



That's been no walk-over! - BATTLE OF THE BOOKS 27/02/2014

18 schools, 10 books, 3 judges and a lot of excited students who were keen on hitting the buzzer. This is what our day in Nuremberg looked like.

After we had left Schweinfurt at 10 o'clock by train, our tension mounted. We couldn't wait to find out what this competition would be like. Even all the important information about the procedure by Mr Kunkel and some students who have participated in this competition before couldn't restrain our nervousness. That's why a lot of us used the time for studying the books once again and why we spent time on searching for details somewhere in the back of our minds while we were still on the train or well... maybe some others had to finish the book first... three hours before the competition. Better later than never, right?

As we arrived in Nuremberg we appeased our hunger and bought some food. Afterwards we set out for the building where the battle should take place. The forcing house was 5 minutes away from the train station. Dear readers, you can guess now, how long we needed to find it. We wasted about 20 minutes walking up and down the street until we realized that we passed by the right building.

Never mind!

Inside of the building we put on our t-shirts in royal blue (!) and gave the toilet one last visit before the battle began.

We were one of the three schools who started. After the first round we saw how the wind was blowing and couldn't wait for the second round to come. It was very close and honestly, the most of us didn't think we would make it to the semi-finale. However we did! At the end of the decisive match it was a 5:5-draw, so there was another last tie-break question needed. Somehow we succeeded and we were really happy about it. To finish third was truly a win for us. Besides we were the best FOS/BOS in Bavaria as the first and second winners were from grammar schools.

We are glad that we didn't mess it up and that we didn't disappoint Mr Kunkel. In fact he was proud, indeed: "I burst with pride!" Actually, we are relieved he didn't burst in fact...

Anyway, our prize was a cup printed with the American flag and filled with typical American sweets. Funnily enough they had exactly 19 cups which was great because we were altogether 19 students and the only team starring with such an extraordinary number of participants.

Reading books is not such a big deal but answering difficult questions about it requires concentration and fast moves. Even though it was a long day, we enjoyed it and appreciate this experience. For further students to come: take part in and join this competition.

Last but not least: a big "Thank you" to Mr Friedmann for the technical support.

Michaela Kippes, FS13

Books to be read

- 1) Anders, Gigi. Be Pretty, Get Married and Always Drink TaB, 2005.
- 2) Hemingway, Ernest. Nick Adams Stories. 1920s/1930s.
- 3) Lee, Harper. To Kill a Mockingbird. 1960.
- 4) O'Connor, Flannery. Wise Blood. 1952.





- 5) Savage, Sam. Firmin: Adventures of a Metropolitan Lowlife. 2006.
- 6) Twain, Mark. A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court. 1889.
- 7) McCourt, Frank. Teacher Man. 2005.
- 8) T.C. Boyle . The Tortilla Curtain 1995.
- 9) The Help. Kathryn Stockett, 2011.
- 10) Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules. 2008.

Ranking



1. Friedrich-Alexander-Gymnasium, Neustadt a.d. Aisch
2. Gymnasium Fridericianum, Erlangen
3. BOS Schweinfurt
4. BOS Amberg Shakespeare
5. Balthasar-Neumann-Gymnasium, Marktheidenfeld I
Bertolt-Brecht-Schule, Nürnberg
6. Gymnasium Höchststadt a.d. Aisch
7. Luitpold-Gymnasium, München
Gymnasium Casimirianum, Coburg II
Albert-Schweitzer-Gymnasium, Erlangen
8. BOS für Sozialwesen, Nürnberg
9. Gymnasium Casimirianum, Coburg I
Caspar-Vischer-Gymnasium, Kulmbach I
10. BOS Amberg Hemingway
Balthasar-Neumann-Gymnasium, Marktheidenfeld II
11. Caspar-Vischer-Gymnasium, Kulmbach II
12. Hermann-Kesten-Kolleg, Nürnberg
13. BOS Schwabach

