



### **Gowanda Correctional Facility Hosts “Book Showdown”**

On April 28<sup>th</sup>, Gowanda Correctional Facility held its latest “Book Showdown” challenge, a highly regarded program amongst inmates and staff at the facility. In all, six teams competed, answering over 125 trivia questions based on their readings of *Lion Boy* by Zizou Corder, *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck, *Holes* by Louis Sachar, and *Bone: Out of Boneville* by Jeff Smith. All participants received prizes, and the winning team, coached by Senior Offender Rehabilitation Coordinator Samick, earned the grand prize of a pizza party.

The “Showdown” was established as a way to aid reading comprehension, build teamwork, and encourage the reading of book series, and has since been an event that inmates and staff coaches, such as teachers, Offender Rehabilitation Coordinators, and Library Clerks, take pride in. In some cases, inmates are able to discuss readings with their children, enhancing their family interaction in person or over the phone. The next “Book Showdown” is being planned for the fall.