

5 narratives CHARACTER 5

MEMORISE SETTING 5
Not copy

Mix and match PLOT 5

COUSIN'S CONUNDRUM

Dialogue 5

625 possibilities

BUILDING ON TOP OF THE EXEMPLARS

BEAT
STEVE

The Cosmic



Luxury
ballroom

space

Introduction

Water
ocean

Ball
Gala

SETTING- BUILD OFF
IT

During their annual family reunion aboard the luxury space cruise ship "Stargazer," four genius cousins - tech whiz Liam (12), biology expert Mia (11), physics prodigy Aiden (13), and master strategist Zoe (10) - find themselves at the centre of an interstellar mystery. When the ship veers off course and the adult passengers fall into a mysterious sleep, the cousins must overcome their rivalry and conflicting approaches to save their family and uncover a plot that threatens the entire galaxy. With each cousin holding a piece of the puzzle, they must learn to combine their unique skills and repair their strained relationships before time runs out.

Similar settings

Writing Prompts

NARRATIVE

Imagine you are one of the four cousins aboard the Stargazer. Write a personal journal entry describing your thoughts and feelings after the events of the story. Include your reflections on how your relationships with your cousins have changed, your view on the adult conspiracy, and your hopes and fears for the future of human-alien relations. Use vivid sensory details to bring your emotions and the lingering atmosphere of your adventure to life.



Narrative Outline

1. The Sleeping Ship
2. Clash of the Cousins
3. Alien Encounters and Hidden Agendas
4. Unravelling Family Secrets
5. The Galactic Gambit



Breakdown

TREE

Amazonian tree
12th century
Secret medicinal properties

Description of the Setting:

- The "Stargazer" cruise ship with its holographic entertainment decks and zero-gravity pools
- The eerie silence of the ship as adult passengers slumber in stasis pods
- The cousins' secret hideout in the ship's forgotten maintenance hub

Holographic blackjack

UNIQUE- EXTREMELY

MORE TO DESCRIBE
MORE IMAGINATION

robocat

Antigravity hoverboards

AI robo servants- scan

Shockwave gym

BASIC TOPIC

The Sleeping Ship

JUICIFY



Inverted sleeping pods- dream machines- blood flow

Litany of obscure buttons—
labelled in smudged out ink

Examples:

Whirring, humming eerily,
frantic beeps concurrent
(warning signals)

His heartbeat reaching feverish
tempo
imposing levers (protruding
at deranged angles)

Kaliedoscopic array of wires,
chaotic anarchy

Hisssed,
snarled,
rolling eyes

Flickering urgently

Coma like trance- eerie, suspicion, time stopped, hour hand was frozen, sinister tone, cold bead of sweat, uncanny, was this an inauspicious omen? Ragged beep, irregular beep, lone offhand beep. (RHETORICAL)

3. Zoe's eyes narrowed as she studied the ship's new trajectory on the holo-map. 'We're headed straight for the Omega Nebula,' she announced. 'But that's impossible,' Liam protested. 'Nothing can navigate through that cosmic storm!' A mischievous grin spread across Zoe's face. 'Unless,' she said slowly, 'someone—or something—wants us to go there.' The cousins exchanged uneasy glances, years of mistrust and competition bubbling just beneath the surface."

Trembling profusely, air was moist/trembling/sweating with palpable trepidation

Teetering on the precipice of anarchic
trepidation

Clash of the Cousins

KILLER
COMBO
S ALL
THE
TIME

ADD CIRCUMSTANCES
CREATE SUSPICION

The Investigation Begins: **ADDING
CIRCUMSTANCES**

- Each cousin proposes a different
theory and solution

- Old rivalries and resentments
surface, hindering their progress

- The challenge of working together
despite their differences

12 YEAR OLD BOY WHO IS LOST



WAS HE GETTING BACK AT
ME FOR THE BIRTHDAY
PRANK?

CIRCUMSTANCE-
SUSPICION

FRAGMENTS/
PHRASES

Computer

Disappointed over the...isms

Monosodium glutamate (MSG) is a flavor enhancer often added to restaurant foods, canned vegetables, soups, deli meats and other foods. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has classified MSG as a food ingredient that's generally recognized as safe.



