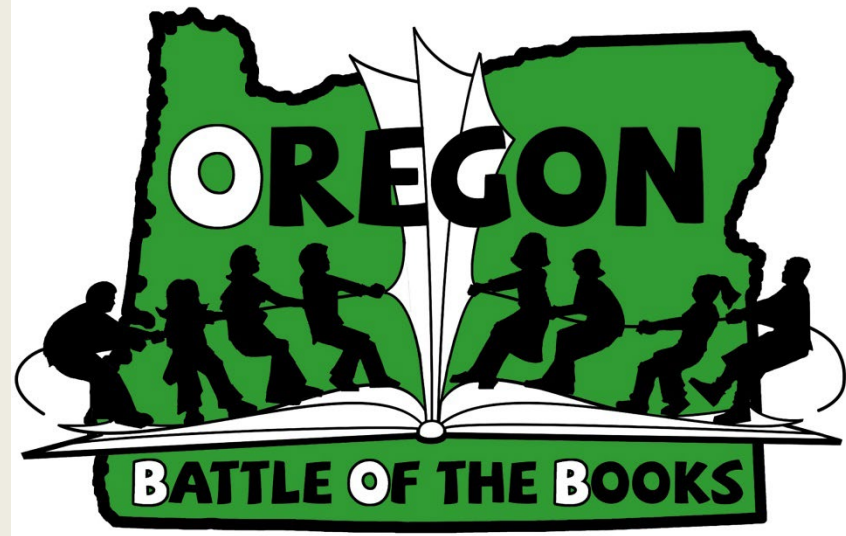


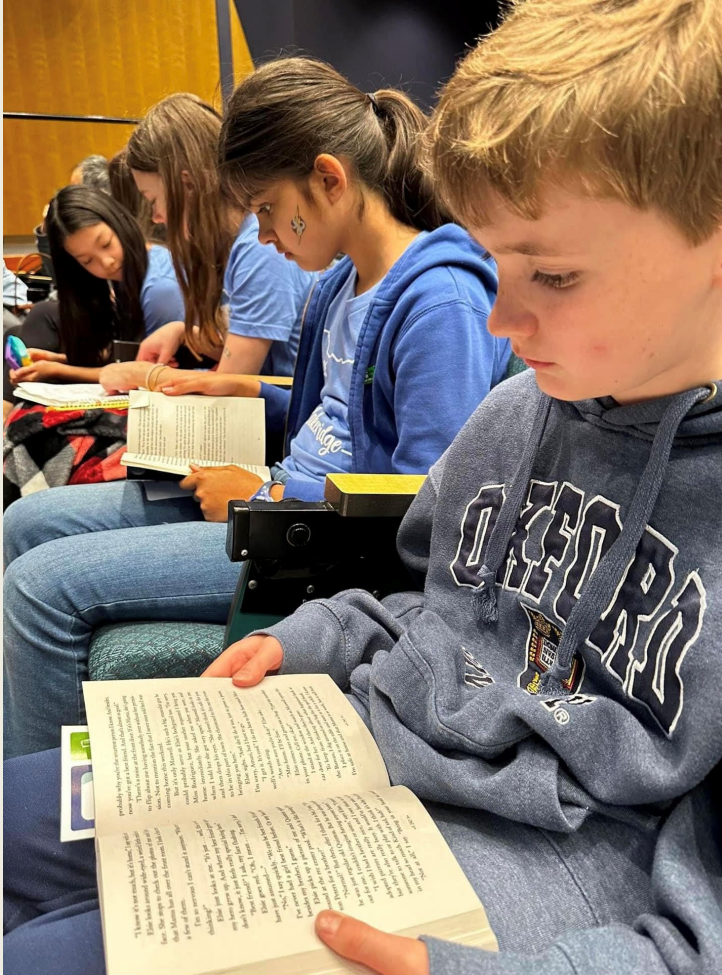
# Oregon Battle of the Books



*VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION & TRAINING*



# OBOB's Mission



- Recognize students who enjoy reading
- Broaden reading interests
- Increase reading comprehension
- Promote academic excellence
- Promote cooperative learning and teamwork

# Who We Are



- OBOB is run primarily by volunteers through the Oregon Association of School Libraries (OASL) and funded partially through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA)
- OASL, and OBOB operating under its umbrella, are committed to diversity, equity, inclusion, anti-racism, and anti-oppression in our organization, policies, and practices



# Thank you!



- OBOB depends on volunteers
- 750+ school and local competitions
  - ~ 8,000 teams
  - > 30,000 students
- School administrators, librarians, teachers, parents, coaches, moderators, volunteers...



