

ST. STEPHEN'S COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL
"BATTLE OF THE BOOKS" BOOKLIST SUMMARY

July 3, 2020

Dear G3/G4/G5 Students and Parents:

We are excited to share with you the attached list of books for the 2020-2021 HK Battle of the Books. Information regarding the HK Battle of the Books can be found at: <https://sites.google.com/site/hkbattleofthebooks/home>. Multiple copies of all books will be available for borrowing from the school library in September. If you want to read them sooner, you can purchase these titles from any bookshop, or borrow them from the public library. We will use these books as follows:

Step 1: Reading for Points – Students who read the first five books (*Stargazing*, *New Kid*, *Bunnicula*, *Marsh and Me*, *The Wild Robot*) in the attached booklist before September 1 will get five blue stars, and they will get three blue stars for finishing the first five books before September 20.

Step 2: In-School Battle – Students who have read the first five books are welcome to enter the SSCPS In-School Battle to be held at the school auditorium in late-September. Students will be grouped into teams and asked to name the book in questions such as, “In which book is a girl’s idol a K-pop singer?” and “In which book is a bunny suspected of being a vampire?”

Step 3: HK Battle of the Books – A maximum of 20 students will be invited to attend weekly workshops during school hours and some additional sessions nearer the competition as required. Together, the team will read the rest of the books on the list, gain in-depth knowledge of these books and train for the territory-wide HK Battle of the Books to be held in May 2021. A final team of 12 students will be selected to represent SSCPS at this fun and friendly competition. Please note that by joining the school team, students are expected to read these books and complete associated tasks.

Please contact Dr. Sahi at rashmi@sscps.edu.hk if you have any questions.

Dr. Rashmi Sahi
Head of English Department

Mrs. Annie Ting (Former Board Chair, Bring Me A Book Hong Kong)
Coordinator and Trainer, Battle of the Books for SSCPS

TITLE	AUTHOR	DESCRIPTION
<i>Stargazing</i>	Jen Wang	A graphic novel about two Chinese-American girls who become best friends despite being very different from each other, and one of the ends up fighting for her life in the hospital. <i>Experiences: friendship, jealousy, Chinese-American culture, illness</i>
<i>New Kid</i>	Jerry Craft	A graphic novel about a boy who loves to draw cartoons. Instead of going to art school of his dreams, his parents enroll him at a prestigious private school where diversity is low and the struggle to fit in is real. <i>Experiences: humour, new school, racism, African-American culture, New York City</i>
<i>Bunnicula</i>	Deborah & James Howe	This is a humorous tale about the attempts of Harold the gentle dog and Chester the brilliant cat to find out the truth about the newest pet in their home, a bunny that they suspect may actually be a vampire. <i>Experiences: comedy-mystery, adventure, family pets</i>
<i>Marsh and Me</i>	Martine Murray	A short Australian novel narrated in the first person by a shy, lonely music-loving boy who finds his secret place on a hill invaded by a strange girl who is building a fort that resembles a spaceship. <i>Experiences: new friends, courage to come out of shell, loss of a parent</i>
<i>The Wild Robot</i>	Peter Brown	This illustrated and action-packed fantasy is about a robot that wakes up on a remote island, and not only survives but also thrives. <i>Experiences: action adventure, survival, nature & technology, family</i>
<i>Operation Frog Effect</i>	Sarah Scheerger	A heartwarming story told in eight perspectives (including one in graphic novel form) by students in Ms. Graham's class who unite for a cause they all believe in. <i>Experiences: school adventure, taking responsibility, making the world a better place</i>
<i>Ban this Book</i>	Alan Gratz	A fourth-grader fights back when her favorite book – <i>From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler</i> – is banned from the school library. <i>Experiences: humor, school life, book-lovers, activism</i>

TITLE	AUTHOR	DESCRIPTION
<i>Song for a Whale</i>	Lynne Kelly	Fans of <i>A Fish in a Tree</i> will enjoy this story of a deaf girl's connection to a whale whose song can't be heard by his species, and the journey she takes to help him. <i>Experiences: school adventure, overcoming adversity, helping others</i>
<i>Rules</i>	Cynthia Lord	A coming-of-age story about a girl with an autistic brother. She just wants a normal life, and through new friends she meets one summer, she learns to redefine what "normal" means. <i>Experiences: disability in the family, new friends, summer experiences</i>
<i>Heartbeat</i>	Sharon Creech	A story-in-verse that uses poetry forms to tell the story of a young girl's attempts to make sense of changes around her, from a mother who is pregnant and a forgetful grandfather to her moody friend Max. <i>Experiences: long-distance running, life changes, family, friendship</i>
<i>The Boy at the Back of the Class</i>	Onjali Q. Raúf	This humorous and heartfelt story offers a child's perspective on the refugee crisis, highlighting the importance of friendship and kindness in a world that doesn't always make sense. <i>Experiences: school life, friendship, Syrian refugee, making the world a better place</i>
<i>The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise</i>	Dan Gemeinhart	A heartwarming adventure about a girl traveling the American countryside with her father in a refurbished school bus after a terrible car accident killed her mother and two sisters. <i>Experiences: grief & loss, resilience, self-discovery</i>
<i>Lampie and the Children of the Sea</i>	Annet Schaap	Lampie the lighthouse keeper's daughter helps her disabled father at the lighthouse, and gets drawn into an enchanting world of mermaids, pirates and stormy seas. <i>Experiences: fantasy adventure, friendship, loss of a parent</i>
<i>The Land of Roar</i>	Jenny McLachlan	Twins Arthur and Rose enter an imaginary world that they find by climbing through the folding bed in their grandfather's attic, and embark on adventures reminiscent of <i>Peter Pan</i> and <i>Jumanji</i> . <i>Experiences: fantasy adventure, siblings</i>

TITLE	AUTHOR	DESCRIPTION
<i>A Pinch of Magic</i>	Michelle Harrison	The first of two books, this magical adventure is about three sisters – adventurous Betty, curious Charlie and proper Fliss – and their quest to break a family curse. <i>Experiences: fantasy adventure, sisterhood, sorcery</i>
<i>A Wolf Called Wander</i>	Rosanne Parry	This gripping novel, with illustrations throughout, is based on the real story of one wolf’s incredible journey to find a safe place to call home. <i>Experiences: true story, survival, family, adventure, animal and nature</i>
<i>Hatchet</i>	Gary Paulsen	A 13 year-old boy learns to survive alone in the Canadian wilderness after his small plane crashes and he is the sole survivor. <i>Experiences: action adventure, survival, family</i>
<i>The Hen Who Dreamed She Could Fly</i>	Sun-mi Hwang	Known as the Korean <i>Charlotte’s Web</i> , this is a heartwarming story of love and sacrifice with unforgettable animal characters on a farm. <i>Experiences: motherhood, freedom, perseverance, animal and nature</i>
<i>The Bridge Home</i>	Padma Venkatraman	Life is harsh on the teeming streets of Chennai, India. Two runaway sisters find shelter — and friendship — there when they meet two homeless boys, and the four of them form a family of sorts. <i>Experiences: India, survival, resilience, illness</i>
<i>The Thing about Luck</i>	Cynthia Kadohata	A 12 year-old girl and her Japanese-American family work hard as wheat farmers in Kansas, but in this particularly hard-luck year, they face unprecedented physical and emotional challenges. <i>Experiences: family, hardship, modern farming, Japanese-American culture</i>