

Battle of the Books 2015 is here!

The Battle of the Books is a competition for 5th and 6th graders only. Students read the books on the list, submit questions electronically (Mrs. Rossman will share the Google Form with every 5th and 6th grader), and then qualify for a team through a quiz. The students enjoyed battling 5th vs. 6th graders, so we'll keep the format. If we can work it out for the 4th graders to watch the competition, we will to drum up excitement for next year's Battle too.

Last year was our first annual Battle of the Books and was so much fun for the kids! This year is going to be bigger and better than before! There's a team of teachers working with Mrs. Rossman to up the fun factor. **But, the bottom line is the same: more kids reading award-winning books!** Every book on the list comes from the Virginia's Readers Choice Awards list that is published yearly. This list is the current list of winners, although some books might have come out a few years ago. Battle books were approved for FHES by a team of teachers on our School Book Approval Committee.

Each classroom will have a bin with at least 1 copy of each title, the FHES library also has copies available for checkout, and some parents enjoyed purchasing books for their students last year as well.

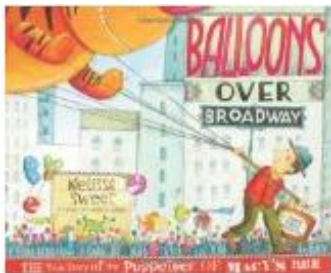
It is our goal to have a shared reading experience at FHES that engages students across the 5th and 6th grade student body because you can't beat the love of a great book! Help make this year's Battle a success by encouraging your student to read, listen to a audio book together or choose a book to read to your student or alongside your student – Mrs. Rossman encourages all elementary parents to experience good literature WITH their students to help them process complex ideas (there's a couple on the list with some big themes).

Feel free to email Mrs. Rossman, FHES Reading Specialist, with any questions, Melissa.Rossman@fcps.edu .

Title

Review (taken from Amazon)

Balloons Over Broadway by
Melissa Sweet



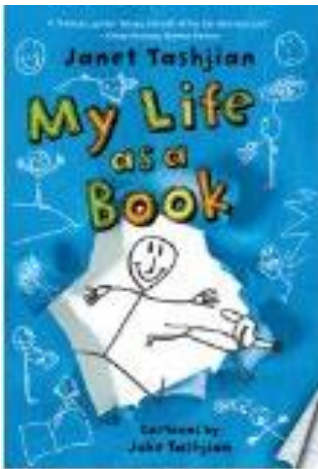
The award-winning artist Sweet tells the story of the puppeteer Tony Sarg, capturing his genius, his dedication, his zest for play, and his long-lasting gift to America: the inspired helium balloons that would become the trademark of Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Full color.

Capture the Flag by Kate
Messner



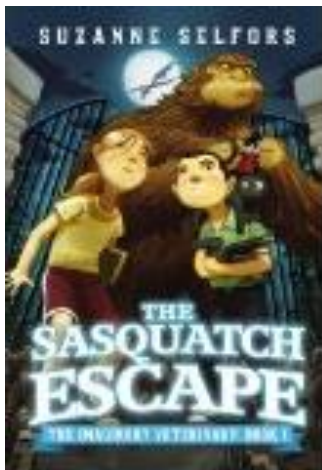
Three kids get caught up in an adventure of historic proportions! Anna, Jose, and Henry are complete strangers with more in common than they realize. Snowed in together at a chaotic Washington D.C. airport, they encounter a mysterious tattooed man, a flamboyant politician, and a rambunctious poodle named for an ancient king. Even stranger, news stations everywhere have announced that the famous flag that inspired The Star-Spangled Banner has been stolen! Anna, certain that the culprits must be snowed in too, recruits Henry and Jose to help catch the thieves and bring them to justice. But when accusations start flying, they soon realize there's more than justice at stake. As the snow starts clearing, Anna, Jose, and Henry find themselves in a race against time (and the weather!) to prevent the loss of an American treasure

My Life as a Book by Janet Tashjian



Summer's finally here, and Derek Fallon is looking forward to pelting the UPS truck with water balloons, climbing onto the garage roof, and conducting silly investigations. But when his parents decide to send him to Learning Camp, Derek's dreams of fun come to an end. Ever since he's been labeled a "reluctant reader," his mom has pushed him to read "real" books — something other than his beloved Calvin & Hobbes. As Derek forges unexpected friendships and uncovers a family secret involving himself (in diapers, no less!), he realizes that adventures and surprises are around the corner, complete with curve balls.

The Sasquatch Escape by Suzanne Selfors



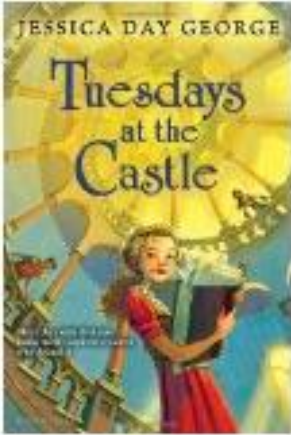
Ben Silverstein and Pearl Petal discover a secret hospital for Imaginary Creatures. When Ben accidentally leaves the door unlocked, a rather stinky and very hairy beast escapes into the town. What started out as an ordinary summer becomes the adventure of a lifetime.

