20th BATTLE OF THE BOOKS at MERRIWEATHER (2027)



BATTLE OF THE BOOKS at Merriweather Post Pavilion
20TH ANNIVERSARY

HOWARD COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

Howard County Public School System

Presenting Sponsor

HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE
— Meeting students where they dream —

Where and When?

Friday, April 23 (tentative)

Begins at 7 pm
Ends between 10 and 11 pm

Merriweather Post Pavilion

RAIN OR SHINE



Tonight's Goals

- Goals for students
- Coach responsibilities
- Prep tips and sample types of questions
- Review books
- Important dates
- Parent responsibilities

Goals for Students

- Build teamwork skills
- Learn good sportsmanship skills
- Read different genres (example, science fiction, graphic novels, nonfiction, etc.)
- Increase reading comprehension
- Have fun!



Coach Responsibilities

- Build team spirit and encourage good sportsmanship among your team members
- Set up regular meetings with your team
- Encourage and reward students
- Convey information from HCLS to team members and their parents
- Respond to communications from HCLS in a timely manner
- Upload digital poster

Prepare for the Battle

- Decide who will read each book. Make sure at least two team members read each book. The most successful teams have all team members read all the books and assign “experts” for each book.
- Decide how often you will meet to discuss the books.
- Hold mock battles or “Jeopardy” style games based on the books.
- Have students compose practice questions to quiz each other during the meetings. Remember questions on all parts of the books are valid.
- Contact your school’s library media specialist to determine if other teams from your school are participating so you can practice together.

What are the details?

- Every HCPSS school has the opportunity to be represented by at least one team.
- Each team must have 3-5 members AND an adult coach.
- Team members will work together during the Battle.
- Coaches supervise their team during the Battle.
- Academic integrity expected.
- Each question is worth 2 points.
- Bonus questions (2 in total) will be worth 4 points.

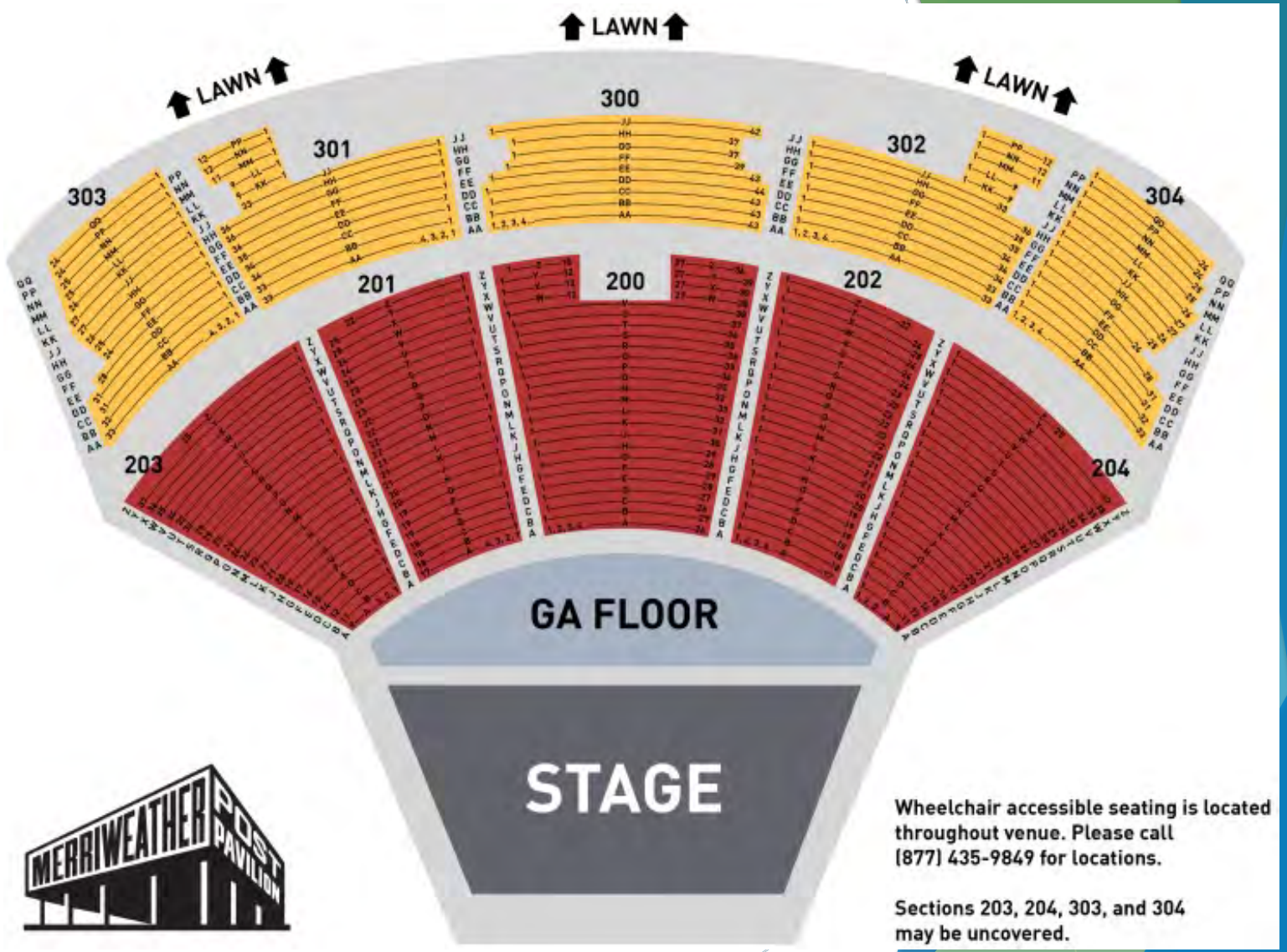
All teams compete at the same time in one location at Merriweather.

