

Canyons Book Blitz Jr.

# Coach's Guide

Updated July 2025

# Introduction

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What Is Book Blitz Jr.?

Book Blitz Jr. (BBJ) is an optional district and school-sponsored, PTA-supported extended learning opportunity open to any 4th and 5th-grade student at a participating school with an interest in and love of reading. During Book Blitz Jr. team meetings, 4th and 5th-grade students work together in five-person teams to read and study twelve books over the school year. (Third-grade teams are optional, based on school preference.) They then participate in "Jeopardy-style" competitions to demonstrate their knowledge of the books, first at the school level, followed by the winning 4th-5th grade team moving on to the district competition against 4th-5th grade teams from other district elementary schools.

Participating schools may also choose to field third-grade Book Blitz Jr. teams who participate solely at the school level.

Book Blitz Jr. mirrors the Canyons' middle school program, Book Blitz, a long-standing, successful district-wide competition to which Book Blitz Jr. is vertically aligned. The primary purpose of Book Blitz Jr. is to foster students' love of reading by introducing them to a wide variety of books in multiple formats by acclaimed authors.

Their participation will:

- Help increase reading comprehension, and
- Promote academic achievement and teamwork.

Through student collaboration, teams will:

- Devise a plan for reading,
- Read and "master" each book, and
- Plan for each level of competition,

BBJ inherently requires students to utilize the 4 Cs (Collaboration, Connectivity, Creativity, Critical Thinking) as well as 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Skills

## Coaches

### What Is the Role of a Coach?

The role of the Coach is to facilitate team meetings and support students throughout their preparation for the competitions. Coaches will be approved by the school principal and vetted

according to Canyons District policy. It is highly recommended that two adult coaches are required to be present at all team meetings and practices. All team meetings and practices must be held on school property. Third-grade teams will meet separately from Grades 4-5 teams. Coaches are not required to read all twelve books, but instead to become familiar with all the books and experts on a few chosen titles, depending on the number of student participants or team members. Coaches will be responsible for participating in two different types of meetings throughout the competition process.

### **Suggested Reading: Check Team Meeting Structure (August through December)**

Coaches will meet with their assigned team each month for 30 minutes from September through December with the intent of ensuring that their team members are on track with their reading goals and are comprehending the books. Strategies to use can include: breakout discussions; review/completion of graphic organizers, using online quiz tools. These activities will be ongoing throughout the year.

### **Suggested Regular Practice Meetings (December through Mid-April)**

Beginning in mid-December, Coaches will prepare each team for the school-level competitions. Practice games, exercises, and questions will be provided by District Library Services by November 1st. Teams are encouraged to meet more frequently. By meeting more frequently, team members have opportunities to practice demonstrating their knowledge through simulated competitions.

### **Competition Time**

In addition to their participation in these two types of meetings, a Coach is expected to attend both the school-level competition and, if their team is the winning team, then the district competition. BBJ School Facilitators should attend both competitions.

## **Sample Timeline**

### **End of School Year**

The BBJ School Facilitator will be a liaison among the other schools within the district, local public libraries, and District Library Services to promote the use of selected books for summer reading. A brief overview of the competition ("Coming next school year...!") will also be presented to rising third, fourth, and fifth-grade students.

### **Fall/Winter**

In mid-September, the BBJ School Facilitator and Coaches will start to promote the Book Blitz Jr. program by having students sign up, having students and their parents select titles they will read, and starting to form teams. Teams can then start reading the books in preparation for the meetings to begin. Reading Check and Practice Meetings will happen throughout the fall and winter. Students should plan to read at least one book each month to stay on schedule.

## Early Spring

During this time, teams will begin to compete at the school and district levels.

# Conducting Your Team Meetings

## Introducing the Team Contract

Each team member and their parent(s) may be expected to sign a contract agreeing to expectations for behavior, attendance, and participation in BBJ. At the informational meeting, the BBJ School Facilitator should review the BBJ contract with students and parents. At the first team meeting, Coaches should go over the contract with the team to ensure all members fully understand the commitment involved with being a part of BBJ. After all team members and their parent(s) have signed the contract, the signed documents should remain in a binder at the school. Any team member who does not fulfill the agreements of the contract will have to meet with the Coaches and BBJ School Facilitator to determine the appropriate course of action. (See Appendix A.)

