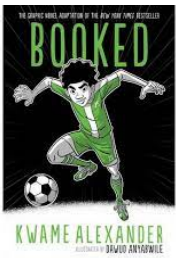
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**High Score:** Oceans 11 goes to the arcade in this wildly entertaining heist adventure that is perfect for fans of Gordon Korman, Varian Johnson, and Celia Perez.

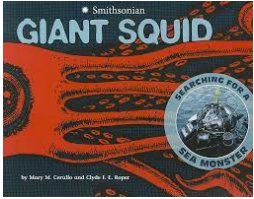
My name's Darius James—but everyone calls me DJ. At my old school, I was the go-to guy for all kinds of tricky problems that needed creative solutions. But at my new school, Ella Fitzgerald Middle, I'm just trying to blend in.

Well, I was, anyway, until my best friend, Conor, got himself transferred to the Fitz too. Now Conor owes 100,000 arcade tickets to the biggest bully around—and he only has two weeks to make it happen. Impossible? Not with my head in the game.



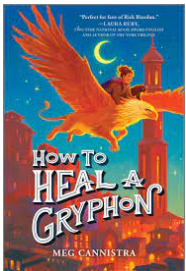
**Booked:** Twelve-year-old Nick learns the power of words as he wrestles with problems at home, stands up to a bully, and tries to impress the girl of his dreams. Helping him along are his best friend and sometimes teammate Coby, and The Mac, a rapping librarian who gives Nick inspiring books to read.

This electric and heartfelt novel-in-verse bends and breaks as it captures all the thrills and setbacks, action and emotion of a World Cup match.



**Giant Squid:** This sea monster is real. It lurks in the freezing black depths of underwater canyons. Nearly 50 feet long, it hunts with its long arms and tentacles. Its powerful suckers leave giant round scars on those that live through a battle with it. But this enormous beast, with its huge, strange eyes, remains hidden from humans. We rarely see it and know little of its ways. What is this monster? The giant squid. This famed member of the cephalopod group

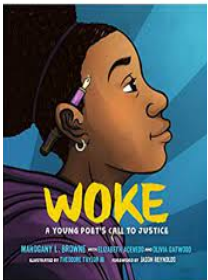
has a history of frightening fishermen, starring in fictional adventure tales, and keeping scientists guessing. What is the story of this mythic creature? Why is it so hard to study? What secrets does it keep? Clyde Roper, ocean scientist and squid expert, has been seeking this secretive creature for decades.



**How to Heal a Gryphon:** To save her family, she'll have to make a dangerous bargain and tip the scales of balance.

With her thirteenth birthday just around the corner, Giada Bellantuono has to make a big decision: Will she join the family business and become a healer or follow her dreams? But even though she knows her calling is to heal vulnerable animals, using her powers to treat magical creatures is decidedly not allowed.

When a group of witches kidnaps her beloved older brother, Rocco, and her parents are away, Giada is the only person left who can rescue him. Swept into the magical underground city of Malafi, Giada will need the help of her new companions to save her brother—or risk losing him forever.



**Woke: A Young Poet's Call to Justice:** Historically poets have been on the forefront of social movements. Woke is a collection of poems by women that reflects the joy and passion in the fight for social justice, tackling topics from discrimination to empathy, and acceptance to speaking out.

With Theodore Taylor's bright, emotional art, and writing from Mahogany L. Browne, Elizabeth Acevedo and Olivia Gatwood, kids will be inspired to create their own art and poems to express how they see justice and injustice.



**Iceberg:** Hazel Rothbury is traveling all alone from her home in England aboard the celebrated ship Titanic. Following the untimely death of her father, Hazel's mother is sending her to the US to work in a factory, so that she might send money back home to help her family make ends meet.

But Hazel harbors a secret dream: She wants to be a journalist, and she just knows that if she can write and sell a story about the Titanic's maiden voyage, she could earn enough money to support her family and not have to go to a sweatshop.

When Hazel discovers that mother didn't send her enough money for a ticket, she decides she must stow away onboard the storied ship.

With the help of a porter named Charlie and a sweet first-class passenger named Sylvia, Hazel explores the opulent ship in secret, but a haunting mystery quickly finds her. The danger only intensifies when calamity strikes, and readers will be caught up in the terror and suspense alongside Hazel as she fights to save her friends and herself.

# We Need Coaches!

We rely on parents of Battle participants to be our team coaches. Each team will have one or two parents who help them stay organized and practice. As a coach, you would be responsible for attending lunch meetings with your team: one in December, two in January, one in February and one in March. All lunch meetings will take place on Wednesdays (one on a Tuesday the day before the Battle) from 11:15-12:00. Coaches help students decide who will be reading which books, quiz students over practice questions, and discuss Battle Day strategy.

***\*Please note that coaches will be assigned on a first come, first served, as-needed basis.***

***PLEASE SEE COACH PACKET OF INFO FOR MORE INFORMATION***