Seating for teams, coaches, and staff only.

Lawn seating for spectators.

Answers and scores will be collected.

Awards will be provided.



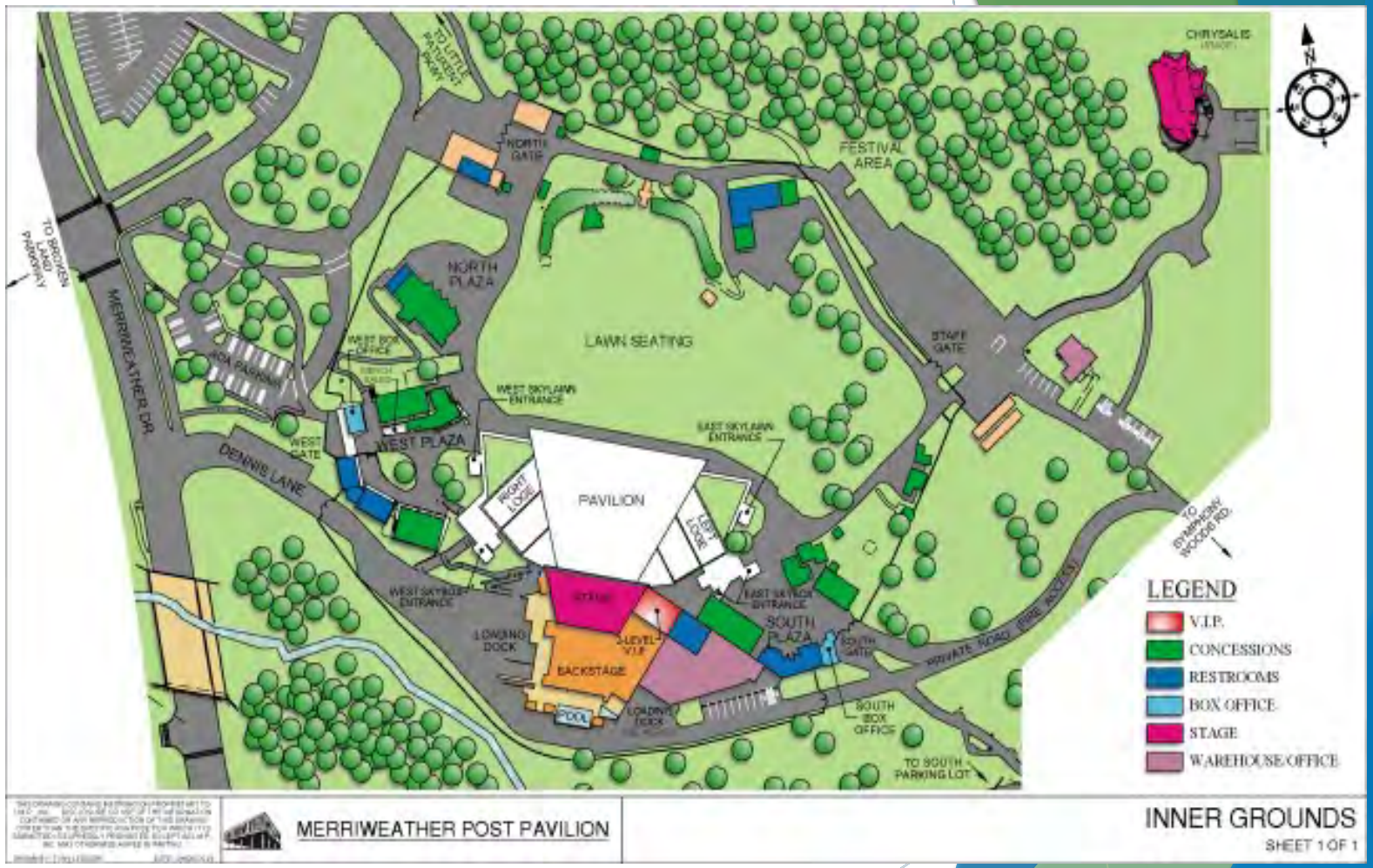
No tickets required.

