

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
Summaries for Battle of the Books, 2019-2020
GRADES 3-4

Listed below are the summaries for the Battle of the Books titles. For reviews on fictional titles, visit <https://lam.alaska.gov/sled/home> For additional information on Battle of the Books and for the OFFICIAL BOOKMARK (August 1), visit the Alaska Association of School Librarians (AkASL) webpage. ASD Board Policy requires that summaries be given to all participants prior to participation.

Cardboard Kingdom

By Chad Sell

Follows the adventures of a group of neighborhood children who create costumes from cardboard and use their imagination in adventures with knights, robots, and monsters.

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

By Roald Dahl

Five children find entry tickets to Willy Wonka's mysterious chocolate factory. The tour brings out the best and worst in them.

Clayton Byrd Goes Underground

By Rita Williams-Garcia

Clayton feels most alive when he's with his grandfather, Cool Papa Byrd, and the band of Bluesmen--he can't wait to join them, just as soon as he has a blues song of his own. But then the unthinkable happens. Cool Papa Byrd dies, and Clayton's mother forbids Clayton from playing the blues. And Clayton knows that's no way to live. Armed with his grandfather's brown porkpie hat and his harmonica, he runs away from home in search of the Bluesmen, hoping he can join them on the road. But on the journey that takes him through the New York City subways and to Washington Square Park, Clayton learns some things that surprise him.

Clementine

By Sara Pennypacker

While sorting through difficulties in her friendship with her neighbor Margaret, eight-year-old Clementine gains several unique hairstyles while also helping her father in his efforts to banish pigeons from the front of their apartment building.

Crenshaw

By Katherine Applegate

A story about a homeless boy and his imaginary friend that proves in unexpected ways that friends matter, whether real or imaginary.

Invisible Inkling

By Emily Jenkins

The thing about Hank's new friend Inkling is, he's invisible. No, not imaginary. Inkling is an invisible bandapat, a creature native only to the Peruvian Woods of Mystery. (Or maybe it is the Ukrainian glaciers. Inkling hardly ever gets his stories straight.) Now Inkling has found his way to Brooklyn and into Hank's laundry basket on his quest for squash--bandapats' favorite food. But Hank has bigger problems than helping Inkling fend off maniac doggies and search for yummy pumpkins: Bruno Gillicut is a lunch-stealing dirtbug caveperson and he's got to be stopped. And who better to help stand up to a bully than an invisible friend?

Julius Zebra: Rumble with the Romans!

By Gary Northfield

From a smelly watering hole deep in the heart of the Serengeti to the ferocious clamor of the Colosseum, join Julius Zebra and his motley menagerie of friends as they gear up to be gladiators! Only if they win the love of the Roman crowds will they win back their freedom. But do Julius and his pals have what it takes to succeed in a world where only the meanest and toughest survive?

Let's Get Cracking!

By Cyndi Marko

Gordon Blue and his brother Benny, unlikely superheroes, must save Fowladelphia from Granny Goosebumps, who has filled the city with cookies that cause innocent chickens' feathers to fall off.

Quest of the Cubs

By Kathryn Lasky

For generations, the noble polar bears have ruled the Northern Kingdoms. But now, their society is on the brink of collapse. A group of power-hungry bears has seized control, and darkness is creeping across the snow. Cubs First and Second don't know any of this. When their mother is taken prisoner, the cubs' world falls apart. They know they have to rescue her, but how can two cubs who've barely learned to hunt survive a treacherous journey across the ice?

Rump: The (fairly) True Tale of Rumpelstiltskin

By Liesl Shurtiff

Relates the tale of Rumpelstiltskin's childhood and youth, explaining why his name is so important, how he is able to spin straw into gold, and why a first-born child is his reward for helping the miller's daughter-turned-queen.

When I Was Eight

By Christy Jordan-Feton

This book chronicles the unbreakable spirit of an Inuit girl while attending an Arctic residential school.

My Family Adventure

By Jacqueline Jules

In this compilation of three separately published books, Sofia Martinez, her sisters, and her cousins cope with the everyday problems of a happy Hispanic American family.

You can access further reviews on most of these titles on Novelist – part of the Digital Pipeline – <https://lam.alaska.gov/sled/home>