

**NORTHEASTERN EDUCATIONAL INTERMEDIATE UNIT  
READING COMPETITION GUIDELINES  
2016-2017**

**REGISTRATION**

1. Registration information is available on the NEIU website – [www.iu19.org](http://www.iu19.org). Select “News & Events”; select “2017 Reading Competition”. Select either the **Middle School Level** or **High School Level** for the correct Registration Form. **NOTE: Only a team coach can register his/her team.** *Each team must be identified by a unique coach.*
2. The team coach will receive registration confirmation and Competition updates via email.
3. It is the responsibility of the participating team’s coach to ensure that all student team members have signed permission forms to participate in the Reading Competition. Additionally, photo release/medical forms must be completed for each student participant *to be held by the team coach.*
4. It is the responsibility of the participating team’s coach to notify Reading Competition Coordinators immediately if their team needs to withdraw from the competition for any reason.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

The bibliography will be provided by Intermediate Unit 19 and will be available in the fall for the spring competition. Book lists are posted under the “News & Events” tab on the Intermediate Unit’s web site at [www.iu19.org](http://www.iu19.org).

**TEAMS**

1. There are currently two levels of competition – Middle School Level: Grades 6, 7, 8; High School Level: Grades 9 – 12. Teams can include any combination of students from the grades indicated for that level. Note: *If a school encounters a lack of interested sixth grade students needed to field a team, a few fifth grade students may be included. However, a team cannot be composed of mainly fifth grade students.*
2. Participating teams will be required to pay a \$45 fee per team for the Spring 2017 competition. Registration fees are determined on a yearly basis. Schools will be permitted to field as many teams as they wish, provided the host school is able to accommodate them.
3. **Teams may be comprised of between 8 and a maximum of 15 students. A minimum of eight (8) students and a maximum of twelve (12) students may compete in any given round. No team member substitutions will be permitted during a round.**
4. Each team must provide **two** faculty members from the team’s school district to assist during the day/night of the competition. One adult (coach) will supervise the team throughout the evening. Teams must be accompanied by a team coach at all times. The second adult will be assigned to work as **either** a question reader (person who presents questions to teams) or scorekeeper (person

who records points earned by teams during questioning rounds) by the competition chairperson and will be separated from the team for the entire competition. Assignment is at the discretion of the competition chairperson.

### ***COMPETITION***

1. Each team participates in three rounds of questioning. Each team will have the opportunity to respond to seventeen (17) questions. Teams receive one point for each correct answer. Team scores are cumulative. Overall point totals will determine first, second and third place winners.
2. If there is an even number of teams, each team will compete in three rounds of competition. If there is an odd number of teams competing, some teams will compete in two rounds only. Those teams with a "bye" round will have their total score determined by averaging scores from the two completed rounds. The average will be used as the score for the "bye" round. Teams with "byes" are chosen at random.
3. Parents are invited to attend the reading competition as spectators. Spectators may not interfere in the questioning or scoring process. Parents who will be attending should be made aware of the name of the coach for their child's team, as this is how teams are identified throughout the competition.

### ***AWARDS***

First, second and third place teams will be recognized during the Awards Ceremony. All team members and spectators are invited to the Awards Ceremony which will be held immediately following the last round of questioning.

### ***SCORING AND QUIZZING***

1. The question reader will determine which team responds to the first question in each round.
2. A 'practice round' of two questions per team may be held, but is not required. A supplemental question packet will be provided for use at the question reader's discretion.
3. The question reader will read each question twice and will allow teams to confer for up to **twenty seconds**. The question reader will say, "Your answer, please." The **team captain** has the option to answer the question him/herself or designate a specific team member, by name, to answer the question. The team captain will collaborate with the other members of the team before giving the answer. Teams are to confer quietly so as not to give the opposing team an advantage.
4. If a correct answer is given, the question reader will continue questioning.
5. If the first team fails to answer a question correctly, the opposing team will have the opportunity to answer that same question. The question, however, will not be repeated. The team captain or his designee will respond. (No additional time will be permitted for conferring.)

6. After each question, the question reader will verify the answer and announce the number of points earned by each team.
7. Questions may only be used once in any school year. Question security will be the responsibility of the Intermediate Unit office.
8. Team scores are recorded in *two* places simultaneously – on the *NEIU Reading Competition SCORE SHEET* posted in each competition room AND on the official *SCORE SHEET* included in the Scorekeeper packet. Cumulative totals for the three rounds of questioning will determine winners.
9. An illustration of the scoring procedure follows. Note that in this example, Team A was given the first opportunity to answer a question.

TEAM A	QUESTION	TEAM B
<u>  X  </u>	1.	<u>  C  </u>
<u>    </u>	2.	<u>  C  </u>
<u>  C  </u>	3.	<u>    </u>
<u>    </u>	4.	<u>  C  </u>
<u>  C  </u>	5.	<u>    </u>
<u>  X  </u>	6.	<u>  X  </u>
TOTAL: <b>2</b>		TOTAL: <b>3</b>

- ✓ Place a "C" for each correct answer.
- ✓ Place an "X" for each incorrect answer.
- ✓ Each team will be asked 17 questions.

NOTE: Both teams got #6 wrong.

