

Young Authors Gazette

Week 8: Nature in Pure Michigan



Greetings from the Mitten State! This week at Young Authors Day Camp we had a spectacular time celebrating our great (lake) state and the beauty of the natural world around us. Campers engaged in a wide variety of writing activities which allowed them to reflect on and be inspired by the natural scenery of Cranbrook. Young Authors also had a fantastic time exploring and writing at the Detroit Riverwalk (voted #1 Riverwalk in the country). This is the last week of Young Authors Day Camp for the summer, and we cannot thank you and your Young Author enough for helping us make such wonderful camp memories for the 2024 season. We wish you all the best for the rest of your summer and encourage everyone to keep writing!

Mr. Blake and Mr. Sam

We started off the week by setting our norms and agreements for our group, then moved right into a roll-and-write activity, which helped randomize campers' writing with two landforms and two animals in a writing piece. Later, we did a "chain writing" activity where campers and counselors built on everyone

else's writing to make funny stories. To get further inspiration for the "nature" theme for the week, campers watched the documentary, Puff: Wonders of the Reef, and wrote reviews of the documentary, which included a rating for the video, in addition to a summary and rationale to justify the rating. Campers also used



LEGOs to physically build context for 6-word stories involving nature. When on the field trip to the Detroit Riverwalk, campers wrote using their five senses, in addition to writing haiku. On the last day of camp, students selected pieces for the anthology and the authors' writing share. Throughout the week, campers also played word games from The New York Times, such as Wordle, Connections, Strands, and Spelling Bee to help sharpen their vocabulary and decoding skills.

Ms. Natalie, Mr. Kasen, and Ms. Tanusree

We had a wonderful conclusion to our summer this week at YADC with a nature theme! Campers began their first day with some fun icebreakers and wrote about a day in the life as a forest animal from the Cranbrook campus! We reviewed parts of speech and wrote weather forecast Mad Libs. Campers got



some inspiration from the movie "Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs" and created their own extreme weather books! We also had a blast playing Poetry for Neanderthals. We had our field trip to the Detroit Riverwalk and particularly enjoyed listening (and lots of dancing) to some live Motown music. Young

Authors completed a chain writing activity, where we collaboratively wrote each other's stories, followed by an exploration for leaves to make leaf rubbings! Finally, we concluded with a Roll & Write and lots of goodbyes before & after our Author Share. We are so proud of all our Young Authors and thank everybody for an incredible summer!!

Ms. Jane and Lumi

Writers this week at Young Authors Day Camp were inspired by nature, even on rainy days!

Young Authors had to get creative when figuring out how they'd survive on a deserted island with only a few random objects. We created our own seasonal collages and poetry using magazines and our imagination. Our fan-favorite activity of creating a story chain was filled with unique ideas that made everyone giggle, and later we wrote about the different personalities various types of trees might have by observing photos. Later, we created our own monuments based on what we value and took inspiring photos at the Detroit Riverwalk as we explored. Looking at different pairs of shoes helped young authors create dynamic characters and stories, and afterwards we wrote about a day in the life of an insect outside.



Ms. Morgan and Ms. Riley

Nature week was quite the adventure for our campers! We began the week creating characters out of the four different elements- making character charts and then using them as protagonists in our stories. Campers enjoyed an activity called “Walk with Me” where they created and wrote about a character based solely on different pairs of shoes. Campers played “setting scramble” where they had to continue the same story while the setting kept changing. We wrote from the point of view of bugs and trees, and took pictures around campus. Using our photos as inspiration for either a descriptive story or poem. Campers reviewed the importance of symbolism in their stories and what it can add to a piece. “PoeTREE” was also a lot of fun where campers got to create a tree with different poems for each “leaf”.

