

Iowa Children's Choice Award District & Regional Rules - 2026-2027

Highlighted portions reflect updates from last year

All Teams Rounds

1. Teams of up to three students in 4th, 5th, or 6th grade will be seated at their own individual table. Teams are allowed and encouraged to decorate their table to show their school/library spirit as long as current Iowa Children's Choice book titles/authors are not included on decorations.
2. Team members may not switch out for an alternate team member once the competition has begun. Alternates are only to be used in the case of illness or emergency situations involving an original team member.
3. Cell phones and other mobile devices and/or notes prepared ahead of time cannot be used during the competition.
4. Scratch paper provided to the teams may only be used while the competition is in session, not prior to the start of the competition or during allotted breaks.
5. 60 questions will be given in ten rounds of six and will be read aloud for each team to answer individually on an answer sheet. Only one answer sheet will be completed for each team, for each round.
6. Questions will be read twice and will be asked in the following format: "In which book..." The answer will always be the title of the book (for 5 points) and the author (for 5 points). Teams may give either the full or last names of the author to receive credit.
7. If a team has an incorrect title, they can still receive points for a correct author. Also, if a team has an incorrect author, they can still receive points for a correct title.
8. Students will have 30 seconds between questions to correctly write down each question's correct answer. The timer starts as soon as the question has finished being read for the second time.
9. If a team has time remaining during a round, they are allowed to go back to previous questions in that round in order to add or alter answers.
10. Correct spelling on the answer sheets is not required, however, answers must be legible and the judges must be able to easily recognize your answers. More than one answer per question will automatically be scored as incorrect.
11. After each round of ten questions is completed, the emcee will ask teams to place their pencils down and promptly hold their papers high in the air for judges to pick up and score.
12. Teams will be given a 15 minute break after the first five rounds are completed. Scores will be posted during the breaks after judges have compiled them.
13. Audience members may not coach members of the team, or talk to competitors while the battle is in progress. Team members may not leave their tables except during the scheduled break.

14. After all ten rounds are completed, the scores will be tallied and a winner will be declared.

Tie Breaker Round

1. In the case of a tie, the teams that are tied will be given a tie-breaker round of five questions to be answered on an answer sheet.
2. After the round is completed, the scores will be tallied and a winner will be declared.
3. The tied teams must remain; teams that are not impacted by the tie are encouraged to stay for the announcement of the winning teams.
4. If there is no winner after 3 tie-breaker rounds, judges will declare a tie.

2027 Battle of the Books Accepted Title Answers

Teams will be awarded 5 points for each correct title given to a question. The title, stated in its entirety, will be accepted in all cases.

Articles such as “a,” “an,” and “the” that appear at the beginning of a title are not required to receive full points for the title.

With very long titles, titles that include subtitles, or titles that include series names, a shortened version of the title may be accepted as a correct answer.

For the title, *Ripley: Fire Station Five* the shortened title of *Ripley* will be accepted along with the complete title.

All other titles from the Battle Books will be accepted only in their entirety.

2027 Battle of the Books Accepted Author Answers

Teams will be awarded 5 points for each correct author given to a question. Full or only last names will be accepted as correct answers. Correct spelling on the answer sheets is not required, however, answers must be legible, and the judges must be able to easily recognize your answers.

For authors Tracy Badua and Alechia Dow, at least the author's last name of “Badua” is necessary to receive points for the authors.

For authors Marissa Meyer and Joanne Levy, at least the author's last name of “Meyer” is necessary to receive points for the author.

For author and illustrator David Almond and Lizzy Stewart, at least the author's last name of “Almond” is necessary to receive points for the author.

For author W. Bruce Cameron, at least the author's last name of "Cameron" is necessary to receive points for the authors.

For author Nikki Shannon Smith, at least the author's last name of "Smith" is necessary to receive points for the authors.

*Note: author answers will be accepted with or without middle initials (example: Jennifer A. Nielsen or Jennifer Nielsen or Nielsen are all correct).

Challenging Questions

If a student wishes to challenge a question, he or she must do so during the allotted breaks after each five rounds before final scores are posted. Copies of the books are provided for team members to find proof of any question errors.

If proof is sufficient, the judges **adjust scores as needed**