NOTE: The question reader and the scorekeeper *may* keep a separate record of scores as a safeguard against error.

### **TEAM COACH RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. The team coach should arrive at the reading competition with the team. The coach is responsible for supervising participants before the competition begins as well as during the event.
2. When teams are made up of more than twelve members, the team coach will supervise the composition of the team, rotating alternates in and out of each round. All team members should participate in at least two rounds. No more than 12 students may participate during each round, and the composition of the team may not change after a round has begun. Teams must have a minimum of 8 students to compete in any given round.
3. Team coaches are to keep participants in the contest room until the announcement to move to the next round is made. After each team has had the opportunity to answer 17 questions, the question portion of the round is finished; however, students must remain in the contest room until the announcer signals that it is time to move to the next round. Students should remain seated and may visit quietly to ensure that announcements may be heard. Noise in the hallways is unfair to other teams.
4. Coaches travel with the team from contest room to contest room, ensuring that the team follows the competition rules. Coaches assist in maintaining order both in the classrooms and hallways between rounds.

5. At the conclusion of the third round, team coaches assist team members, question readers and scorekeepers in returning the contest room to its original condition.
6. Team coaches remain with the team during the awards ceremony, assisting with crowd and noise control. At the conclusion of the awards ceremony the team coach releases students to a parent or a designated adult, or accompanies the students to the bus.

### **QUESTION READER RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Question readers will pose questions to teams participating in the reading competition. Question readers will remain in the same room for all three rounds of competition.
2. Question readers will be faculty members from participating schools. Question readers will not have teams from their home school in their room *unless unavoidable* due to cancellation or scheduling conflicts.
3. The question reader has complete control over the round assigned to him/her. The question reader will not allow any comments or discussion from the audience. The question reader can decide to penalize a team up to 5 points for interference by spectators from their group.
4. The question reader will be the judge of each answer. Final decisions will be made by the question reader, and all students must abide by his/her decision. Interruptions from the audience will not be tolerated.
5. Students may challenge an answer only during the time period before the next question is asked. A valid reason for the challenge must be voiced. The question reader may substitute another question, if, in his/her judgment, a legitimate challenge has been made. Questions are not to be discarded just because a team has not read the book. Questions may not be challenged if the team does not know the answer or wishes to keep the opposing team from getting the point. **Each team is limited to two challenges per round.** Note that the question reader's decision is final.
6. The answer for book *titles* must be exactly as listed on the question cards (e.g. "Red Fern" will not be accepted for "Where the Red Fern Grows".) Prepositions in the title must be indicated (e.g. in the title "Of Mice and Men" the 'Of' must be include in the answer). *Question readers are asked to use their own judgment regarding answers.* If the answer to the question is something other than the book title, some leeway may be given. If the response means the same thing but is worded differently than what is written on the question card, the answer *may* be accepted. In some cases the question has more than one acceptable answer indicated. (Example: \$75 or money) The question reader may accept either answer. Unless a question specifically asks for a character's full name, the question reader should accept the character's first name, last name or complete name.
7. The question reader will monitor/control student behavior in the classroom where the round is being held as well as in the adjacent hallway. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated.
8. The question reader will return question packets to official competition personnel at the end of the competition as directed.
9. Question readers who are uncertain about competition policies may request clarification from the competition chairperson.

### **SCOREKEEPER RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Scorekeepers will record points, as directed by the question reader, for team responses. Scorekeepers will remain in the same room for all three rounds of competition.
2. Scorekeepers will NOT be allowed to alter the printed score sheets in any manner. Score sheets that have been altered in any way will NOT be accepted.
3. Scorekeepers will be faculty members from participating schools. Scorekeepers will not have teams from their home school in their room *unless unavoidable* due to cancellation or scheduling conflicts.
4. The scorekeeper will return team score sheets, **signed by BOTH team coaches**, to the official competition designee at the end of each round of questioning.
5. Scorekeepers who are uncertain about competition policies may request clarification from the competition chairperson.

### **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. No paper, pencils, books, gum, or drink (except bottled water) will be permitted in close proximity of the teams in the contest room. It is important to remember that student teams are 'guests' of the host school and appropriate behavior is expected.
2. Classroom displays, contents of desks, computers should not be disturbed by any students participating in the reading competition.
3. Students are not permitted to leave the contest room except in emergencies.
4. Students are not permitted to confer with opposing teams or the audience once the contest has begun.
5. Each team selects a team captain who is responsible for either reciting the answer or designating a team member by name to answer a question. The team captain collaborates with other team members before giving an answer.
6. Students may challenge an answer only during the time period before the next question is asked. A valid reason for the challenge must be voiced. The question reader may substitute another question, if, in his/her judgment, a legitimate challenge has been made. Questions are not to be discarded just because a team has not read the book. Questions may not be challenged if the team does not know the answer or wishes to keep the opposing team from getting the point. **Each team is limited to two challenges per round.** Note that the question reader's decision is final.
7. Students not competing in a round, due to 'bye' status, are to report to a designated 'holding area' and will remain under the supervision of the team coach.
8. Before reporting to the Awards Ceremony at the conclusion of the third round, students assist in returning contest room to its original condition.