**We could not do this without you!**

# What's New in 2025?



- Not much! There are no new rules this season, but there were last season:
- No steals in Pool Play battles in 3-5 and 6-8 Divisions at Regionals and State
  - Local Schools and Libraries can match this rule or retain steals in all battles
- Regional and State semifinal battles will now feature 24 questions



# Tournament Structure



- **School Tournament**
  - Structure varies between schools
  - One team goes to regional tournament



- **Regional Tournament**
  - Pool Play (round robin)
  - Bracket Play (single elimination)



- **State Tournament**
  - Pool Play (round robin)
  - Bracket Play (single elimination)

# Regional & State Tournament Structure



## Pool Play

- Teams battle four times in pool play across two rounds
- Total points (not wins) determines bracket seeding
- No tie-breakers in pool play rounds

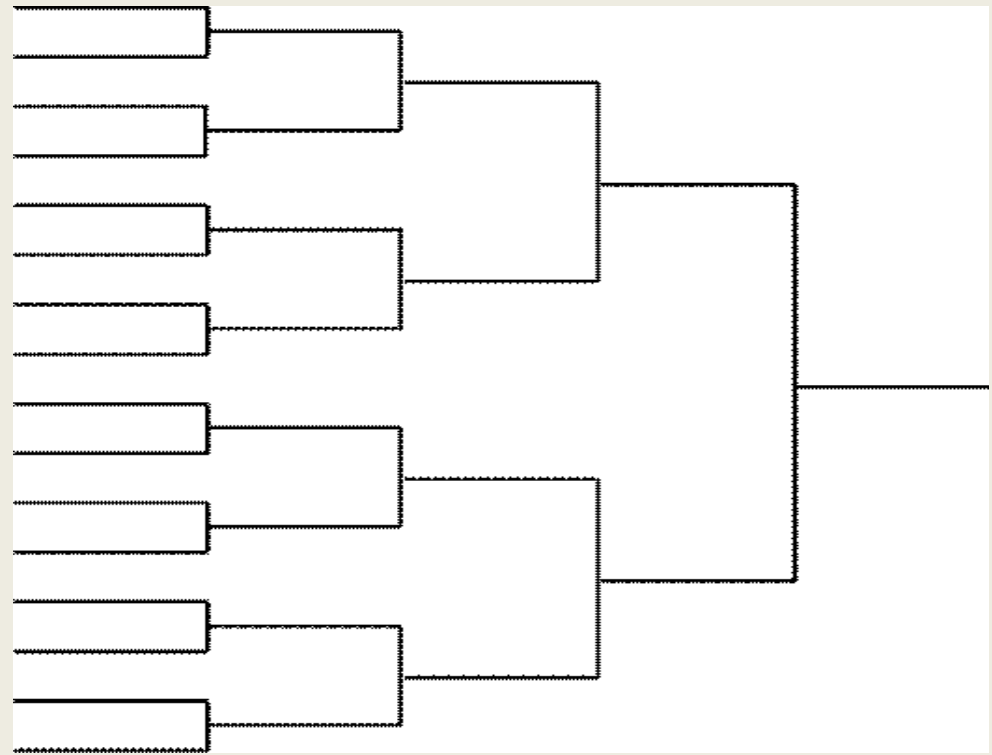


# Regional & State Tournament Structure



## Bracket Play / Knock-Out Rounds

- Single elimination
  - Sweet Sixteen
  - Elite Eight
  - Fab Four
  - Championship
- 9-12 Division starts with the Elite 8 round
- All 3 State Finals are Double-Length, 32 Questions
- All 3 Semifinals feature 24 Questions





