



Name That Book: A Brief History

Name that Book (NTB) is a Kindergarten – High School year-long event which celebrates and champions literature for young people. The program was started over fifty years ago by Maxine Jackson, a Librarian at River Oaks Elementary. As it grew, HISD Library Services took it over and the program has since been adopted by the rest of Houston’s surrounding school districts and independent schools.

The HISD Name That Book competition is open to all HISD schools or HISD affiliated charter schools. The program begins each May when the following year’s book lists are revealed. The book lists are a combination of classic and new award-winning books. The lists are carefully curated to reflect Houston ISD’s dynamic and diverse student population.

In the fall, Library Services trains sponsors on the rules and guidelines of the program.

The schools practice for the culminating event in the Spring: the Houston ISD Name that Book competition, our Superbowl of Books! During the 2021-2022 school year, over 140 schools competed over a three-week period.

Schools may send one team to compete in each level in which they qualify. Three to six students may make up a team with one official alternate who sits in the audience. One student is designated to serve as captain. Each contest will consist of five (5) rounds, with each round consisting of five (5) questions. A quotation is read, and each team will have 60 seconds to identify the book. The top team from each preliminary contest will advance to the Finals competition. The Finals are recorded and broadcast via Houston ISD television.

Name That Book Reading List

The official reading list will be published on the Library Services website and distributed to sponsors by the Department of Library Services each spring.

The list is based on state and national notable book lists as well as through recommendations from contest sponsors from the prior year.

How to get NTB Titles

Each school is responsible for purchasing the current year's titles on the NTB list. Books can be purchased with campus funds or PTO funds. You can also use the public library as a resource. They often have the ebook and audio book versions available via Libby App.

Sponsors

A sponsor can be a Librarian, Library Media Specialist, Teacher or Parent. It is recommended to have at least two sponsors to help facilitate team practices.

The sponsor(s) is responsible for arranging student transportation to and from the district competition site.

Levels of Competition

Lower Elementary (K-2)

Upper Elementary (3-6)

Middle School (6-8)

High School (9-12)

How to form a team

Teams are formed in the fall to compete in the spring. The following are two ideas on how to find students to become a team:

1. Create a lunch time or after school book club in which students read and discuss the NTB titles. At the end of first semester, determine the 5-6 best students to make up the team. Those students are the ones who will compete in the district competition.
2. Give a test on the NTB titles and the highest scoring students make up the team.

It is up to the sponsor(s) to determine the frequency of meetings.

It is suggested that your practice session mirror the actual contest.

Sign up to compete

[Sign up your teams!](#)

Procedures

Each contest will consist of five (5) rounds, with each round consisting of five (5) questions. There is a break after the third round so the contest is divided into two sessions with a total of 25 questions in the contest. Answers will be submitted digitally via PearDeck with a device even though the competition is held in-person.

The alternate may be substituted during the break between sessions, or in the case of illness or other emergency at the discretion of the sponsor.

Quotations will be read by an announcer and will be read one time only.

Each quotation will be addressed to all teams at the same time.

After the quotation is read, each team will have 60 seconds to discuss and submit the answer on their device.

Questions are quotes. Direct quotations from the books will be identified with the title of the book from which they came.

No authors' names will be required.

Questions and correct answers will be displayed on a screen for the audience. Words from a title may be present in the quotation.

Teams will not be penalized for not writing the articles a, an or the when they precede the title.

A team may protest the answer to a question. Teams are limited to two (2) protests per session. Any protest must be made at the end of each question, after each team has displayed an answer. To register a protest, a team member must raise the protest flag; the protesting team member only will meet with the sponsor and discuss the protest. The team member will approach the judges to present their case. Three minutes are allowed to resolve the protest.

A team may protest their own answer only, not the answer of another team.

In the case of a tie at the end of Round 5, a “sudden death” round of additional questions will be asked until one of the tied teams misses a question. Fewer than, but no more than, ten (10) additional questions may be asked during the sudden death tie breaker.

The top team from each preliminary contest will advance to the Finals competition. With the exception of the K-2 competition, where the final team is the winner.

Judges

Judges will arbitrate questions about answers, ties and protests.

The judges may penalize teams for inappropriate behavior such as outbursts, disrespectful or unsportsmanlike conduct.

All judges' decisions are final.

Awards

A trophy will be awarded to the first, second and third place winners in the Finals competition.

Have questions?

Please contact Melissa Buron or Robin Cashman

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