## Selecting Titles to be Read

Each team member and their parent(s) may use the selection slips and summary sheets to help them select the titles that the team member will read for the year. With parent permission, a team member can change titles at any time until the end of February. Each team member is encouraged to read at least six titles to help support the team. No team member should be pressured or made to feel that they need to read all the titles or any specific title.

It is beneficial for each team to have at least one team member who has read each of the titles. If a team does not have any member who has read a title, the Coaches should explain to the team members that they may experience a disadvantage at the competitions as a result.

# Reading Check Meetings

## Meeting Times and Responsibilities

As the Coach, you and the other coach will be responsible for facilitating team meetings per the school's BBJ meeting schedule. A BBJ meeting schedule for team meetings should be developed and communicated to team members and their parents/guardians in the fall, using the Remind app or other school-approved forms of communication. Each meeting should be held on school property and last around 30 minutes. Team members should volunteer to be the Expert on 3-4 books from the list, depending on the number of members on the team. Experts assist in the meeting's activities for the books on which they are experts. The meeting schedule should include dates when specific titles will be highlighted.

As stated in the contract, team members should finish reading at least one book every month, thus reading six books between September and early March. To help team members set reading goals

and stay organized, they may want to use the Reading Goal Sheet (see Appendix B) or the Reading Goal Bookmark (see Appendix C).

## Utilizing Comprehension Tools

In preparation for and/or during your meetings, team members may find that filling out a graphic organizer may be helpful when trying to organize and remember different parts of the book. Example graphic organizers are in the Appendices, can be printed or downloaded with parent permission on a team member's tablet and imported to and edited with a note-taking app, such as Notability ([gingerlabs.com](https://www.gingerlabs.com)).

### Plot Diagram

A plot diagram is one kind of graphic organizer that may help your team members when summarizing the important details in a novel. Before collaboratively filling out the diagram, please discuss the terms listed on the diagram to ensure that all team members know what each term means. Collaboratively filling out a plot diagram will help team members have a visual representation of the pertinent facts of the novel. (See Appendix D for a sample plot diagram.) Nonfiction titles do not have plots.

### Sentence Summaries

The Sentence Summaries sheet may also be helpful for team members to complete. To complete this sheet, team members write one or two sentences that summarize their reading each day. It should be printed on the reverse side of the Reading Goal Sheet (See Appendix B).

### Character Chart

Another tool that will guide team members as they read novels is the Character Chart (see Appendix E). For the Character Chart, students write down pertinent information about different characters in the book and note any important details related to that character. The Character Chart can be especially helpful for students as they return to the book weeks or months after reading it to prepare for competition.

### Nonfiction and Biography Graphic Organizers

A tool that will guide team members as they read biographies or memoirs is the Biography and Memoir Notes organizer (see Appendix F). For the Biography and Memoir Notes, students write down pertinent information about the person featured in the book and note any important details related to that person. The Biography and Memoir Notes can be especially helpful for students as they return to the book weeks or months after reading it to prepare for competition.

The Nonfiction Notes organizer (Appendix G) will help students remember information read in nonfiction titles. For the Nonfiction Notes, students write down the main ideas of the book and note any important details related to that topic. The Nonfiction Notes can be especially helpful for students as they return to the book weeks or months after reading it to prepare for competition.

## Discussion Questions to Ask During the Meeting

During your weekly Team Meetings, the Coach can use Scholastic's Literature Circle Task Cards ([tinyurl.com/litdiscussiontaskcards](https://www.tinyurl.com/litdiscussiontaskcards)) to help facilitate discussion among team members about the book. These task cards are an excellent resource, as they apply to a variety of books.

## Hosting Practice Meetings

### What Is a Practice Meeting?

During Practice Meetings, the BBJ School Facilitator and/or Coaches provide a way for each team to come together and practice trivia associated with a particular book. All BBJ meetings must take place on school property. If the Coach is a classroom teacher, the meeting may be held in their classroom; otherwise, Practice Meetings should be held in a large group space with seating (with access to a projector and screen if using technology), such as the library or cafeteria, and they should last about 30 minutes. The decision on when to hold meetings is made by the school principal with input from the BBJ School Facilitator and coaches. Two adults must be present at all times. Unless provided by the school, food is discouraged.

