

1st and 2nd Grade Battle of the Books 2026

Book Title	Author	Summary
Bloom	Doreen Cronin	When the glass kingdom begins cracking, the king and queen fail in their quest to get help from the fairy Bloom, who can work great magic but was banished because of her muddy boots and messiness, so they send Genevieve, an ordinary girl who will do what it takes to save the day.
Homegrown	DeAnn Wiley	A young Black girl, with the help of her Mama and Granny, learns that home isn't just a place but rather a reflection of people who support and love one another.
Knight Owl and Early Bird	Christopher Denise	Owl becomes unlikely friends with Early Bird and together they save the kingdom, in this companion to the New York Times bestselling and Caldecott Honor Award-winning runaway hit Knight Owl
Pug's sleepover (Branches: Diary Of A Pug, Book 6)	Kyla May	Bub the pug and his human Bella plan a pirate-themed sleepover with their friends and discover that even as the best-laid plans go awry they can still have fun.
Sydney & Taylor Explore the Whole Wide World	Jacqueline Davies	Sydney is a skunk and Taylor is a hedgehog, but no matter how odd the pairing may seem, their friendship comes naturally. They live happily in their cozy burrow . . . until the day Taylor gets his Big Idea to go see the Whole Wide World. From mountains taller than a hundred hedgehogs, valleys wider than a thousand skunks, to the dangers that lie in the human world, Sydney and Taylor wanted to see it all. With a map and a dream, they bravely set off, soon discovering that the world is much bigger than they realized.
Thunder and Cluck: Friends Do Not Eat Friends	Jill Esbaum	Thunder is big. Cluck is small. Thunder likes to ROAR! Cluck likes to say "hello!" Can Thunder and Cluck be friends?
The World's Best Class Plant	Liz Scanlon	A class that is terribly disappointed in their lack of a class pet discovers that having a class plant is the best thing ever.
The Year of Billy Miller	Kevin Henkes	When Billy Miller has a mishap at the statue of the Jolly Green Giant at the end of summer vacation, he ends up with a big lump on his head. What a way to start second grade! As the year goes by, though, Billy figures out how to navigate elementary school, how to appreciate his little sister, and how to be a more grown up and responsible member of the family and a help to his busy working mom and stay-at-home dad.