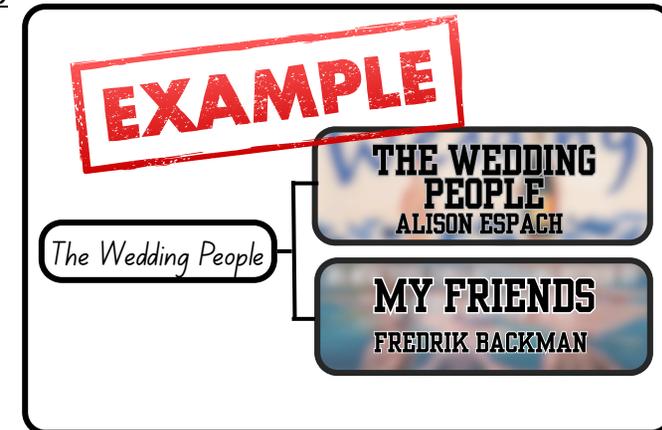


How the bracket works:

1. You are **predicting** how your fellow Middletown readers will vote in March.
2. Write the title of the book you think will win each matchup on the corresponding line, as shown in the example on the right.
3. After making your first round predictions, you should have eight remaining titles, forming new matchups. Continue predicting which book will win each new matchup until only one book remains: your predicted **Tournament of Books 2026 Champion!**
4. Tiebreaker: In the same box as your Champion pick, predict the winning book's share of the vote, as a percentage between 50 and 100 (i.e. *Pride and Prejudice*, 60%).
5. **Print your name and email address** on the spaces provided. You will be notified if you win the prize!



Scoring and Contest Rules

- All Brackets must be submitted by **Monday, March 2nd by 8PM.**
- Points are earned for each correctly predicted book. Correct predictions in later rounds are worth more points:
 - First round: 100 points each (maximum 800)
 - Second round: 200 points (max: 800)
 - Third Round : 400 points (max: 800)
 - Championship Round: 800 points
- Maximum score: 3200
- The owner of the highest scoring bracket shall receive a **\$50 "Downtown Middletown" gift card** and an **"I heart Russell Library" Tumbler.**
- Tiebreakers, in order:
 - In the event of a tie in points, the winner will be whoever correctly predicted the Champion.
 - In the event both or neither correctly predicted the winning book, whoever was closest to the correct margin of victory will be the winner.

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