Free parking on site.

Food and beverage may be brought into the venue.

If accompanied by their coach, students may check in at the venue early. All other students may begin at check-in time (details to follow).

The volume of the crowd and music gets very LOUD during the event.





How does it work?

- A moderator asks questions about the books.
- The Battle includes at least one question about each book.
- Questions read to the entire group.
- Each team has 30 seconds to discuss their thoughts and determine an answer.
- Teams answer using a paper score sheet.
- All questions answered by selecting the correct title and author pairing from the resource sheet.
- Correct answers read aloud after answers are collected.
- Coaches will receive their team score within 14 business days of the event. All scores are final.

Scoring and Awards

- Teams answering 95% or more correctly will get a gold medal (one medal per person) and trophy for the school. If multiple teams from the same school win Gold, only one trophy will be awarded.
- Teams scoring 90-94% will get a silver medal (one medal per person).



Additional award categories include:

- Best Team Name
- Best Team Costume
- Best Team Spirit
- Best Team Poster



Sample Types of Questions

The answer to any type of question is always the title of the book and the author.

A direct quote from one of the characters

Q: “I am nothing but a half-crazed, feather-headed old maid.”
A: *Ghosts I Have Been* by Richard Peck

Q: “What is a library?”
A: *Aunt Chip and the Great Triple Creek Dam Affair* by Patricia Polacco

ALL PARTS of the books distributed to teams MAY be considered for questions.



Sample types of questions 2

The answer to any type of question is always the title of the book and the author.

A statement about something that happens in the book

Q: In which book does a family's special friend arrive inside the coat of a man looking for a job?
A: *How It Was With Dooms* by Xan Hopcraft

Q: In which book do we learn that King Louis XIV had a collection of 413 different beds?
A: *Complete Book of the Night* by Sally Tagholm



Sample types of questions 3

The answer to any type of question is always the title of the book and the author.

