

# Young Authors Gazette

Week 1: Beach



Thank you for sharing your young author with us this week! We had a great first week of camp as we explored new environments for our writing. Beach Week was a great first theme, as the weather certainly had us thinking about hot, sunny days at the beach with our favorite books and creatures that might emerge from the waters. In addition, there was the time spent swimming, playing games, exploring, and making friends ... the mix of writing and camp that makes Young Authors such a great place to be each summer.

For those returning this summer, we look forward to the additional opportunities to share our stories and explore the world through word. To others, we hope your young author enjoyed their time this summer and has the start of much writing to continue developing in the coming weeks.

## Mr. Blake, Ms. Natalie, and Mr. Kasen

Our youngest authors had a spectacular first week of camp! This week, we had so much fun tapping into our creative writing skills through quick writing, brainstorming, and scriptwriting. Campers engaged in a variety of activities, such as Telestrations and roll n' writes, and learned about parts of speech through creating their own MadLibs stories. We loved getting to know your campers and are eager for the upcoming fabulous summer!

## Ms. Jane, Mr. Sam, and Ms. Ella

On Monday, our group started off camp right with some introductions of our counselors and campers! We played a couple ice-breakers and designed our own name tags. After establishing some camp norms, we escaped onto a writing adventure outside and imagined ourselves shrinking down to the size of an ant by using all our senses. On Tuesday, going over what the plot of a story looks like helped our young authors in their own individual stories during their independent writing time, as well as during our group activity. Each camper received a role



of an element from the plot mountain and wrote a creative story in small groups. Visiting Snake Rock fueled creativity as campers wrote on Wednesday morning. Later on, we went over some important aspects to include when creating an original character in our writing which our authors then implemented in their own writing and pictures. Our writing adventure that day consisted of each camper writing their own anonymous poem which was then hung around the room in various spots so each could be read and responded to either with a picture or journal entry. This week's final writing adventure was a wacky Create Your Own Adventure Story with small group and individual writing which we shared with our campmates!

## Mr. Zach & Lumi

Happy end of week one from the Fresh Potatoes! In our group, we have focused on several fun activities such as writing persuasive essays about eating more potatoes, creating an advertising campaign for potatoes, writing fan letters to people who inspire us (hey, T. Swift), and Taylor Swift Thursday including making friendship bracelets after exploring Taylor's songwriting. We are actively gearing up for week two and more writing, more friendship, and more ways to prepare potatoes!



## Ms. Morgan & Ms. Riley

This week in the Young Author's 7th-8th grade group got off to a bit of an ominous start. We visited a haunted house as well as a hair-raising forest while creating choose your own adventure mysteries. Followed by some roleplaying of our own mystery-where we took turns playing detective and developing the story in order to solve the crime. We explored different elements of a mystery such as red herring, foreshadowing, and suspense-talking about what they add to our stories. We also explored these elements by writing to a series of picture prompts. Campers created nature poetry based on topics they spotted from different spots on campus during our writing adventures, then took turns sharing their poetry and trying to guess what elements in nature their peers wrote about. Paint chip poetry was the favorite game of the week, where we did several rounds of creating poems out of different names of paint colors with randomly selected prompts. We each contributed a word to make a class stories, then reviewed the elements in a story and what is required to make a story make sense. We used friendship bracelets to talk about how stories are strung together with their ideas to make a complete plot or "bracelet".