

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
Booklist for Battle of the Books, 2011-2012

GRADES: Middle School

Listed below are the summaries for the Battle of the Books titles. For additional information on Battle of the Books, visit the Alaska Association of School Librarians (AkASL) webpage, or the ASD BOB webpage.

Book of a Thousand Days

by Shannon Hale

Summary: Fifteen-year-old Dashti, sworn to obey her sixteen-year-old mistress, the Lady Saren, shares Saren's years of punishment locked in a tower, then brings her safely to the lands of her true love, where both must hide who they are as they work as kitchen maids.

Boy

by Roald Dahl

Summary: In Boy, Roald Dahl recounts his days as a child growing up in England. From his years as a prankster at boarding school to his envious position as a chocolate tester for Cadbury's, Roald Dahl's boyhood was as full of excitement and the unexpected as are his world-famous, best-selling books.

Boy in the Striped Pajamas

by John Boyne

Summary: Bored and lonely after his family moves from Berlin to a place called "Out-With" in 1942, Bruno, the son of a Nazi officer, befriends a boy in striped pajamas who lives behind a wire fence.

Fever, 1793

by Laurie Halse Anderson

Summary: In 1793 Philadelphia, sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about

perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic.

Heroes of the Valley

By Jonathan Stroud

Summary: Bored with everyday chores and dreaming of long-ago heroes, teenaged Halli Sveinsson devotes himself to practical jokes but when a trick he plays on Ragnor of the House of Hakonsson sets off a chain of events that alter the course of his life forever, he is forced to leave home and set out on a hero's quest ill-prepared.

How Angel Peterson Got His Name

by Gary Paulsen

Summary: Author Gary Paulsen relates tales from his youth in a small town in northwestern Minnesota in the late 1940s and early 1950s, such as skiing behind a souped-up car and imitating daredevil Evel Knievel.

If a Tree Falls at Lunch Period

by Gennifer Choldenko

Summary: Kirsten and Walk, seventh-graders at an elite private school, alternate telling how race, wealth, weight, and other issues shape their relationships as they and other misfits stand up to a mean but influential classmate, even as they are uncovering a long-kept secret about themselves.

Zeus, King of the Gods

by George O'Connor

Terrified of being killed by one of his children, Kronos devours each of his offspring in turn. Only Zeus, the youngest, is

saved. Though raised to enjoy a life of leisure, Zeus must fulfill his destiny and lead a new race of gods--and he must begin by destroying his own father.

Schooled

by Gordon Korman

Summary: After his hippie grandmother ends up in the hospital, Cap Anderson is forced to leave the commune where he is homeschooled and attend Claverage Middle School, where his odd looks and behavior make him the target of bullies.

Uglies

by Scott Westerfeld

Summary: Just before their sixteenth birthdays, when they will be transformed into beauties whose only job is to have a great time, Tally's best friend runs away and Tally must find her and turn her in, or never become pretty at all.

War Canoe

by Jamie Bryson

Summary: Mickey, a young Tlingit Indian who is a troublemaker in his small Alaska town, discovers his proud heritage with the help of several interested adults and builds a traditional war canoe to honor his discovery.

Warrior Heir

by Cinda Williams Chima

Summary: After learning about his magical ancestry and his own warrior powers, sixteen-year-old Jack embarks on a training program to fight enemy wizards.

You can access further reviews on most of these titles on Novelist – part of the Digital Pipeline – <http://sled.alaska.edu>