

Young Authors Gazette

Week 7: Aliens in Space



Greetings from outer space! This week we blasted off to explore the curiosities of extraterrestrial life through writing. Young Authors participated in activities which helped them consider alien lifestyles and habits, and even created some aspects of their own alien lifestyles. Campers had a fantastic time at the Cranbrook Institute of Science, where they wrote about what they learned and how they could use it in space-related stories. We had Lindsay Gizicki, a local children's book author, stop by camp and explain the writing and publishing process to campers. Young Authors had the chance to swim, make friends, and explore the beautiful Cranbrook campus this past week.

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

We started the week with a roll and write activity, for which students started with partially randomized settings, alien characters, and story problems and expanded those elements to a larger narrative. Campers wrote stories based on a painting of a UFO sighting, in addition to starting to listen

to the original *War of the Worlds* radio broadcast

expanding on its writing. Young Authors completed a

science fiction Mad Libs activity, as well as played some

word games. Campers then built spaceships out of LEGOs

and wrote about their features. Campers also learned

about tales of UFOs in Roswell, New Mexico and had a

debate on whether extraterrestrial aliens exist and why. To wrap up the week our Young Authors went

outside for a writing adventure and played a game of Telestrations, in addition to preparing for the

camp-wide author share.



Ms. Natalie, Ms. Ella, and Ms. Tanusree

We started alien week with some fun name games and icebreakers, followed by alien creations

and making up their languages—aka Alienese. We then plugged their aliens’ descriptions into Canva’s AI

Image Generator to bring our characters to life. Campers learned about comic books and made sci-fi

comic strips, many featuring their aliens from the day

prior. In between word games, we wrote some stories

about a new alien and/or robot exchange student.

Campers reflected on what they saw at the Cranbrook

Institute of Science with a *Night at the Museum* writing

prompt, followed by a thrilling minute-to-win-it style

scavenger hunt. Lastly, we wrapped up the week with the classic Friday Roll & Write, Spelling Bee, and

the Author Share read-aloud. Thank you everyone for a wonderful week!

Ms. Jane and Lumi

This week at YADC, writers got started with a fun scavenger hunt and story writing game. We

used all five of our senses as well as some creative additions when thinking about how to write a



story from an alien's perspective. Playing fun games like Neanderthal Poetry helped our Young Authors exercise creativity with their word choice and syntax. We learned about how to implement tone and imagery in descriptive writing after being given an emotion to portray in a story and then having other campers try to guess the emotion. The 'Take Three Nouns' writing prompt on Wednesday was an interesting activity that challenged writers to start with three random nouns to include somewhere in their short story. We made stories with song lyrics, played as investigators and suspects in an alien investigation, and explored different genres to conclude the fun-filled week!



Ms. Morgan and Ms. Riley

Campers began the week by blasting off into the genre of Science Fiction. We talked about what elements are in that specific genre and looked at some of our favorite books for examples! We then worked on creating our own Sci-Fi prompts for our friends and counselors to write to. Campers created



their own “utopia” pamphlets and wrote persuasive speeches to convince their fellow campers as well as alien life forms to come live in their ideal city. Drawing inspiration from the organic lifeforms we explored at the Cranbrook Institute of Science on Wednesday, campers

created their own alien lifeforms and tasked other Young Authors to use them as the main character in a story. Campers ended the week off by discovering the far-off planet of poetry while working on “found” poetry and a class favorite paint chip poetry.