# Battle Procedures

## Teams

- Two to four members compete in a battle
- One spokesperson
- Only the spokesperson may answer for the team



# Battle Officials



- Moderator
  - Finals/important battles may employ two moderators
- Scorekeeper
  - Must record score on score sheet
  - May also record score on white board for audience
- Timekeeper
  - Use stopwatch on phone

# Battle Procedures



## Set Up

- Teams sit in groups on either side of the moderator
- Begin questions with the team on your left
  - Always get ODD questions first
- Alternate questions with the team on your right
  - Always get EVEN questions first

# Battle Procedures



## Determining Sides

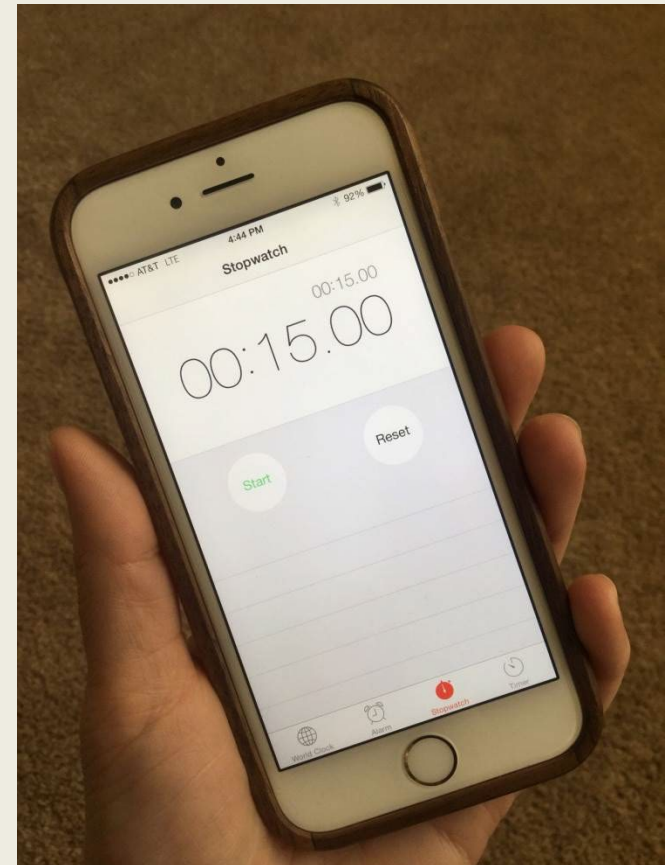


- Spokesperson calls coin toss (often administered by the timekeeper)
- Winner chooses where to sit
  - On your left = ODD numbers first
  - On your right = EVEN numbers first

# Battle Procedures

## Timing

- Time begins after question is completely read once = 15 seconds
- Question may be repeated, but timer does not restart
- Answer must be given immediately after time expires
- Do not set an alarm; just call “time”



# Battle Procedures



## In Which Book (IWB) Questions

- Ask all eight IWB questions first
- Answers consist of title AND author
- Write any incorrect answers on the card

Div. 3-5 Oregon Battle of the Books 2019 Set: 1  
Local Competition

**"IN WHICH BOOK" QUESTION**—*Answer includes both title and author*

**QUESTION:**

In which book does a character pick an old padlock with a bobby pin?

**ANSWER (TITLE):**

*Waylon! One Awesome Thing*

**ANSWER (AUTHOR):**

Sara Pennypacker

**PAGE:** 171

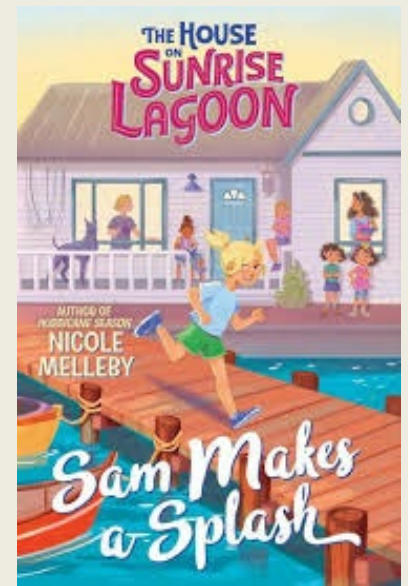
**SCORE:** Team 1 (odd): \_\_\_\_\_ Team 2 (even): \_\_\_\_\_

# Book Titles

## IWB Tips & Examples

NO SERIES TITLES!