The Templeton Twins Have an Idea by Ellis Weiner



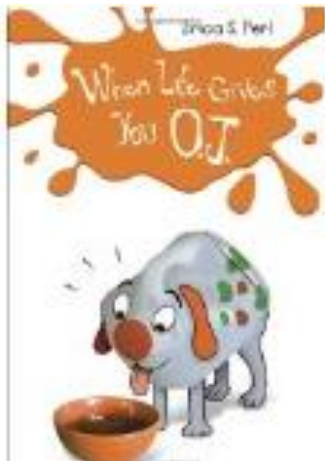
Suppose there were 12-year-old twins, a boy and girl named John and Abigail Templeton. Let's say John was pragmatic and played the drums, and Abigail was theoretical and solved cryptic crosswords. Now suppose their father was a brilliant, if sometimes confused, inventor. And suppose that another set of twins—adults—named Dean D. Dean and Dan D. Dean, kidnapped the Templeton twins and their ridiculous dog in order to get their father to turn over one of his genius (sort of inventions. Yes, I said kidnapped. Wouldn't it be fun to read about that? Oh please. It would so. Luckily for you, this is just the first in a series perfect for boys and girls who are smart, clever, and funny (just like the twins), and enjoy reading adventurous stories (who doesn't?!).

Tuesdays at the Castle by
Jessica Day George



This delightful fantasy takes readers inside a magical castle with a mind of its own! Princess Celie loves Castle Glower, and the castle loves her back! For this is no ordinary castle: Castle Glower has an opinion about everyone and even decides who should be king. What's more, this amazing castle is always changing, adding a new staircase or secret passageway or even a room to hide in. When the king and queen are declared murdered and Celie's 14-year-old brother becomes king, Celie needs the castle more than ever. Are her parents really dead, or is it part of a plot to take over the kingdom? Together, Celie and her siblings must uncover the truth, with a little help from Castle Glower!

When Life Gives You OJ by Erica
Perl



Frieda has problems. Her best friend is off at camp and hasn't written. Her Jewish family has recently moved to Vermont after the death of her grandmother, Bubbles. Her grandfather, Ace, is now living with them. And she wants a dog, but her parents won't let her have one. That's a lot for a 10-year-old (almost 11) to put up with. Then Ace comes up with an idea—a "practice dog." If Zelly can prove that she's responsible with the surrogate, surely she can convince her parents she's ready for the real thing. This explains why Zelly is dragging a plastic orange juice jug around town on a leash all summer. Is there humiliation involved? Of course. Will it be worth it? Who knows? Perl's fabulous story (Knopf, 2011) receives first-class treatment in this audio version. Abigail Revasch is amazing as she creates different voices and styles for each character. Ace's broad Jewish accent and his interfering, storytelling ways come across especially well here, as does the young but determined voice of Zelly. This delightful story will have listeners giggling, while rooting for Zelly's ultimate pet success

Whatever After: Fairest of All by
Sarah Mlynowski



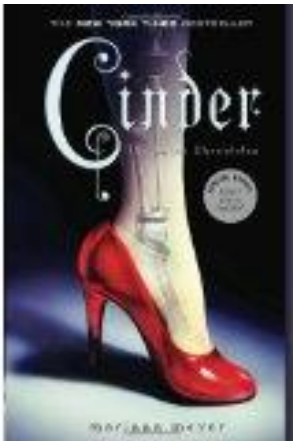
Mirror, mirror, on the basement wall...Once upon a time my brother and I were normal kids. The next minute? The mirror in our basement slurped us up and magically transported us inside Snow White's fairy tale. I know it sounds crazy, but it's true. But hey — we're heroes! We stopped Snow White from eating the poisoned apple. Hooray! Or not. If Snow White doesn't die, she won't get to meet her prince. And then she won't get her happy ending. Oops. Now it's up to us to: Avoid getting poisoned, Sneak into a castle, Fix Snow White's story. And then, fingers crossed, find our way home.

One for the Murphys by Lynda Mullaly Hunt



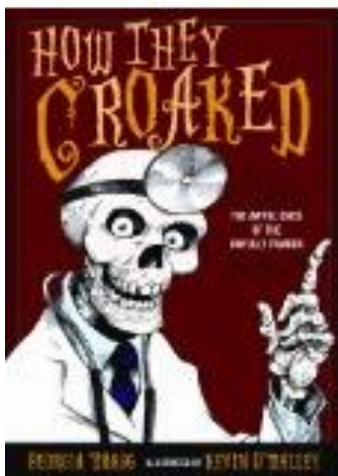
Carley uses humor and street smarts to keep her emotional walls high and thick. But the day she becomes a foster child and moves in with the Murphys, she's blindsided. This loving, bustling family shows Carley the stable family life she never thought existed and she feels like an alien in their cookie-cutter-perfect household. Despite her resistance, the Murphys eventually show her what it feels like to belong, until her mother wants her back and Carley has to decide where and how to live. She's not really a Murphy, but the gifts they've given her have opened up a new future.

