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[Home](#) > LIBRARIES GEAR UP FOR 21ST ANNUAL BATTLE OF THE BOOKS ON AUGUST 3 Free, Family Friendly Reading Trivia Competition

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Libraries Gear Up for 21st Annual Battle of the Books on August 3 *Free, Family Friendly Reading Trivia Competition*

The 21st annual *Battle of the Books*, an exciting reading trivia event featuring teen participants who represent 14 Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries, is right around the corner on Saturday, August 3 at SUNY Erie Community College – South Campus Gymnasium, 4041 Southwestern Blvd. in Orchard Park! The public is encouraged to attend and support their favorite library team(s) during the fast-paced, nail-biting final round competition, which begins at approximately 11:30 a.m. This family-oriented event is free and open to the public and this year showcases more than 135 teens and pre-teens representing 21 teams from the following libraries:

Amherst Public Libraries

Boston Free Library

Central Library

Clarence Public Library

Crane Branch Library

Elma Public Library

Grand Island Memorial Library

Hamburg Public Library
Kenmore Branch Library
Lackawanna Public Library
Lancaster Public Library
Newstead Public Library
Orchard Park Public Library
West Seneca Public Library

Team members read five preselected books and then spend months practicing challenging trivia questions pertaining to each book before the big Battle showdown.

This year's book titles are *Space Case (Moon Base Alpha #1)* by Stuart Gibbs; *Furthermore* by Tahereh Mafi; *The First Rule of Punk* by Celia C. Pérez; *Pizza, Love, and Other Stuff That Made Me Famous* by Kathryn Williams and kids' choice winner *The Book Jumper* by Mechthild Gläser.

In 2018, Clarence Public Library took home the esteemed Battle trophy and each team member was awarded a gold medal. Silver medals went to the runner-up team from the Grand Island Memorial Library.

Over the years, more than 4,600 youth have participated in *Battle of the Books*, reading 111 books and answering over 3,000 trivia questions! The first Battle of the Books, held in 1999, had six teams.

Battle of the Books is part of "A Universe of Stories" Summer Reading initiative taking place at all 37 Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries and the *Library on Wheels* bookmobile. Summer Reading offers hundreds of free, fun activities and programs to encourage school-aged children to read during the summer months in an effort to advance their academic performance.

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For more information, call 716-858-8900 or visit www.BuffaloLib.org.

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