*The House on Sunrise Lagoon:*  
*Sam Makes a Splash* = **Incorrect**  
*Sam Makes a Splash* = **Correct**



### 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Division

- *Before the Ever After* by Jacqueline Woodson
- *Circus Mirandus* by Cassie Beasley
- *Fifty-Four Things Wrong with Gwendolyn Rogers* by Caela Carter
- *Frizzy* by Claribel A. Ortega and Rose Bousamra
- *J.D. and the Great Barber Battle* by J. Dillard
- *Just Jerry: How Drawing Shaped My Life* by Jerry Pinkney
- *Leonard (My Life as a Cat)* by Carlie Sorosiak
- *Marshmallow & Jordan* by Alina Chau
- *The Mystwick School of Musicraft* by Jessica Khoury
- *The Name of This Book Is Secret* by Pseudonymous Bosch
- *Sam Makes a Splash* by Nicole Melleby
- *Solimar: The Sword of the Monarchs* by Pam Muñoz Ryan
- *Thirst* by Varsha Bajaj
- *A Time Traveler's Theory of Relativity* by Nicole Valentine
- *Twins* by Varian Johnson and Shannon Wright
- *The Wild Robot* by Peter Brown

Titles should be said exactly as they appear on the question cards for credit. The answers link with our official title lists found on our website.

# Book Titles (con't)



## IWB Tips & Examples

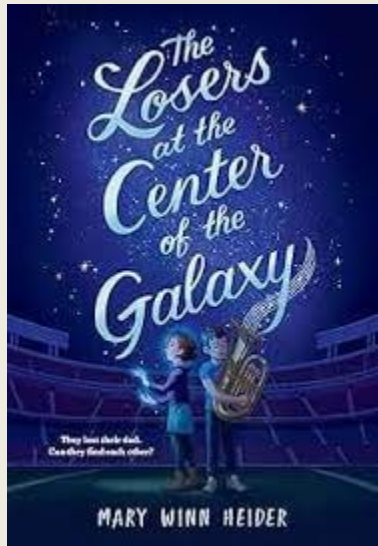
The Only exception for an acceptable title not on your answer card:

OBOBers may omit “A/An/The” from the beginnings of titles:

*The Losers at the Center of the Galaxy* = **Correct**

*Losers at the Center of the Galaxy* = **Also Correct**

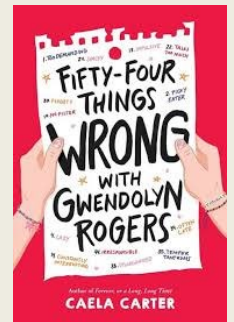
*The Losers at the Center of a Galaxy* = **Incorrect**  
(wrong article in the middle of the title)



OBOBers \*may not\* add articles to the beginning of titles:

*Fifty-Four Things Wrong with Gwendolyn Rogers* = **Correct**

*The Fifty-Four Things Wrong with Gwendolyn Rogers* = **Incorrect**





# Author Names



Author pronunciations should be reasonable and recognizable...

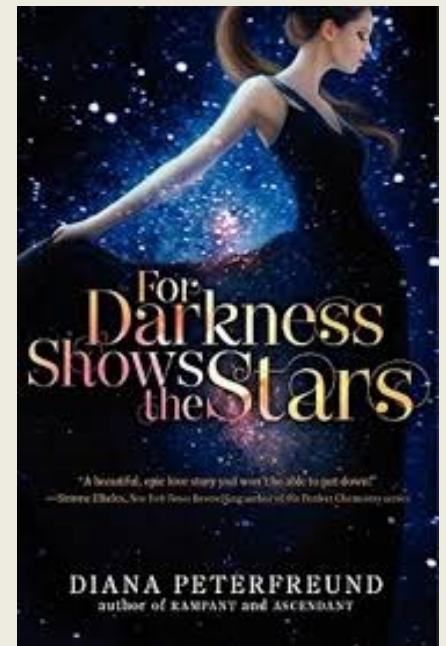
... but do not need to be pronounced exactly how the author would pronounce their own name ...

