

## 5th and 6th Grade Battle of the Books 2026

Book Title	Author	Summary
Brown Girl Dreaming	Woodson, Jacqueline	The author shares her childhood memories and reveals the first sparks that ignited her writing career in free-verse poems about growing up in the North and South.
The First Rule of Punk	Perez, Celia C.	Twelve-year-old Maria Luisa O'Neill-Morales (who really prefers to be called Malu) reluctantly moves with her Mexican-American mother to Chicago and starts seventh grade with a bang--violating the dress code with her punk rock aesthetic and spurning the middle school's most popular girl in favor of starting a band with a group of like-minded weirdos.
Ghost (Track, Book 1)	Reynolds, Jason	Ghost, a naturally talented runner and troublemaker, is recruited for an elite middle school track team. He must stay on track, literally and figuratively, to reach his full potential.
Max in the House of Spies	Gidwitz, Adam	Sent away to London, Max Bretzfeld discovers he's been joined by two unexpected traveling companions--a dybbuk named Stein and a kobold named Berg--one on each shoulder. Max knows Berlin is becoming more and more dangerous for Jewish families, but he is determined to find a way back home, and back to his parents. He just didn't expect to return as a British spy.
One Crazy Summer (graphic novel)	Williams-Garcia, Rita	In the summer of 1968, after traveling from Brooklyn to Oakland, California, to spend a month with the mother they barely know, eleven-year-old Delphine and her two younger sisters arrive to a cold welcome as they discover that their mother, a dedicated poet and printer, is resentful of the intrusion of their visit and wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp.
One for the Murphys	Hunt, Lynda Mullaly	Carley struggles with being open to love after she suffers a betrayal that forces her to move in with a foster family.
Resist	Gratz, Alan	When French-Algerian Samira's mother is arrested by the Nazis, Samira must go on a journey through Nazi-occupied France to save her before it is too late...on the same day as D-Day
The Perfect Score	Buyea, Rob	Told from different viewpoints, five sixth-graders, facing various challenges and under pressure to do well on statewide assessment tests, agree to a plan for acing the tests.
Upside Down in the Middle of Nowhere	Lamana, Julie T.	At the end of August 2005, ten-year-old Armani is looking forward to her birthday party in the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans, where she and her extended family live, but Hurricane Katrina is on the way, bringing destruction and tragedy in its wake.
Wings of fire. The graphic novel. Book one, The dragonet prophecy (Wings Of Fire, Book 1)	Sutherland, Tui	Clay has grown up under the mountain, chosen along with four other dragonets to fulfill a mysterious prophecy and end the war between the dragon tribes of Pyrrhia. He's not so sure about the prophecy part, but Clay can't imagine not living with the other dragonets, they're his best friends. So when one of the dragonets is threatened, all five spring into action. Together, they will choose freedom over fate, leave the mountain, and fulfill their destiny--on their own terms.