



# BATTLE OF THE BOOKS

## Sample Questions

The following are some examples of questions asked in written and oral battles. Not all questions will fall into these precise categories.

1. “Name of important character or significant nickname of a minor character”  
Turtle went into the Westing House on a dare and found Sam Westing dead. The next morning she was surprised to see a newspaper article reporting the death because she had only told one person and he didn’t believe her. Give the first and last name of the only person Turtle told about Sam Westing.
2. “In what book” questions  
In what book was a 10-ton statue thrown into space, never to return to earth again?
3. “Important setting or location”  
In what country did the story of SNOW TREASURE take place?
4. “Short answer – significant event or object”  
Who or what are immies, carnelians, aggies and miggles?
5. “Comparison with another book(s) on the list”  
In SNOW TREASURE, gold was transported for miles by children on sleds before being transferred to a boat headed for America. Name the other Battle book in which gold was transported by land and by boat to reach its destination.
6. “Give one out of two or more possibilities”  
In THE SECRET OF PLATFORM 13, the number nine was significant to the gump for two reasons. Give one reason.
7. “Quotation directly from the book”  
The first time Jennifer Murdley answered Brandon’s toy telephone, the voice on the other end said only four words. What were they?
8. “Definition of unique terms or important words”  
September and Ivan called this dreaded autumn windstorm that blows in from the north a what?
9. “Why” questions  
Charlie Bucket thought it was dreadful that Mike Teavee had been overstretched on the gum-stretching machine, but Willy Wonka said he was very lucky. Why?

## ANSWERS

1. Doug Hoo	Raskin	p 21
2. THE SECRET OF PLATFORM 13	Ibbotson	p 107
3. Norway	McSwigan	forward
4. marbles	Hahn	p 27, 71
5. TREASURE ISLAND	Stevenson	p 296
6. It opens every nine years; it opens for exactly nine days	Ibbotson	p 4
7. "I want the toad"	Coville	p 80
8. williwaw	Bodett	p 5
9. Every basketball team in the country would be trying to get him	Dahl	p 121

### Helpful Hints

- Listen carefully to the question. Is it asking for the title of the book or the name of a character? Did the question ask for both a first and last name?
- There are 3 ways to answer a question about a Battle character.
  - If the question asks for the first and last name, both have to be correct.
  - If the question asks "Name the Battle character," you need to give a name such as "Mr. Berger." You may give both the first and last names, but both names need to be correct. Saying "the neighbor" rather than a name would not be correct.
  - If the question asks "What Battle character" any identifying name or title would be acceptable.
- When giving a title, use the complete title as listed on our Battle Booklist, such as "Alcatraz Versus the Evil Librarians." Just saying "Alcatraz" is not acceptable.
- We will not ask for more information if your answer is incomplete. However, be careful to not give so much information that part of your answer is wrong.
- Multiple Choice and True/False questions will be used during Written Battles and as tie-breakers for Oral Battles. Many questions can be rewritten in these formats. Here are two examples:

3. TRUE OR FALSE: The story of SNOW TREASURE took place in Sweden.  
(ANSWER: False)

6. MULTIPLE CHOICE: The number nine was significant to the gump for two reasons. Which of the following is one of those reasons: A) It took nine minutes to travel through the gump; B) nine people at a time could travel through the gump; C) the gump opened once every nine years; D) the gump was open for nine hours  
(ANSWER: C)