- **Diana Peterfreund (9-12)**

- Good: PEET-er-FROIND, PET-er-FREE-und
- No good: “Dina” (leaves out a syllable); Pef-ter-und (scrambles letters/sounds)

- **Donna Barba Higuera (6-8)**

- Good: ee-GARE-uh, high-GWER-uh, he-goo-ERR-ah
- No Good: “Barbara” as middle name (adds a syllable)



# Author Names (con't)



- Names must be given exactly as stated on the card, including any initials or middle/multiple names
  - e.g., J. Dillard (3-5); Amina Luqman-Dawson (6-8); TJ Klune (9-12)
  - Many titles and author names are long! Ask your spokespeople to speak slowly and clearly; mentally or with a pencil check off each required element
  - Write incorrect answers on the card in case there are challenges!
- **Exception: Books with two authors can be given in either order**
  - e.g., “Varian Johnson and Shannon Wright” OR “Shannon Wright and Varian Johnson” are both acceptable (3-5)
  - However: If a team gives only one of the two authors, there is no credit – “incorrect author” (you still award 3 points if the title was correctly stated)

# Battle Procedures



## Content Questions

- Ask all eight content questions after IWB questions
- Give teams the title of the book first
- Inform team of any two-part questions
- Write any incorrect answers on the card

Div. 3-5 Oregon Battle of the Books 2024 Set: 34  
Local Competition

CONTENT QUESTION—*Read title before asking question*

**TITLE:**

*From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*

**QUESTION:**

What is the city and state in which Mrs. Frankweiler lives?

**ANSWER:**

Farmington, Connecticut

**PAGE:** 120-122

**SCORE:** Team 1 (odd): \_\_\_\_\_ Team 2 (even): \_\_\_\_\_

# Battle Procedures



## Content Questions

- Parentheses = not a required part of the answer
  - Q: What color are Jennifer's eyes?
  - A: (light) Blue
- Underlines = required part of answer
  - Q: What magical creature eats clothes off of clothes lines?
  - A: Invisible salamander
- “OR” = multiple potentially correct answers
  - Q: Who gives Sarah a *Lord of the Rings* backpack?
  - A: Her mom OR Mrs. Smith

# Battle Procedures



## Questions

- Only the spokesperson's answer will be accepted
- Answer can be correct if mispronounced, *if* it is a logical, recognizable, or phonetic pronunciation
- Answer must be given immediately if any team member interrupts moderator
  - ✦ Whispering together is not an interruption
  - ✦ However, all discussion from both teams must stop when a team is answering
  - ✦ Also, a team may not attempt to distract the other team while they are answering

# Battle Procedures



## Questions

- Answer will be disqualified if . . .
  - Other team members talk while spokesperson is answering
  - Anyone prompts the spokesperson while answering
  - Anyone other than the spokesperson answers after time is called
- Questions answered incorrectly are repeated to the other team (EXCEPT in pool play in 3-5 + 6-8 divisions)
  - They get another 15 seconds to collaborate
  - Answer provided by moderator if neither team is correct

# Battle Procedures



## Scoring

- Scorekeeper fills out the official paper scoresheet
  - Another volunteer (if available) keeps score on a board
  - Moderator keeps score on the cards
  - Scores are compared to ensure accuracy
  - Direct the two spokespersons to sign the scoresheet
- All questions worth a maximum of 5 points
  - **Only Two-Part & IWB questions can be split for partial credit**
  - 3 points for the first partially correct answer
  - Other team can steal remaining 2 points (except 3-5, 6-8 Pool Play)



