

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

June 19, 2018

Dear G6 Students and Parents:

We are excited to share our summary of books from the Hong Kong Battle of the Books – Secondary School book list. St. Stephen's College enters a team to the HK-wide Battle of the Books every year. More information can be found at: <https://sites.google.com/site/hkbattleofthebooks/home>.

If you are interested in joining Battle of the Books in Form 1, you are welcome to get a head start and read some of these books over the summer. The titles should be available from all booksellers, but you can also order them from this online site: <https://www.shopinhk.com/bookstore/battle-of-books/secondary/>.

Even if you don't plan to join Battle of the Books, hopefully there are some books on this list that will interest you.

Wishing you all the best in secondary school, and happy reading!

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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
Homesick	Jean Fritz	A timeless and universal story about an American girl growing up in China in 1920s. <i>Experiences: historical fiction, missionaries in China, colonial life</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>
Ice Dogs	Terry Lynn Johnson	An action-packed wilderness adventure about a dogsled racer who gets lost together with her dogs when she finds an injured boy who has had a snowmobile accident. <i>Experiences: adventure, survival skills, Alaska</i>
The Inquisitor's Tale	Adam Gidwitz	Three children save the land from a farting dragon! A medieval adventure with multiple narrators, the tales get more humorous and also more puzzling and addictive. <i>Experiences: adventure, France, censorship, religious zealotry</i>
Home of the Brave	Katherine Applegate	A lyrical and lighthearted story of an immigrant boy's journey from hardship to hope, written in verse from the point of view of someone who doesn't speak English very well. <i>Experiences: story in verse, perseverance, African refugee</i>
The Song of Seven	Tonke Dragt	Seven unlikely friends and one extraordinary adventure featuring magicians, hidden treasures, a black cat and a sealed parchment which predicts the future. <i>Experiences: mystery adventure, ghost story, schoolteacher hero</i>
When You Reach Me	Rebecca Stead	A mystery-fantasy about a girl who is obsessed with "A Wrinkle in Time" and one day starts finding strange notes that seem to predict the future. <i>Experiences: science fiction, time travel, single parent, New York City</i>

TITLE	AUTHOR	DESCRIPTION
Walls within Walls	Maureen Sherry	If you enjoy mysteries and puzzles, and books like “Chasing Vermeer”, you will love this adventure tale about siblings who discover a secret about the original owner of the mansion that has just become their new home. <i>Experiences: mystery, New York City, rich kids</i>
The Graveyard Book	Neil Gaiman	Ghosts and other cemetery denizens find a baby and raise him in their cemetery world. Inspired by “The Jungle Book”, this dark tale is also humorous and exciting to read. <i>Experiences: fantasy, good vs. evil, family, fable / fairy tale</i>
When Friendship Followed Me Home	Paul Griffin	Ben meets fellow book-lover Halley and together they start to write a novel. You will love these characters and smile through your tears. Have tissues ready. <i>Experiences: friendship, overcoming obstacles, loss</i>
Best Man	Richard Peck	The bewildering world of adults from the point of view of a boy with an awesome family, and an awesome new teacher: the first male teacher in the history of the school. <i>Experiences: family, gay marriage, everyday heroes</i>
The Shadow Cipher	Laura Ruby	A funny and magical adventure of three kids and a cat as they try to solve an old puzzle called the Cipher in order to save their apartment building. <i>Experiences: steampunk, world-building, mystery, New York City</i>
The Ruins of Gorlan	John Flanagan	This fantasy adventure about a group of orphans chosen to be protectors of their kingdom, is perfect for “Lord of the Rings” fans. Part of “Ranger’s Apprentice” series. <i>Experiences: medieval fantasy, good vs. evil, mystery</i>
A Night Divided	Jennifer A. Nielsen	Intense action and suspense about a family suddenly divided by the Berlin Wall. <i>Experiences: historical fiction, Berlin Wall, courage</i>

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The Witch of Blackbird Pond	Elizabeth George Speare	<p>A teen’s experience of leaving her carefree life in Barbados to live with her Puritan relatives in colonial Connecticut in 1687, and of making friends with an old woman whom the community suspects is a witch.</p> <p><i>Experiences: historical fiction, witch-hunt, heroine, friendship, 17th century life</i></p>
Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry	Mildred D. Taylor	<p>A young black girl narrates her family’s struggle to keep their land, their dignity and their lives in the middle of the Great Depression.</p> <p><i>Experiences: historical fiction, racism & social injustice, 1930s America</i></p>
See You in the Cosmos	Jack Cheng	<p>A heartwarming and laugh-aloud story of a boy who has a dream to launch his rocket into space to let aliens know what life is like on Earth. If you love the book “Wonder”, you will love this story too.</p> <p><i>Experiences: outer space, family mental illness</i></p>
Splendors and Glooms	Laura Amy Schlitz	<p>Two orphans in Dickensian London embark on an adventure to find the kidnapped child of a wealthy family.</p> <p><i>Experiences: Victorian gothic thriller, dark comedy, mystery, friendship, puppets</i></p>
Uglies	Scott Westerfeld	<p>The first book of a series about a world where everyone turns pretty at the age of 16, and a girl who learns about another society that helps her realize there’s much more to life than just being pretty.</p> <p><i>Experiences: dystopian adventure, superficial beauty, friendship, betrayal</i></p>
Mortal Engines	Philip Reeve	<p>Dystopian fantasy of a future in which cities are mobile and must survive by being predators before they become defenseless prey. The first book of a series.</p> <p><i>Experiences: world-building, heroine, violence</i></p>