

# Young Authors Gazette

## Week 5: Circus



Thank you for sharing your Young Author with us this week as we rolled up to the big top!

Campers told thrilling stories about their death-defying acts trapezing through the air and helped create a circus of their own complete with creatures, performers, and unbelievable tricks. Their writing adventures around campus led them to consider all aspects of circus life. Young Authors bonded over their nail-biting stories and adventures with Author Share at the end of the week!

**Mr. Blake, Mr. Kasen, and Mr. Sam**

Our theme for Week 5 was the Circus. We had a number of fun writing prompts to consider in the morning as our Young Authors pondered the goings-on of special animals and various, entertaining circus acts. We started by establishing our hopes and dreams for the week, as well as participating in a roll and write activity, which helped us to generate illustrations and writings about circus monsters. Campers went on an outdoor “safari” on Cranbrook’s campus to spot and write about the animals they saw. They used

LEGOs to make set designs for their circus stories; they also read a funny called *Fortunately* and extended the writing of the story structure. Campers finished with their LEGOs, including writing about the sets that they created. They also did some shared writing through stories about the circus. Young Authors also watched a documentary about unlikely animal friends; campers took notes and wrote short reviews about the documentary. We ended the week with an outdoor writing adventure, and we selected pieces to put in the anthology and had an authors' share with the rest of the Young Authors Day Camp.



### Ms. Natalie and Ms. Ella

Our Young Authors had a very creative week as we dove into all things circus! We kicked off the week by writing choose-your-own-adventure stories, where campers learned about alternative endings as they wrote about trapeze acts and encounters with mysterious circus performers. Throughout the week, we kept the fun going with games like circus-themed Telestrations and Poetry for Neanderthals. Our Young Authors also enjoyed creating a mystery story about a wanted circus saboteur and designed wanted posters that brought their characters to life. A class favorite was our DIY Mad Libs activity, where campers demonstrated their knowledge of parts of speech while crafting hilarious stories. We also ventured into fantasy writing by inventing alternative universe circus shows; these stories turned into scripts that the campers performed for the class. To wrap up our week, we had a Roll & Write followed by Author Share, where campers proudly presented their works.



**Ms. Jane and Lumi**

Young Authors this week delved into wacky stories combining random elements thought up of by their peers. We created a story chain by passing and writing stories around in a circle and then wrote a whole class story about a circus on the sun complete with explosive bunnies. Afterward, we wrote



“Fortunately, Unfortunately” stories, ekphrastic pieces of writing, mad-libs, and predicted the endings of music videos. Young Authors focused on poetry in the forms of riddles, concrete poems, haikus, and blackout poetry. We also had fun doing Choose Your Own Adventure and Telestrations to wrap up the week!

**Ms. Morgan and Ms. Riley**

Campers kicked off the week creating posters to showcase their very own circus acts. Some campers chose to create their own original characters-while others wrote themselves into their act. Each camper got to spin the “wheel of writing” which chose their setting, protagonist, and conflict for them at



random. They were then tasked with building a story around their selections which made for some interesting and silly pieces. We rounded off the middle of the week creating a “playlist of our lives” where students wrote about 5 songs that were important to them and why-where we talked about

non-fiction and descriptive writing. Campers ended the week by creating a circus themed piece in the writing genre of their choice. Also, creating some flash fiction stories where campers attempted to include all the elements of a story into just 20 words!