# Battle Procedures



## Sample Score Sheet:

	<b>School Name:</b> (Receives odd-numbered questions first) <i>School of Readers</i>	<b>School Name:</b> (Receives even-numbered questions first) <i>OBOB Academy</i>
<b>“In Which Book” Question</b>	<b>Points Earned</b>	<b>Points Earned</b>
1	5	-
2	-	5
3	5	-
4	-	5
5	5	-
6	-	5
7	3	2
8	-	5
<b>“In Which Book” Subtotal:</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>22</b>

<b>Content Question</b>	<b>Points Earned</b>	<b>Points Earned</b>
1	5	-
2	2	3
3	0	5
4	-	5
5	5	-
6	-	5
7	3	0
8	5	0
<b>Content Subtotal:</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>18</b>

<b>Battle Total:</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>40</b>
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**Keep it neat!**

- No notes
- No answers



# Battle Procedures



## Challenges

- Chance to challenge is offered at the end of the battle
- Teams have 15 seconds to decide if they will challenge
- Each team may challenge one question they answered and got incorrect or partially incorrect (teams may not challenge that one of the other team's answers should be incorrect)
- Teams have 2 minutes to find text evidence with the book in hand to defend their original answer. No more than 2 books
- Score is amended appropriately

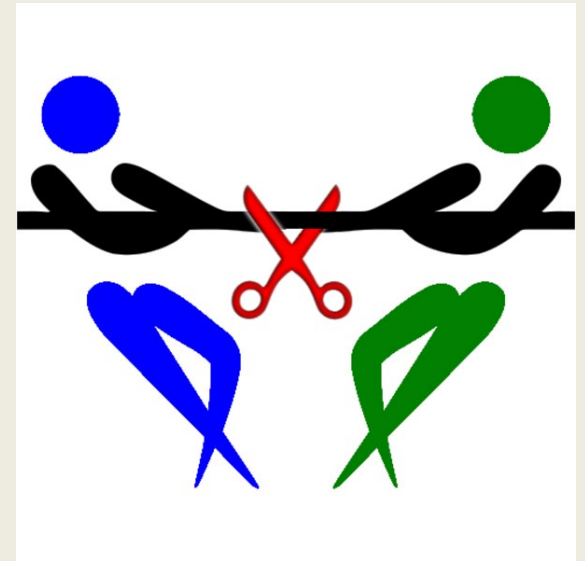


# Battle Procedures



## Tie Breakers in Bracket Play

- One IWB and one Content question asked to each team
  - New question for each team
- Steals = **No**
- Challenges = **Yes**
- Total score (of 2 questions) determines winner
- Process repeated if teams remain tied

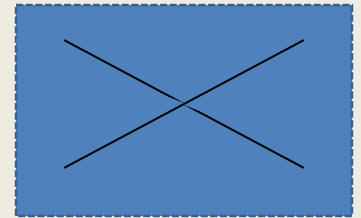


# Moderator Mistakes



Mistakes happen! It's OK. Here's what to do:

- If you spoil the question, discard it
- Pull a new question from the backups
- NEW(ish) RULE: If the first team has already answered a Q incorrectly (or partially incorrectly) before the spoil occurred, they do not get asked the new question – it goes only to the receiving team for a steal attempt, if appropriate



# Examples



Let's go through some  
sample questions...

# Example 1



**Q:** The final clue in the treasure hunt is engraved on what item?

**A:** (Bronze) Plaque

**Team says:** “A big plaque”

# Example 1



**Correct – 5 points**

They said “plaque.” Information in parentheses is not a required part of the answer.

## Example 2



**Q:** [Two Parts] What two foods does Mrs. Smith smell like after she comes home from the diner?

**A:** Apple pie AND Cinnamon

**Team says:** “Apples and cinnamon”

## Example 2



**Partial credit – 3 points**

3 points for “cinnamon”

An apple is not the same thing as apple pie  
**(semantics matter)**

Question goes to other team for remaining 2 points  
(EXCEPT 3-5, 6-8 Pool Play)



## Example 3



**Q:** What is Ben's favorite kind of sandwich?

**A:** Peanut butter OR Plain peanut butter

**Team says:** "Peanut butter and jelly"

## Example 3



**Incorrect – 0 points**

A “plain peanut butter” sandwich is a different thing than a “peanut butter and jelly” sandwich

