9: Fantasyland

Whether it entails lands cast under wizardly spells, enchanted forests leading to labyrinth filled castles, or once upon a time fairytales with dragons, unicorns and other mystical creatures. Fantasy is a literary genre with stories and tales sent in a fictional universe. Although fantasies are far from reality, they are often inspired by real events and crafted from myth or folklore. Fantasy was rooted in oral traditions, but soon became a part of the literature we read today, or the plays, dramas, and shows we watch. Fantasies are essentially a representation of your personal imagination, so let your imagination run WILD!

Reading Recommendations:

Children
1. *I Spy Fantasy* by Walter Wick
2. *The Hidden Stairs and the Magi Carpet* by Tony Abbott
3. *The Unicorn and the Moon* by Tomie De Paolo
4. *Nobody Rides the Unicorn* by Adrian Mitchell
5. *Goldilicious* by Victoria Kahn
6. *All the Colors of the Rainbow* by Allan Fowler
7. *Rainbow Magic, the Sugar, and Spice Fairies* by Daisy Meadows
8. *Emily and the Emerals Fairy*

Juniors
1. *The Tower of Geburah* by John White
2. *Letters from Atlantis* by Robert Silverberg
3. *Museum of Thieves* by Lan Tanner
4. *Wren’s Quest* by Sherwood Smith
5. *Harry Potter* (series) by J.K. Rowling
7. *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis
8. *The Unicorn Treasury* by Bruce Coville

Teens
1. *Firebirds: An Anthology of Original Fantasy and Science Fiction*
2. *Gilded Cage* by Vic James
3. *Slade House* by David Mitchel  
4. *The Warlords of Nin* by Steve Lawhead  
5. *The Key* by Marianne Curley  
6. *The Hallowed Isle* by Diana Pazon  
7. *Strange Dreamer* by Laini Taylor

**Activity:**

**Materials**

Rainbows in a Bottle  
- Jars or plastic bottles (one per person)  
- Measuring cup  
- Food coloring  
- Blue dish soap  
- Cooking oil (vegetable oil)  
- Rubbing alcohol

Unicorn Slime  
- Light corn syrup  
- 5 oz bottles of glue  
- 1/2 cup liquid starch (5 oz. of glue needed for every 1/2 cup starch)  
- Mixing bowls and spoons

**Procedure**

With two activities designed to engage children with craft-based and science-related themes, children will explore a colorful and glittering world often associated with fantasies! The first activity is making rainbows in a bottle. Using clear bottles (recycled water bottles) or glass jars a mixed solution of food coloring, corn syrup, oil, water, and dish soap shall yield a liquid rainbow. The second activity is making unicorn slime with glue, liquid starch, and food coloring. The various colored slimes can then be twisted together to create for an imaginatively colorful and unicorn-inspired masterpiece. Complete both activities, or simply chose one!

**Rainbows in a Bottle**

1. To start with the Rainbows in a Bottle make sure you have all of the necessary materials and enough per child.  
2. Remove any labels from the clear bottles or containers that you are using. Place all of the materials in an organized fashion on a “work table.”  
3. It may be beneficial to have a sample completed before starting, or make a sample and have participants watch before they jump into making their own. It may also be beneficial to have the different colored mixtures/liquids already made and placed on the work table; this way participants can simply go to the work table and simply pour the liquids into their containers rather than mixing liquids as they go along.  
4. **NOTE:** be sure to do each pour VERY SLOWLY to avoid mixing the colored liquids and to ensure the rainbow effect!
5. Pour 1/2 cup of corn starch into a measuring cup and add one drop of red food coloring and one drop of blue food coloring. Mix with a spoon and then slowly pour into your container.
6. Pour 1/2 cup of the blue dish soap into a measuring cup and then pour it down the side of your container.
7. Pour 1/2 cup of water into measuring cup. Add 2 drops of green food coloring and mix with spoon. Then pour the green water down the side of your container.
8. Pour 1/2 cup of yellow oil into measuring cup, then pour it down the side of the container.
9. Pour 1/2 cup of rubbing alcohol into measuring cup, then add 2 drops of red food coloring and mix with spoon. Pour the mixture down the side of the container.

Unicorn Slime
1. To make the unicorn slime you will need a 5 oz bottle of glue for every 1/2 cup of liquid starch.
2. Mix 1/2 cup of liquid starch with the glue and stir until blended, adding more starch if needed.
3. Make three separate batches of the liquid starch and glue mixture, and in each batch add different drops of food coloring.
4. Then, with the three different colors, twist them together for “magical” unicorn slime!

Dive Deeper:
After reading and/or completing the activities, does this topic peak your interest?

Check out these websites to further explore the topic of fantasies:

Check out these videos and films to visually learn more:
2. Fingerlings Tales: Gigi The Unicorn Is A Drama Queen — https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B7vyuaEv1b24
3. Dragon Tales (TV series) — https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DCi2CJZi7p0&list=PLS0Jq2GGKQGDFE_FH9QsYUpgCJtP_D8S
4. Alice in Wonderland (1951 or 2010 Film)
5. The Chronicles of Narnia (2005 Film)
6. Willy Wonka and at the Chocolate Factory (1971 Film)
7. Wizard of Oz (1939 Film)

To stimulate the brain and engage in active learning, ask these questions:
Looking to build upon writing skills? Share your responses to these questions in a personal journal or brief paragraph essay.
Looking to build upon verbal communication and discussion based skills? Share your responses around the dinner table at night with family members; each person can contribute to the conversation with their own perspectives.
Looking to visually demonstrate your ideas? Share your responses by drawing and labeling a diagram, creating a storyboard with pictures, construct a 3D model, or acting out a scene.

1. What does your perfect fantasyland look like? Is it full of jumping unicorns, hidden trolls, chocolate rivers, rainbow colored skies, lollipops trees, golden rocks, and candy mountains?

2. Do you think fantasies can become reality? Are there inventions, devices, or unexplained events that occur in the world that sometimes make you feel as if you are living in a fantasy?