Cinder by Marissa Meyer



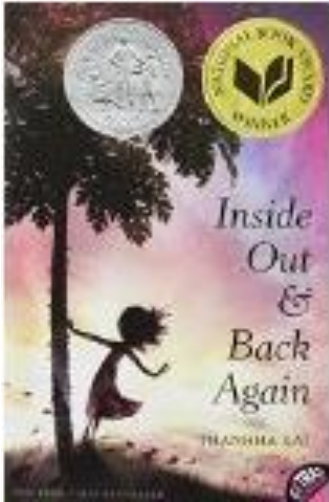
Humans and androids crowd the raucous streets of New Beijing. A deadly plague ravages the population. From space, a ruthless lunar people watch, waiting to make their move. No one knows that Earth's fate hinges on one girl. Cinder, a gifted mechanic, is a cyborg. She's a second-class citizen with a mysterious past, reviled by her stepmother and blamed for her stepsister's illness. But when her life becomes intertwined with the handsome Prince Kai's, she suddenly finds herself at the center of an intergalactic struggle, and a forbidden attraction. Caught between duty and freedom, loyalty and betrayal, she must uncover secrets about her past in order to protect her world's future.

How They Croaked by Georgia Bragg



Cleopatra croaked. Caesar ceased. Darwin died. And that's just the beginning! This gruesome guide to the "awful ends of the awfully famous" will evoke gasps of wonder as readers witness medical mishaps and deadly diseases, accidents and assassinations, and more. There are groans and guffaws, too, to lighten the list of lethalties. Chapter titles like "You Glow, Girl" (for X-ray discoverer Marie Curie) and "Little Mouth of Horrors" (in honor of George Washington's famous dental woes) add a humorous dimension to the otherwise sober subject matter. Black-and-white illustrations (including cartoons, diagrams, and gothic design elements) add visual appeal to this compelling compendium of mortal memoranda. A list of books and online resources provides additional learning opportunities, and a special "Connections" section shows how the lives of these famous people intersected in surprising ways.

Inside Out and Back Again by
Thanhha Lai



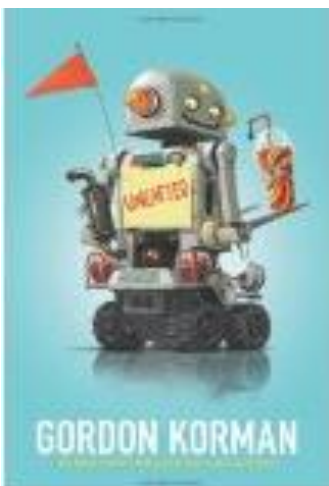
Winner of the 2011 National Book Award for Young People's Literature Based on the author's own childhood and written in free-verse poems, this unforgettable story captures a fierce girl's struggles to find her place in her family, in her new home, and in the world. Things are changing in Hà's world, as the Vietnam War comes closer and closer to her home in Saigon. Her friends and neighbors are leaving, her oldest brother is speaking out against the North, and the likelihood of being reunited with her father — who has been missing in action for nine years — is growing dimmer. When Saigon falls in 1975, Hà and her family are forced to flee on a navy ship and, after spending months in refugee camps, end up moving to Alabama. There, Hà struggles to deal with everything from learning the language and customs to handling the bullies who make fun of her at school. Will she ever feel at home in this strange new land? And will she ever see her father again?

Spy School by Stuart Gibbs



Spy School by Stuart Gibbs is a great action adventure chapter novel that I loved. Meet Ben Ripley a nerdy, middle school student who has dreamed of becoming a super-cool, super spy for the CIA since he was in elementary school. Ben is a math whizz who has checked out the CIA website hundreds of times but he's shocked when a spy shows up at his house to enroll him in SPY School. It claims to be a science academy but the school is actually a front for a junior C.I.A. academy. Ben wonders, " Could the C.I.A. really want me?" Actually, the answer is no. It's all been a setup to flush out a mole, but that doesn't stop Ben from trying his best to become an undercover agent. The kind of agent who always gets the girl, solves the mysteries and looks totally cool pulling it off. Can Ben Ripley really become the super spy he has always dreamed of being? Maybe...if he can survive all the attempts being made on his life.

Ungifted by Gordon Korman



The word gifted has never been applied to a kid like Donovan Curtis. It's usually more like Don't try this at home. So when the troublemaker pulls a major prank at his middle school, he thinks he's finally gone too far. But thanks to a mix-up by one of the administrators, instead of getting in trouble, Donovan is sent to the Academy of Scholastic Distinction (ASD), a special program for gifted and talented students. It wasn't exactly what Donovan had intended, but there couldn't be a more perfect hideout for someone like him. That is, if he can manage to fool people whose IQs are above genius level. And that becomes harder and harder as the students and teachers of ASD grow to realize that Donovan may not be good at math or science (or just about anything). But after an ongoing experiment with a live human (sister), an unforgettably dramatic middle-school dance, and the most astonishing come-from-behind robot victory ever, Donovan shows that his gifts might be exactly what the ASD students never knew they needed.