## Example 4



**Q:** What piece of furniture sits under the picture window in the Johnsons' kitchen?

**A:** Sofa

**Team says:** "Couch"

# Example 4



Correct – 5 points

**Direct synonyms are acceptable**

# Example 5



**Q:** [Two Parts] Name two of James's favorite breakfast foods. Be specific.

**A:** ANY TWO: Cornflakes; Sourdough toast; (homemade) Honey butter

**Team says:** "Homemade butter and Cereal"

# Example 5



**Homemade butter = Incorrect**

“Homemade” is in parentheses (not required)

“Honey” is underlined (required)

**Cereal = Incorrect**

Not specific enough; **under-specific is generally incorrect.**

# Example 6



**Q:** What food item does Jared order to eat in the coffee shop?

**A:** Scone

**Team says:** “A really large blueberry scone”

# Example 6



Correct – 5 Points

Scone is the required term; **over-specific is usually correct.**



# Example 7



**Q:** What is the name of the horse that pulls the family's wagon?

**A:** Old Bob

**Team says:** "Bob"

## Example 7



### Incorrect – 0 Points

Since both words are capitalized and “old” is not in parentheses, both words are part of the name.

**Remember – no partial credit unless it is an IWB or Two-Part Content question.**

# Example 8



**Q:** What is the full name (first and last) of the two-time Oregon girls' water polo State MVP?

**A:** Sydney Brandvold

**Team says:** "Sydney"

## Example 8



### Incorrect – 0 Points

The question asked for the full name and only the first name was offered.

**Remember – no partial credit unless it is an IWB or Two-Part Content question.**

This also applies to situations where the question asks for a City + State, for example

# Example 9



**Q:** What is the name of the character who kicked snow in Peter's face?

**A:** Alexa OR Lexie

**Team says:** "Alexia"

# Example 9

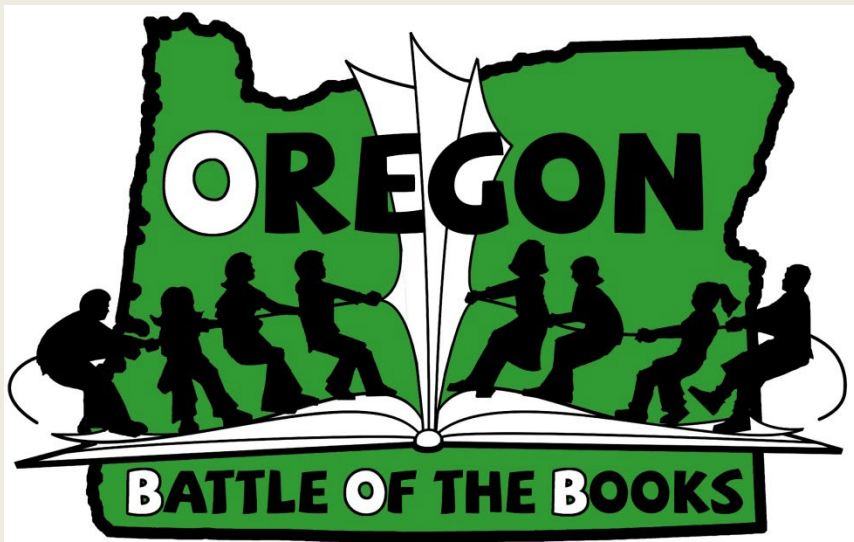


**Incorrect – 0 Points**

Alexia is a different name than Alexa.

Teams can always challenge (at the end of the battle) if they are sure the name/answer they provided is correct.

# Thank you for your support of Oregon Battle of the Books!



- OBOB Website  
[www.oregonbattleofthebooks.org](http://www.oregonbattleofthebooks.org)
- Facebook  
Oregon Battle of the Books group
- Instagram – Student Reps  
[oregon\\_battle\\_of\\_the\\_books](https://www.instagram.com/oregon_battle_of_the_books)