

# Living Like Writers



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This summer, I attended Living Like Writers camp at Westmont college. In the two weeks I was there, I learned how to write a lot of different things, like stories, plays and poems.

Every morning we did a “writing warm up.” We would write myths (my favorite was about how zebras got their stripes), news articles about events we would make up, or even letters to our toothbrushes!

The first week, we wrote short stories about fictional characters we made up. I wrote about a girl named Kayla, who didn’t know whether to go to a concert to which she had front row tickets and backstage passes, or her best friend’s birthday party. We wrote song lyrics, also, which were almost the same as poems. Every day we would go on what was called an “observations and explorations” walk around the Westmont campus. We would take a walk, in silence, and reach a different destination each day. When we got there we would write down what we saw on the way there and what we saw around us. Then we would write something, a poem or a haiku; one time we wrote a sort of play, where a tree spoke to a building.

During the second week we focused on plays. To start, we read a very short story and turned it into a play, and then we were given certain characters (like a teacher or a tour guide) and props (like cupcakes or umbrellas) that we had to work into a play. For our last play, we made up characters and wrote a short, one act play. To finish off our two weeks of camp, we had musical guests perform the songs we had written, which they had put to music. It was neat to see how different our lyrics sounded when put to music compared to when we just read them out loud. We put our best work in order on the last day so that they could be made into a big book of everything we wrote.

Writing, to me, is very fun and a great hobby. This camp was also very fun, and encouraging. It makes you never want to stop writing!