### Using Whiteboards in a Practice Meeting

Whiteboards and markers are used to document team answers in both school and district competitions. All students should have an opportunity to practice both writing answers on whiteboards and giving oral answers during Practice Meetings. Third-grade students may use the BBJ bookmarks created for third grade as notes during practice meetings and competitions.

## Practicing Options

### Creating Kahoot Questions

#### What is Kahoot?

Kahoot ([www.kahoot.it](https://www.kahoot.it)) is a free, online tool that allows users to create multiple-choice questions that can be projected onto a screen. Players use their own devices as a "buzzer/controller" to answer the multiple-choice questions that are projected. In addition to the browser-based version, which can be used for Kahoot creation and gameplay, an app is available for iOS and Android devices for gameplay.

Kahoot is a great way for team members to prepare for competition. During Team Meetings with their Coach, team members develop their questions and use critical thinking skills to identify important areas of the book and anticipate potential competition questions. These student-developed Kahoot questions are shared amongst teams and can be used during regular practices to help prepare a team for school and district competition.

As a BBJ School Facilitator, you may want to have a Book Blitz Jr. designated Kahoot account, or you may wish to allocate this responsibility to your Coaches. The benefit of having a BBJ School Facilitator account is that the questions each group creates will be easily accessible for hosting Practice Meetings.

## Creating Your Own Kahoot Account

To create an account, go to [www.create.kahoot.it](http://www.create.kahoot.it). You may sign up either via your existing Google or Microsoft account or by creating an account with your email and password.

## Adding Questions to Kahoot

Once you have created your own Kahoot account, you will want to click the purple button on the top right that says, "New K!" This will bring you to a new webpage that lists four different kinds of Kahoots. You will want to design a Quiz. Title the Quiz with the name of the book for which you are designing questions.

Questions can have up to four possible choices for an answer, and can include a picture or video to help prompt those answering. Make sure to select the correct answer option before saving each question. Additionally, there is a spot to give credit for the resource used to help design the question; we recommend writing down the chapter number and page number.

## Creating Quizlet Flashcards

In addition to creating Kahoot questions, teams may wish to create flashcards. The benefit of using flashcards over using Kahoot is that team members cannot choose from a list of four options for their answer. Instead, they must remember the answer, which is more similar to what they will experience on competition days. Using flashcards would be a good way to practice as competition time draws closer.

One tool that you may find helpful is Quizlet, which can be found at [quizlet.com](http://quizlet.com). Quizlet is another free online tool that allows a user to create a "study set" that can be shared with a class, or, in this case "team." Although the study set is designed to include flashcards with a series of words and definitions, users can make flashcards for any type of information. For example, instead of a word to be defined, a user might write, "Author of [name of book]," and the "definition" could be the author's name. In addition to the browser-based version, an app is available for iOS and Android devices.

We recommend that, as a BBJ School Facilitator, you create a Quizlet account that is shared with all participants. However, you may have Coaches create an account and share it with their team.

## Creating Your Own Quizlet Account

Just as with Kahoot, Quizlet users can sign up either via their existing Google or Facebook account or by creating an account with an email and password.

Once an account has been created, the user will want to click the green button to create a class. Team members can be invited to join a class with the class code that appears once a class has been created.

## Developing Study Sets (Questions)

After inviting team members to join your class, you can create a study set for each book. When designing the study set, be sure to mark that any team member within the class can edit it. That way, team members can add their questions to the study set.

You are not limited to the above choices for creating your school's BBJ practice materials; however, you may only use apps and online tools approved by the District. For more information about approved apps and online tools, contact the District Digital Teaching and Learning Specialists. District Library Services will also supply you with practice games, exercises, and questions by November 25th.

## Using Kahoot and Quizlet in a Practice Meeting

Teams have potentially been working during their team meetings to create multiple-choice questions and short-answer questions related to each book in Kahoot and Quizlet. During a Practice Meeting, the BBJ School Facilitator can use these questions to conduct mock competition rounds. However, the two tools--Kahoot and Quizlet--work in very different ways.

