

# Strategies for Coaching a Championship Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl Team

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# Preliminary Steps

- Order books
- Everyone gets a reading list- for EVERYONE
- Display books in the Media Center
- Share books in book talks
- Solicit readers
- Ask students to read 3 to 4 books
- Schedule club meetings
- Practice with the rules in mind!

# How to recruit

- Advertise
- Talk to teachers, ask for suggestions
- Publicize in school newsletter, school announcements and website
- Share your team's accomplishments
- Recognize team members in your school's honors day program
- Purchase team t-shirts—wear them on spirit day
- Make the members feel elite

# How to Coach

- Teach them how to write questions
- Content questions should be literal and based on story elements
- Focus on plot, character, conflict, theme and setting

[www.flocabulary.com/fivethings](http://www.flocabulary.com/fivethings)



# Create jot lists

- Students “jot” important story elements down as they read
- Turn jotted items into questions
- Write the same question in at least two different ways
- Ask students WHY? Why is that important to remember?

# How many questions do you need?

Typical bowl has 60 questions for 20 books equals 3 questions per book.

- 3 at local
- 3 at regional
- 3 at division
- 2 at state

12 to 15 questions per book gives you a better chance of having productive book discussions and challenging practices.

GO FOR QUALITY, NOT QUANTITY

# Controversial books and topics

- HRRB promotes reading and quality literature
- GCBA and GA Peach Teen selection committees are informed professionals
- What is controversial to some are not for others.



# If a student refuses to read a book on the list

- Students are not required to read all the books on the list to vote -- only 3 or 4
- There are usually 16-20 books to read
- Competitions will not include controversial material
- Do not make it a battle
- Competition questions will not cause students to use inappropriate language or terms
- Questions do not ask for subjective interpretations
- Treat it the same as you would if a student said a book was too hard to read



# Choose a balanced team

- Who has read the most books
- Who has read the most difficult books
- Who read the books no one else will read

# Practice!

- Students may hold buzzers
- Students have 10 seconds to buzz in
- Students must wait to be recognized
- Answer must be given on 10 seconds-- no other noises or conferring
- And other rules

TEACH THEM HOW TO CHALLENGE!

# Typical Meeting

- Post rules
- Book talk by team members
- Team members make jot list
- Create questions from jot lists and books talks
- Have 5-10 minute bowl by the rules at the end of every session



Good Luck!

Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl website:

<http://www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/hrrb/>