

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

GRADES 5-6

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.

Amina's Voice

By Hena Khan

A Pakistani-American Muslim girl struggles to stay true to her family's vibrant culture while simultaneously blending in at school. After her local mosque is vandalized, she is devastated. Her friend Soojin is talking about changing her name. Does Amina need to become more "American" and hide who she really is?

Ban This Book

By Alan Gratz

A fourth grader fights back when *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* by E.L. Konigsburg is challenged by a well-meaning parent and taken off the shelves of her school library. Amy Anne is shy and soft-spoken, but don't mess with her when it comes to her favorite book in the whole world. Amy Anne and her lieutenants wage a battle for the books as they start a secret banned books locker library, make up ridiculous reasons to ban every single book in the library to make a point, and take a stand against censorship.

Because of Mr. Terupt

By Rob Buyea

Seven fifth-graders at Snow Hill School in Connecticut relate how their lives are changed for the better by "rookie teacher" Mr. Terupt.

Diamond Willow

By Helen Frost

In a remote area of Alaska, twelve-year-old Willow helps her father with their sled dogs when she is not at school, wishing she were more popular, all the while unaware that the animals surrounding her carry the spirits of dead ancestors and friends who care for her.

Dinosaurs: Fossils and feathers

By M. K. Reed

This fascinating look at dinosaur science covers the last 150 years of dinosaur hunting, and illuminates how our ideas about dinosaurs have changed--and continue to change.

Fish In A Tree

By Lynda Hunt

Ally has been smart enough to fool a lot of smart people. Every time she lands in a new school, she is able to hide her inability to read by creating clever yet disruptive distractions. She is afraid to ask for help, after all, how can you cure dumb? However, her newest teacher Mr. Daniels sees the bright, creative kid underneath the trouble maker. With his help, Ally learns not to be so hard on herself and that dyslexia is nothing to be ashamed of. She discovers that there's a lot more to her -- and to everyone -- than a label, and that great minds don't always think alike.

Flying Lessons & Other Stories

By Ellen Oh

From basketball dreams and family fiascos to first crushes and new neighborhoods, this anthology, written by award-winning children's authors, celebrates the uniqueness and universality in all of us.

Jake the Fake Keeps It Real

By Craig Robinson

Having faked his way into the Music and Art Academy, a performing arts school for gifted students where his talented older sister rules, sixth-grader

Jake, a jokester who can barely play an instrument, will have to think of something quick before the last laugh is on him.

Night Gardener

By Jonathan Auxier

Irish orphans Molly, fourteen, and Kip, ten, travel to England to work as servants in a crumbling manor house where nothing is quite what it seems to be, and soon the siblings are confronted by a mysterious stranger and secrets of the cursed house.

Real Friends

By Shannon Hale

Shannon and Adrienne have been best friends ever since they were little. But one day, Adrienne starts hanging out with Jen, the most popular girl in class and the leader of a circle of friends called The Group. Everyone in The Group wants to be Jen's #1, and some girls would do anything to stay on top -- even if it means bullying others. Now every day is like a roller coaster for Shannon. Will she and Adrienne stay friends? Can she stand up for herself? And is she in The Group -- or out?

Space Case

By Stuart Gibbs

Dashiell Gibson, who lives on Moon Base Alpha, has to solve a murder of one of the moon's most prominent doctors.

Strange Case of Origami Yoda

By Tom Angleberger

Sixth-grader Tommy and his friends describe their interactions with a paper finger puppet of Yoda, worn by their weird classmate Dwight, as they try to figure out whether or not the puppet can really predict the future.

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