### Kahoot

When using Kahoot, you will want to log in and go to your Kahoots (click "My Kahoots" on the top left). Then, you will want to select the correct Kahoot for the book that is the focus of your Practice Meeting. To play Kahoot, you may choose to have students play independently or in teams. From your device, you will be able to project the questions and possible answer choices on a screen for the participants to see. Each answer choice is associated with a particular color and shape. On participants' devices, they will see four colored boxes that match the color and shape of each answer choice. Participants tap the box associated with the correct answer. Scoring is determined by both speed and accuracy.

### Quizlet Live

After logging in to Quizlet and opening the correct Quizlet study set for the book that is the focus of your Practice Meeting, you will want to select "Live" and share the associated 6-digit code with students. Once students have input the code on their own devices, Quizlet randomly assigns students to teams. On each teammate's device, a question appears for the whole team. All potential answers appear, but the answers are across the devices. For example, if there were a team of three, the question would appear on each teammate's screen, but the answers on each teammate's device would be different. Only one teammate would have the correct answer on their device. Therefore, students in a team must work together to locate the device on which the answer is located. If a wrong answer is selected, the team must start the study set from the beginning. Thus, correct answers are rewarded over speed.



## Creating a Jeopardy Style Game

In addition to using the students' pre-made questions in Kahoot and Quizlet, you may also wish to create your questions to create a Jeopardy-style game that mimics what students will experience during their competitions.

### Google Slides Jeopardy Template

In addition to using Kahoot and Quizlet Live, you may wish to have students practice using a Jeopardy-style game during the Practice Meetings. There is a free Jeopardy Google Slides template available at [tinyurl.com/googleslidesjeopardytemplate](https://tinyurl.com/googleslidesjeopardytemplate). Using this option may be the best choice in terms of most closely replicating the competition. One drawback of this option is that you must input the questions into the template yourself, which will take more time. Additionally, scores are not automatically tallied. Coaches might be able to assist you with these tasks.

### FlipQuiz

Along with the Google Slides template, you can also use FlipQuiz ([flipquiz.me](https://flipquiz.me)) to create a Jeopardy-style game. FlipQuiz is a free tool that allows users to input leveled questions and answers that are automatically generated into a Jeopardy board.

To create an account, one must go to the FlipQuiz website and follow the prompts to sign up by creating a username and entering an email and password. Once an account has been created, the user must click the green "New Board" button on the top left. For each board, the user can create up to 6 categories, each with 5 levels of difficulty.

In addition to the free version, a Pro version is available. The Pro version automatically tallies scores for teams, and it provides a link to digital flashcards with the questions on the board.

## BBJ Bookmarks and Posters

The District Library Services Office will supply annual BBJ bookmarks and posters for use in advertising and promoting BBJ. In addition, the posters and bookmarks may be used by team members to learn the covers, titles, and authors of the books on their prospective lists. These materials will be available when the final lists are published. Copies can be made at the school level or, with principal permission, through a school order with the Teacher Resource Center (TRC).

## Appendix A

# The Book Blitz Jr. Team Contract

1. I promise to listen to others' ideas with respect.
2. I promise to thoughtfully read each book by the assigned Team Meeting date.
3. I promise to ask my BBJ coaches or the school facilitator for help if I need it.
4. I promise to share responsibility for our team's successes and for the team's mistakes.
5. I promise to represent my school by demonstrating integrity and good sportsmanship throughout the BBJ competitions.

I understand that:

If I break one or more of the rules, the team has the right to call a meeting with our coaches and ask me to follow the five promises stated above. First parent contact: Date: \_\_\_\_\_

If I continue to break one or more of the rules, the Coaches have the right to put me on probation until I begin to follow the five promises stated above. Second parent contact: Date: \_\_\_\_\_

If I continue to break one or more of the rules, the Coaches have the right to contact the BBJ School Facilitator and School Principal and recommend that I be removed from the team. Final parent contact: Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Team Member and Parent/Guardian Signatures:

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Appendix B

# Reading Goal Sheet

*Directions:* Find the number of pages in your assigned book. Determine if you want to read your book on the weekends. If you want to read your book on the weekends, divide the number of pages by 30, but if you only want to read on the weekdays, divide the number of pages by 20. The resulting number is the number of pages you should try to read each day.

