

# Young Authors Gazette

## Week 6: Spooky Stories



Boo! Halloween came early this year! This week, our Young Authors explored what makes something scary and how they could translate that to their own writing. They braved haunted houses and ghosts, invented spells and potions, and worked collaboratively to write stories together. It wasn't all tricks, though. We ended the week with Trick-or-Treating and gathering at the haunted cabin to hear the scary stories everyone came up with this week at our weekly Author Share.

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

We had a number of spooky writing prompts to consider in the morning as our young authors wrote about various eerie, scary, and enigmatic scenarios. On Monday, we did a Halloween-themed roll and write activity, for which students started with partially-randomized settings, main characters, and story problems. Campers wrote stories based on a set of



Caldecott-winner Chris Van Allsburg drawings; they also wrote humorous and spooky shared stories

through a writing game called “exquisite corpse.” Using art alongside writing was a big part of this week. In pairs, they swapped illustrations and wrote ekphrasis stories, which are interpretations of what’s happening in picture. After creating an art project depicting a haunted house in the moonlight, campers wrote stories about what happened in their houses.

**Ms. Natalie and Ms. Ella**

This week at YADC, our spooky theme inspired lots of exciting activities! Our campers wrote and created their own Fortunately/Unfortunately story booklets, wrote collaborative chain stories, and designed monsters with accompanying tales. We also made spellbooks, wrote spooky poetry, and enjoyed completing our daily NYT mini-games. A thrilling scavenger hunt around campus, watercolor-painted haunted houses, and a festive trick-or-treating event rounded out the week, culminating in our Author Share where campers showcased their work. Thanks for a spooktacular week!



**Ms. Jane and Lumi**

This spooky week at Cranbrook's YADC, our imaginative writers composed stories with sticky-notes and made ominous wanted posters and advertisements. We did a story chain activity, resulting in 13 (!) original and wacky stories. A class story about Godzilla, zombies, and the Grim Reaper got our writers thinking about plot elements. Later, we had to figure out





how to combine two different genres together into one story. On Wednesday, we attempted to start stories with song lyrics and write our own silly “how-to” instructional guides. Reading the poetry book *Frankenstein Makes a Sandwich* by Adam Rex helped writers with their own poetry and afterwards we created spooky houses with original stories attached.

### **Ms. Morgan and Ms. Riley**

Our campers crept through the spooky forest of two-sentence horror stories, cultivating spooky stories in just two lines. Campers created their own Halloween themed prompts and swapped them with their fellow peers and were tasked with creating a story from another campers prompt. Tuesday brought in an eerie fog of descriptive writing where campers listened to “Click Clack the Rattle Bag” by Neil Gaiman. We discussed what elements of his story drew the audience in and made them want to keep reading more. Campers then tried to incorporate these techniques into their own writing. Campers wrote eulogies to their dearly beloved inanimate objects including hats, pencils, markers, and erasers. Finally, we ended our spooky week decorating and writing stories about our very own haunted houses and solving the mystery of who “murdered” Ms. Jane!

