

3rd and 4th Grade Battle of the Books 2026

Book Title	Author	Summary
I Survived the Dust Bowl, 1935 (I Survived, Book 25)	Lauren Tarshis	When a drought turns the farmland of the Texas Panhandle into a dry wasteland, eleven-year-old Ray's world begins to crumble. Fierce dust storms blacken the sky and destroy everything in their path. Ray and his best friend, Dolly, do their chores and go to school. But there's nothing they can do to save their struggling town or the thousands of people who are sick from the filthy air. Then Ray learns a family secret. He sets out to help his parents . . . and ends caught in the most vicious dust storm of them all
Max, a Little Axolotl : an Original Graphic Novel (Max, a Little Axolotl, Book 1)	Joey Spiotto	It's Max's first day at Coral Elementary school. The school is filled with marine animals, like dolphins, crabs, and octopus. But none of the other students have ever seen an axolotl before... and they have SO MANY QUESTIONS. Where did Max live before? Is it true he can regrow any of his limbs? What happened to his old friends? This is too much attention for Max! Hiccup! Uh-oh... Max gets the hiccups when he's nervous. Can this little axolotl adjust to his new underwater school or will the pressure just be too much?"
Max & the Midknights	Lincoln Peirce	Max and a group of friends dubbed the Midknights go on a quest to rescue the Kingdom of Byjovia from the mean King Gastley!
Mixed-Up	Kami Garcia	A middle grade graphic novel about the struggles of a game-loving girl who gets diagnosed with dyslexia and her loving support network that help her along in the journey.
Phoebe and her Unicorn in the Magic Storm (Phoebe And Her Unicorn, Book 6) EPIC!	Dana Simpson	Phoebe and Marigold decide to investigate a powerful storm that is wreaking havoc on the electricity in their town. The adults think it's just winter weather, but Phoebe and Marigold soon discover all is now what it seems to be, and that the storm may have a magical cause. To solve the case, they team up with Max, who is desperate for the electricity to return so he can play video games, and frenemy Dakota, who is aided by her goblin minions. Together, they must get to the bottom of the mystery and save the town from the magic storm.
Player vs. Player (Game Quest, Book 1)	Ash J. Wu	Kat, Tia, and Alex are entering a video game tournament! They thought they were going to crush it, except they can't seem to work together. Then the friends get zapped into the game. With zombies to outrun and defenses to build, there isn't much time to argue. They'll have to work as a team to figure out how to get back to the real world, or it's game over for good.
The Terrible Trio. 1, The (Not so) Superheroes (Terrible Trio, Book 1)	Swapna Haddow	In a world where all animals have superpowers, Zeb the zebra, Margarine the penguin and Barry the lemur have the WORST powers of all. Working at a cafe and watching everybody else save the world day in and day out, Zeb, Margarine, and Barry wonder if they will ever get to be superheroes for a day themselves.
Troubling Tonsils! (Jasper Rabbit Creepy Tales)	Aaron Reynolds	Jasper Rabbit tells the eerie tale of Charlie Marmot, whose decision to keep his tonsils after surgery leads to creepy, mysterious events.