

The Final of literature Warfare : B.O.B Battle in Beijing

It has been five consecutive years that teenage students from Beijing's international schools gather several times in a year to fight. Violent fight? No. These students fight in a game called B.O.B, Battle Of the Books. It isn't just an event organized in Beijing. Actually, this concept is seventy years old and comes from the United States of America. A librarian from a participating school introduced the game to Hong-Kong, and from there, to Beijing.

On the 15th of May was the final BOB battle 2011-2012, the one that would be decisive as to who gets the Trophy Award. At the LFIP, hosting the event, there were 4 different schools represented : Dulwich College, Beijing City International School , the British Harrow School and The Lycée Français International de Pékin. Harrow School having made two teams for one school, the final was disputed between five teams. All in all, there were 20 books the candidates

The concerned student had 30 seconds to consult with his team, and to give aloud the full name of the author and the name of the book in question. If the answer was correct, the team scored three points and the quiz master moved on to the next person on the same team. However, if the answer was incorrect, all the other teams had a chance at scoring two points by writing the correct answer on a piece of paper, which had to be done within 20 seconds. A round finished when every member of each team had answered to a question.



had to read, including “Heart of a Samurai”, “Cloud tea monkeys”, “Okay for now”, etc...

Each participating school had a team of 6 members. Those members were supposed to read as many books as possible

among all of the books that were given at the beginning of the year. At each meeting, up to 4 meetings a year, all the BOB members gathered in one of the participating schools. The game unfolded the following way: there were usually 4 rounds in a battle. Each round, every member of each team was asked a question e.g.(“In which book does...”) referring to one of the books read.

Typically, the team who scored the most points won.

For the first three years, BCIS (Beijing City International School) had won the B.O.B. battle. The fourth time, which was last year, the LFIP (French International School of Peking) won. This victory was very impressive because the French school was the only participant that did not speak English as their main language in school. Before the Final started, each school had been asked how they were feeling towards this Final of the Books :

- The first team of Harrow, HARROW #1 was both nervous and confident at the same time. All of their members were motivated to participate because they loved to read books, to meet people, e.g. other school's students and most of all to demonstrate their knowledge. They had high hopes about their victory.



•HARROW #2 was quite excited about winning the trophy as well. However, to some of the members, it seemed as if being in the finals alone was significant enough.

•BCIS team's goal was also to hold the trophy. They loved reading good books, mostly about young children and wanted their skills to be known. They had confidence since they had already won three times. "We've already won many times before and we know we could do it again!"

•DULWICH was not as confident as their comrades, as they really did not think they had a chance at winning since the best member of their team was absent during the final. "It might take a miracle for us to win..."

•As for the LFIP's team, three absents in their group did not seem to cause much strife, there was an atmosphere of calm and relaxation, as they were preparing their minds for the future questions. The team members were attracted to BOB mostly

As the 1st round started, every team became quiet and concentrated on the quiz master's words; the first team to be asked a question was HARROW #2, followed by Dulwich, HARROW #1, LFIP, and BCIS. At the end of the first round, LFIP was leading, as well as the second round. After the end of this second round, everybody was invited to take a short break and a snack. There were chocolate bread, cookie sticks, all kinds of fruit juices, coffee and tea for the teachers, muffins, brownies and lots and lots of fresh fruits. This intermission loosened the tension among the teams as they filled their stomachs and washed it down with drinks. As the break ended, the third round started and the first school to be asked questions was BCIS, switching the turns. In the 3rd and 4th rounds, HARROW #1 had caught up with LFIP and made its way to the podium.

because of the wide range of books and were participating to the final as if it were a "friendly". Invited specially for the final, the mother of two team members of the LFIP's school team said that she was just excited about her children being in a competition involving many international schools, and was very pleased with the entire concept of this educational activity, she pointed out that she encouraged her children to read before going to sleep. Since they took this BOB battle as a fun game, it was a marvelous opportunity for them to read books without being reluctant.



The scores of this final battle of the books were led by HARROW #1 with 101 points, LFIP with 92 points, HARROW #2 with 82 points, BCIS with 78 points and Dulwich with 68 points. The headmaster of the LFIP came in person to congratulate the schools, giving a token of participation to every student, and the trophy to the winning school: The Harrow British School.

The schools parted with the hope of seeing each other again, having enjoyed the competition and promising each other to participate in another BOB battle next year.