Name of Book: \_\_\_\_\_

Day of the Week	Page Started	Page Stopped	Total Number of Pages
Saturday			
Sunday			
Monday			
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday			
Saturday			
Sunday			
Monday			
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday			

# Sentences Summaries

Write down a one or two-sentence summary of the reading that you complete each day.

Day of the Week	Summary Sentence
Saturday	
Sunday	
Monday	
Tuesday	
Wednesday	
Thursday	
Friday	
Saturday	
Sunday	
Monday	
Tuesday	
Wednesday	
Thursday	
Friday	

Appendix C

# Reading Goal Bookmarks

## Book Blitz Jr. Reading Goals

Directions: Determine which chapters or pages you will read each day.

- Decide if you want to read your book over the weekend.
- Find out the number of pages in each book.
- Divide the total number of pages in your book by the number of days (30 if you will read over the weekends, 20 if you will only read on the weekdays).

Day of the Week	Total Pages
Saturday	
Sunday	
Monday	
Tuesday	
Wednesday	
Thursday	
Friday	
Saturday	
Sunday	
Monday	
Tuesday	
Wednesday	
Thursday	
Friday	

## Book Blitz Jr. Reading Goals

Directions: Determine which chapters or pages you will read each day.

- Decide if you want to read your book over the weekend.
- Find out the number of pages in each book.
- Divide the total number of pages in your book by the number of days (30 if you will read over the weekends, 20 if you will only read on the weekdays).

Day of the Week	Total Pages
Saturday	
Sunday	
Monday	
Tuesday	
Wednesday	
Thursday	
Friday	
Saturday	
Sunday	
Monday	
Tuesday	
Wednesday	
Thursday	
Friday	

## Book Blitz Jr. Reading Goals

Directions: Determine which chapters or pages you will read each day.

- Decide if you want to read your book over the weekend.
- Find out the number of pages in each book.
- Divide the total number of pages in your book by the number of days (30 if you will read over the weekends, 20 if you will only read on the weekdays).

Day of the Week	Total Pages
Saturday	
Sunday	
Monday	
Tuesday	
Wednesday	
Thursday	
Friday	
Saturday	
Sunday	
Monday	
Tuesday	
Wednesday	
Thursday	
Friday	

## Appendix D

# Sample Plot Diagram

**Plot Diagram for** \_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_

**Climax:**

10. \_\_\_\_\_

11. \_\_\_\_\_

12. \_\_\_\_\_

13. \_\_\_\_\_

**Rising Action**

→

**Falling Action**

→

**Exposition**

Protagonist: \_\_\_\_\_

Antagonist: \_\_\_\_\_

Setting – Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Setting – Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Internal Conflict: \_\_\_\_\_

External Conflict: \_\_\_\_\_

**Resolution:**

**Author's Theme:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Symbolism:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Foreshadowing:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Irony:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix E

# Character Chart

Directions: Each time you read your book, use this form to provide important information you learn about the characters. Think about their personality, character traits, relationships, and how the character may be changing as the story progresses.

Character Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle One: Major Character or Minor Character

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Character Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle One: Major Character or Minor Character

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Character Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle One: Major Character or Minor Character

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Character Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle One: Major Character or Minor Character

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## Works Cited

Connell, Genia. "Guided Reading Prompts and Questions to Improve Comprehension." *Scholastic*, 2 March 2016.

[www.scholastic.com/teachers/blog-posts/genia-connell/guided-reading-prompts-and-questions-improve-comprehension/](http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/blog-posts/genia-connell/guided-reading-prompts-and-questions-improve-comprehension/).



## Appendix F

# Biography or Memoir Notes

Personal Information:

- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 

An important experience in his or her early life:

- 
- 

An important experience in his or her early life:

- 
- 

Person:

Accomplishments:

- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 

Why this person is important:

- 
- 
- 
-

## Appendix G

# Nonfiction Notes

**NONFICTION GRAPHIC ORGANIZER**

## Main Idea and Details

Use this graphic organizer to identify the main idea and supporting details in works of nonfiction.



Main Idea:

Detail:

Detail:

Detail: