

# Battle from page A1

Patton and Jeff Waldmann, all seventh graders, each earned a Borders gift certificate for their efforts.

"I knew we would be one of the top teams," Lubin said, "but I didn't know we'd win. I read all 10 books two times. I really knew the books."

Patton said all the boys "kind of knew" they'd do well. They all came up with questions and quizzed each other every week, he said.

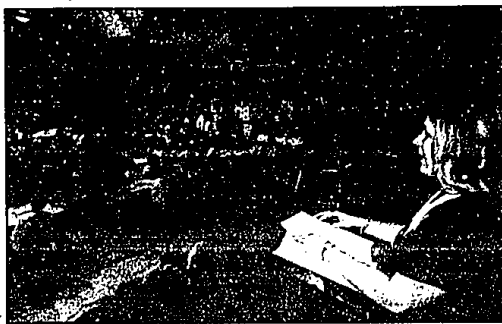
Sharon Vincent, the library's youth services coordinator, first visited schools in January, encouraging students to sign up. She distributed a list of books they would have to study to find answers to questions they wouldn't know until the competition.

The kids formed teams and selected a name, came up with costumes and then bunkered down to study a list of books they may or may not have enjoyed.

**"I knew we would be one of the top teams, but I didn't know we'd win. I read all 10 books two times. I really knew the books."**

**Jason Lubin**

—Winning team member



Are you ready? Stacy Charlesvois, young adult librarian at the Farmington Community Library, fires off the next round of questions during the final Battle of the Books competition among middle school students at the annual Festival of the Arts in the William Costick Activities Center Wednesday night.

## FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

"Dr. Seuss' Darlings" — Molly Carroll, Katie Emig, Ashley Fowler, Meredith Gatt, Kristen Paczynski and Paige Ryan — all loved The Ghost of Fossil Glen, which they described as a real page-turner with "lots of action." Not so with Crush and Mustang Flats.

"They were dull," Emig said.

Fowler agreed. "In Crush, you knew what was going to happen." The girls gathered on a regular basis to quiz each other. Paige's mom, Mary Ann, had high praise for their coach, Barbara Sobon, who gave the girls certain tasks and a time limit, which they would always meet or beat.

"All the kids got together every couple of weeks," Mary Ann said. "They really got into it."

Sobon and the team met every couple of weeks at first. Once the girls had read the books, each contributed to a list of questions with which they quizzed each other more regularly.

"I didn't have to force the kids to read, which is a good thing," Sobon said. "It was an enjoyable task."

As the results were tabulated, Young Adult Librarian Stacy Charlesvois told all the teams like the Darlings, who didn't win the competition this year, they did a "super job" getting into the final round.

"For you guys to make it here, for you guys to even attempt this, is really phenomenal," she said.

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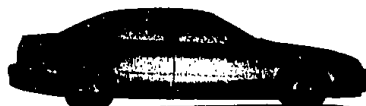
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