A passage directly from the book

Q: "Her hair was yellow and her face was yellow because she had always been ill in one way or another."
A: *Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett

Q: "Out of all of his dreams, his was the one he liked the best, even if it seemed to be the one most out of his reach."
A: *Heat* by Mike Lupica



Sample types of questions 4

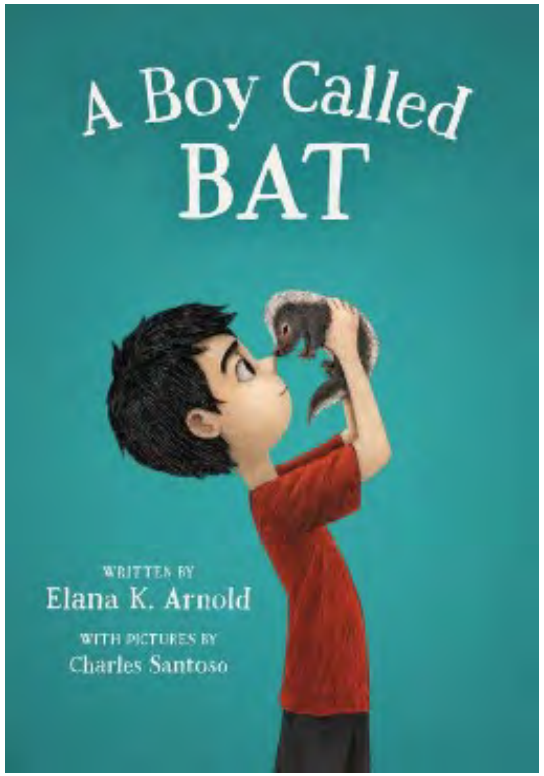
The answer to any type of question is always the title of the book and the author.

Details about an illustration or picture

Q: In which book does a nasty lady wear crescent moon earrings?
A: *Frog Prince Continued* by Jon Scieszka

Q: In which book will you find illustrations of water ballet moves? *A: Regarding the Fountain by Kate Kilse*

