

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

June 15, 2018

Dear G3/G4/G5 Students and Parents,

We are excited to share with you the attached list of books from HK Battle of the Books. From September 1, multiple copies of all books will be available for borrowing from the school library. If you want to read them sooner, you can purchase these titles from any bookshop, or from this online seller: <https://www.shopinhk.com/bookstore/battle-of-books/primary/>. We will use these books as follows:

Step 1: Reading for Points – Students who read the first five books (highlighted in yellow below) before September 1 will get five blue stars, and they will get three blue stars for finishing the first five books before September 30.

Step 2: In-School Battle – Students who have read the first five books are welcome to enter the In-School Battle to be held in mid-October. Students will be grouped into teams of six, and teams will be asked questions such as, “In which book is a human boy raised by a troll in a cave?” and “In which book has someone read *Charlotte’s Web* about 100 times?” Students who join the In-School Battle will be invited to an outing at St. Stephen’s Beach. Students in the winning team will receive a certificate.

Step 3: HK Battle of the Books – A maximum of 20 students will be invited to attend weekly workshops during school hours. Together, they 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 in May 2019. A final team of 12 students will be selected to represent SSCPS at this fun and friendly competition.

More information will be provided after September 1. In the meantime, if you have any questions, you are welcome to contact Dr Sahi at rashmi@sscps.edu.hk.

Have a safe and restful summer, and happy reading!

Dr. Rashmi Sahi
Head of English Department

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

TITLE	AUTHOR	DESCRIPTION
Adventures with Waffles	Maria Parr	Two best friends and their hilarious escapades over the course of a year. <i>Experiences: a boy whose best friend is a girl, life in Norway</i>
The Lemonade War	Jacqueline Davies	A story of two siblings competing to have the best lemonade stand. Part of the “Lemonade War” series. <i>Experiences: doing business, math problems, sibling relationships</i>
The Fastest Boy in the World	Elizabeth Laird	For readers who love <i>Stone Fox</i> , here’s a story about a boy who dreams of running in the Olympics. First, he must save his grandfather who has fallen ill. <i>Experiences: life in Ethiopia, long-distance running</i>
Kensuke’s Kingdom	Michael Morpurgo	While on a sailing trip with his parents, Michael is swept overboard and then washed up on an island. A very special tale of adventure and discovery. <i>Experiences: life as a castaway, survival skills</i>
Once Upon a Marigold	Jean Ferris	An oddball parody of a fairy tale in which a boy, living in a cave and raised by a troll, falls in love with a princess. Part of the “Upon a Marigold” series. <i>Experiences: love, Greek myths, awful jokes</i>
Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH	Robert O’Brien	Award-winning classic of a mother mouse who protects her four small children with the help of a highly intelligent breed of rats. The book is much, much better than the movie adaptation! <i>Experiences: engineering, survival skills, nature vs. man</i>
Duke	Kirby Larson	Historical fiction for dog-lovers. Part of the “Dogs of World War II” series.

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		<i>Experiences: World War II, mid-century life, bullying</i>
Gertie's Leap to Greatness	Kate Beasley	Gertie is a mix of great characters like Matilda, Ramona Quimby and Opal from <i>Winn-Dixie</i> , and her mission is to be the best fifth-grader in the universe in hopes that her mother will come home. <i>Experiences: hope, zombie bullfrogs, loyal friends, absent parent</i>
Varjak Paw	S. F. Said	For readers who love <i>The Tale of Despereaux</i> , here's a story about a housecat who goes Outside for the first time and faces challenges to help save his family. <i>Experiences: justice, survival skills (including learning kung-fu and who to trust), being different from the rest of your family</i>
Roller Girl	Victoria Jamieson	Award-winning graphic novel about a girl who discovers her passion for a new sport while dealing with growing apart from her childhood best friend. <i>Experiences: girl power, changing friendships, roller derby</i>
Wishtree	Katherine Applegate	A story about what happens when a new Muslim family moves in, narrated from the completely unexpected point of view of an ancient oak tree. <i>Experiences: prejudice, nature & environment, kindness & acceptance</i>
The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street	Katrina Yan Glaser	Five siblings have 11 days to convince their landlord to let them stay in their beloved home. They are like a modern version of <i>The Penderwicks</i> . <i>Experiences: siblings, mixed-race family, Christmas in New York City</i>
Hello Universe	Erin Entrada Kelly	Award-winning neighborhood story told from the four different points of view of two boys and two girls who come together on one unexpected day. <i>Experiences: bravery, being different, cross-generational relationships, fate & interconnectedness</i>

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The Dragon with a Chocolate Heart	Stephanie Burgis	Adventures of a dragon who is turned into a human girl. <i>Experiences: girl power, understanding humans, new friends</i>
Sputnik's Guide to Life on Earth	Frank Cottrell Boyce	Crazy adventures abound when a quiet boy meets an alien who needs help to save Earth. <i>Experiences: being different, understanding humans, foster home, Alzheimer's</i>
Savvy	Ingrid Law	For readers who love the X-Men, here's a magical fantasy about a family with super-powers, written with fun and creative language. <i>Experiences: alliteration & metaphors, team-work, being unique, hospital</i>
Letters from the Lighthouse	Emma Carroll	Historical fiction about two London children evacuated to live with a lighthouse keeper on the Devon coast during World War II. <i>Experiences: World War II, secrets, village life</i>
Each Little Bird that Sings	Deborah Wiles	A unique story about a girl growing up in a funeral home. <i>Experiences: death, funeral homes, rural American life, changing friendships</i>
The Shadows	Jacqueline West	For readers who like scary stories: a girl and her parents move into a creepy mansion with spooky paintings. Part of the "Book of Elsewhere" series. <i>Experiences: childhood loneliness, talking cats, mystery</i>
The Jumbies	Tracey Baptiste	For readers who like scary stories: a girl must save her island home from being taken over by the jumbies. <i>Experiences: Caribbean folklore, forbidden forests, colonization & rebellion</i>