2027 Titles



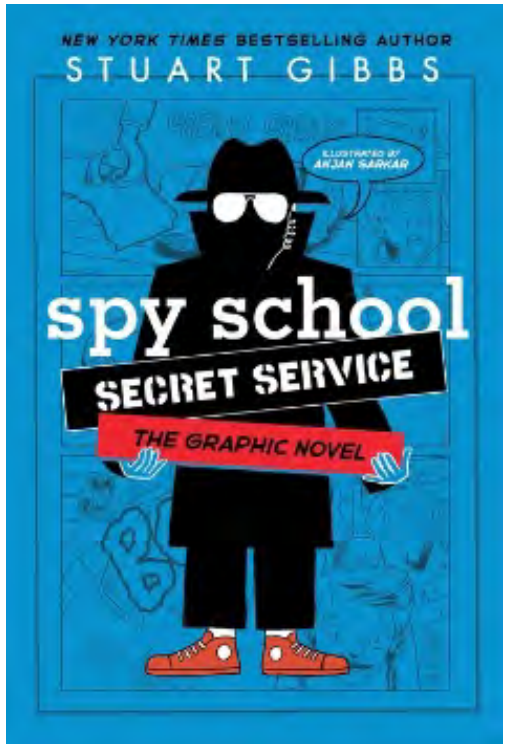
A Boy Called Bat

By Elana Arnold



Connect the Stars

By Marisa De Los Santos



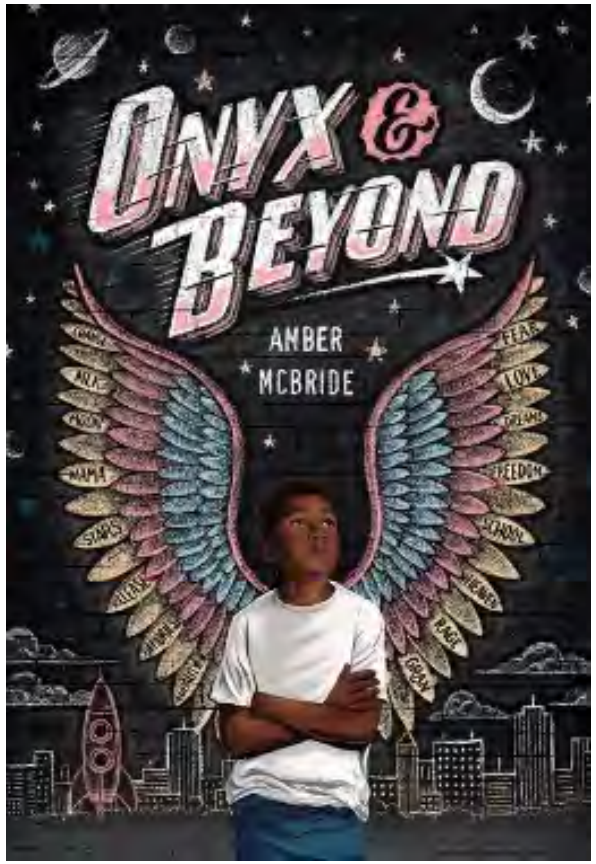
Spy School: Secret Service, the graphic novel

By Stuart Gibbs



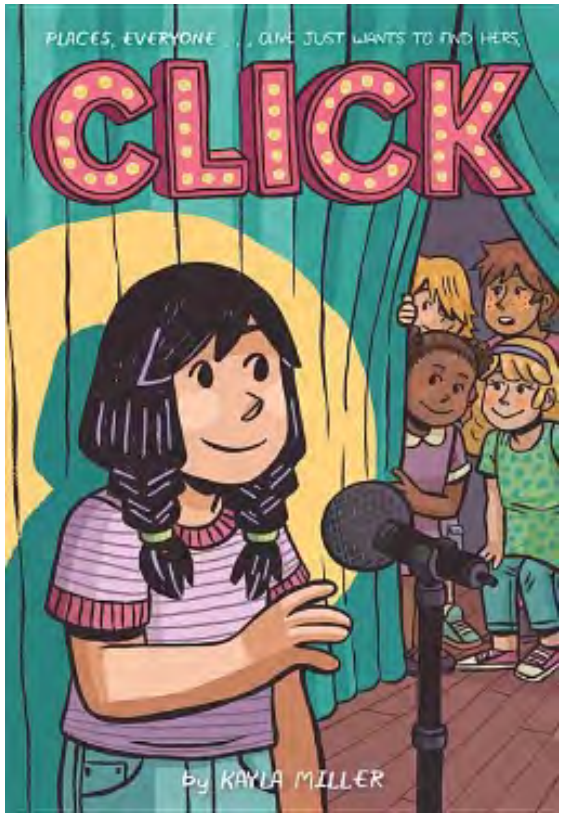
We Dream of Space

By Erin Entrada Kelly



Onyx & Beyond

By Amber McBride



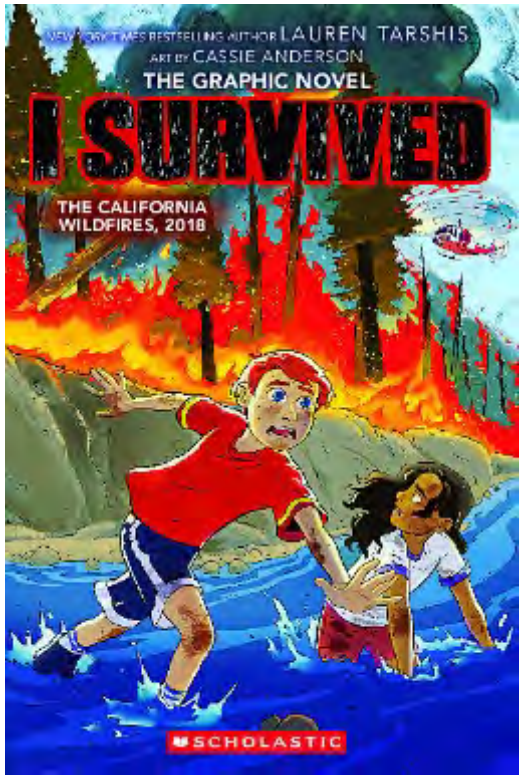
Click

By Kayla Miller



The Witch Boy

By Lee Knox Ostertag



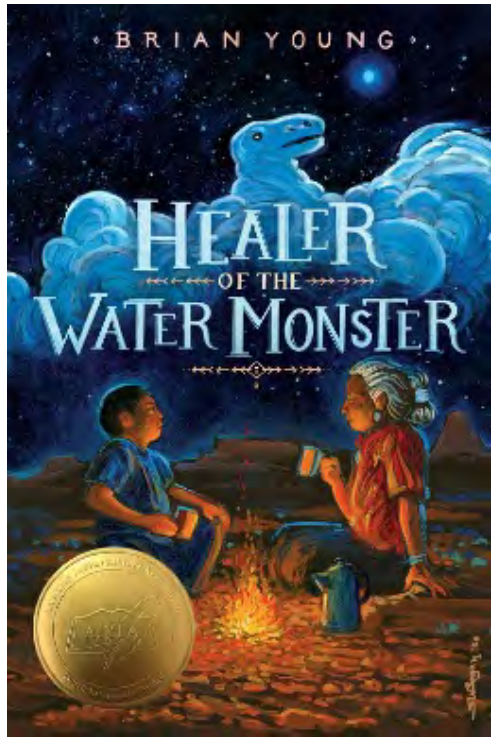
I Survived The California Wildfires

By Lauren Tarshis & Cassie Anderson



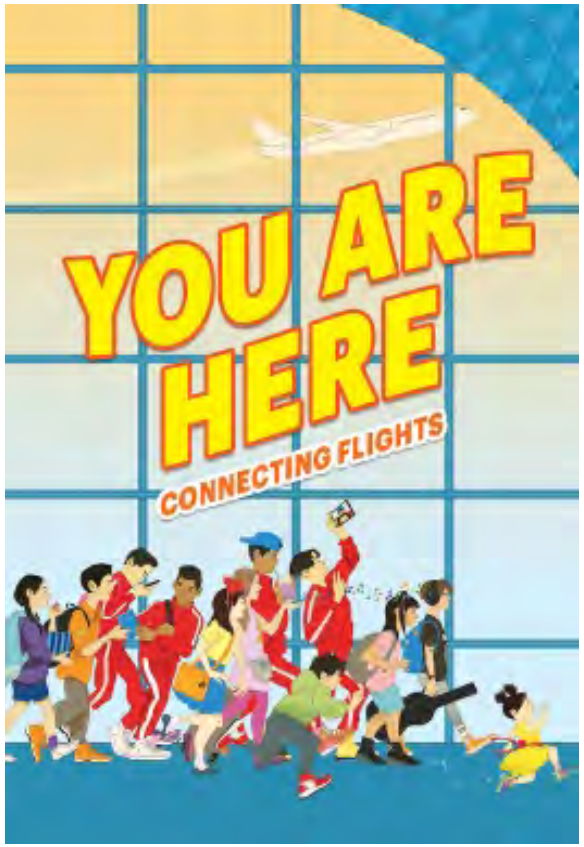
A Strange Thing Happened in Cherry Hall

By Jasmine Warga



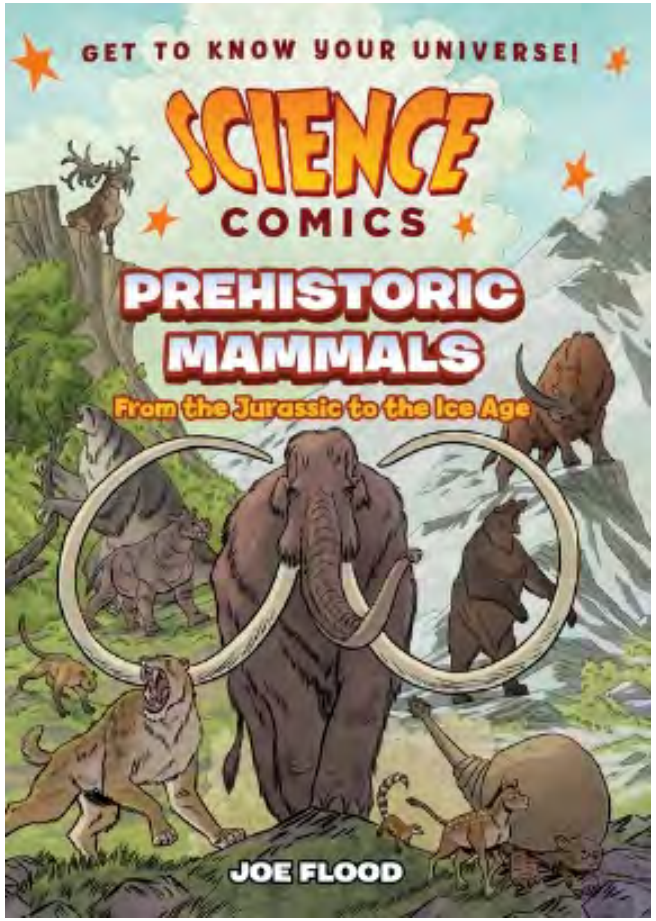
Healer of the Water Monster

By Brian Young



You Are Here: Connecting Flights

By Ellen Oh, Linda Sue Park, Grace Lin, and Minh Lê



Prehistoric Mammals: From the Jurassic to the Ice Age

By Joe Flood

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

*Registration is FULL - waitlisted teams admitted / deferred

Nov 16 (6 - 8 pm) - Mandatory coach meeting at **Miller Branch** with book pick-up
Nov 20 (4 - 5 pm) - Book pick-up at **Miller**
Nov 21 (11 am - 1 pm) - Book pick-up at **Miller**

Feb 1, 2027 - Permission forms due and last day to change any team info

BOB open house - workshop sessions for teams to meet up at HCLS Branches
February 6 - March 27

March 31, 2027 - Mandatory logistics meeting via Zoom
April 2, 2027 - Deadline to upload team digital poster
April 10, 2027 - Live! BOB Author event - stay tuned for details (tentative date)
April 23, 2027 - Battle of the Books (tentative date)

2027 BOB Open House Workshops

In this optional workshops, teams can work on costumes, posters, and practice questions with other teams. Sign-up and more details to come.

Saturday, Feb 6 at **Central Branch**

11 am – 1 pm and 2 – 4 pm

Saturday, Feb 13 at **East Columbia Branch**

11 am – 1 pm and 2 – 4 pm

Saturday, Feb 20 at **Elkridge Branch**

11 am – 1 pm and 2 – 4 pm

Saturday, March 6 at **Glenwood Branch**

11 am – 1 pm and 2 – 4 pm

Saturday, March 13 at **Miller Branch**

11 am – 1 pm and 2 – 4 pm

Saturday, March 27 at **Savage Branch**

11 am – 1 pm and 2 – 4 pm

Parent Responsibilities

- Respond to communications from coaches in a timely manner
- Check FAQs at hclibrary.org/bob
- More details to come on arrival times and expectations, etc.
- Ensure student arrives to check in at Merriweather on time (more info to follow)

I just wanted to say THANK YOU for a special night. I know the monsoon we endured was not what anyone hoped for - but despite the weather and the technical difficulties with the answering remotes, our team had an amazing time.

The fact that we are getting to the end of this elementary school journey is starting to sink in - and celebrating these wonderful kids with a massive dance party in the rain was just so much fun.

Thank you for the work and pivoting that went into making Friday night's event a go. I'm sure canceling was an option on the table - but I really thank you and your team for whatever it took to make adjustment so we could all still be together and celebrate.

- 2023 BOB coach



Sponsors

Thanks to our generous sponsors who make Battle of the Books possible:

Presenting Sponsor

Howard Community College

Platinum Sponsors

Friends & Foundation of HCLS
Merriweather Arts and Culture Center
Howard County Public School System



Info and Registration at hclibrary.org/bob

Questions? Email bob@hclibrary.org