Mayo Clinic

<https://www.mayoclinic.org/faq-20058196>

[Monosodium glutamate \(MSG\): Is it harmful? - Mayo Clinic](#)

People also ask :

What does MSG do to the human body?

with anger. 'At least I'm doing something instead of hiding behind a computer!' As the boys squared off, Mia suddenly gasped. 'Wait... look!' On the viewport, a shimmering, otherworldly shape began to materialise. The cousins froze, their argument forgotten in the face of the unknown."



, tic,
ilt quantum
io-weapon.'
The ship's
sing the big
competition

compound
reat. I'll add
t flashing in
to unite her
ad

right
m shouted,
face flushed

MSG BUTTER=
KFC=
BEAUTIFUL
RECIPE-
MASTERPIECE

ADD A LITTLE
BIT OF YUM
YUM TO ALL
YOUR WRITING



Alien Encounters and Hidden Agendas

First Contact:

- The cousins' discovery of a benevolent alien entity trapped within the ship's systems
- Uncovering a conspiracy involving members of their own family
- The challenge of trusting each other with vital, dangerous information



Exemplars:

1. "The alien's thoughts resonated directly in their minds, a symphony of colour and emotion. 'We are the Lumina,' it communicated. 'We seek harmony, yet our presence disrupts your technology.' Zoe's eyes narrowed with suspicion. 'Convenient excuse,' she thought, before realising the alien could hear her. To her shock, Aiden stepped forward. 'You've been trying to contact us for years, haven't you?' he asked softly. 'That's what my equations have been pointing to.' The cousins stared at Aiden, realising how little they truly knew about each other."
2. "Mia's hands shook as she decoded the encrypted file on her aunt's personal tablet. 'This can't be right,' she whispered. The others crowded around, eyes widening as they read. Their own parents and aunts and uncles were part of a secret organisation, one dedicated to preventing alien contact at any cost. Liam sank to the floor, his tech-savvy world shaken. 'Our whole family... they've been lying to us our entire lives.' Zoe's face hardened. 'The question is,' she said grimly, 'what do we do about it?'"
3. "The ship's AI sparked to life, its holographic form flickering ominously. 'Security breach detected. Initiating purge protocol.' Aiden lunged for the console, fingers flying. 'It's not a malfunction!' he shouted. 'Someone's activated the ship's defence systems against the Lumina!' Liam shouldered him aside. 'Move! I can bypass it faster!' As the cousins argued, Mia noticed Zoe slipping away, a determined look on her face. 'Zoe, wait!' Mia called, torn between staying with the boys and following her youngest cousin. 'What are you planning?'"

Unravelling Family Secrets

Revelations and Tough Choices:

- The cousins discover the true purpose of their family's annual "reunion"
- Each cousin grapples with conflicting loyalties and moral dilemmas
- A betrayal from within their group threatens to derail everything



Exemplars:

1. "Zoe's voice shook as she played back the recorded message. Uncle Marcus's face filled the screen, his usual warmth replaced by steely determination. 'Project Firewall must succeed,' he intoned. 'The children are the key. Their combined skills... if they only knew their true potential.' The cousins exchanged stunned looks. Liam voiced what they were all thinking: 'We're not here for a family reunion. We're lab rats in some grand experiment.'"
2. "Mia paced the room, agitated. 'We can't just ignore what the Lumina are offering! Think of the medical advancements, the scientific knowledge!' Aiden nodded vigorously, but Liam shook his head. 'At what cost? You saw the projections. Contact could destabilise our entire society.' They turned to Zoe, who had been uncharacteristically quiet. She met their gaze, her expression unreadable. 'We need to wake the adults,' she said finally. 'We can't make this decision alone.' The others stared at her in disbelief, the weight of their responsibility suddenly very real."
3. "A klaxon blared, red emergency lights bathing the corridor in an eerie glow. 'What did you do?!' Aiden yelled, rounding on Liam. The other boy raised his hands defensively. 'It wasn't me! I was with you the whole time!' Realisation dawned on Mia's face. 'Where's Zoe?' she whispered. As if in answer, the ship's engines roared to life, changing course. Zoe's voice came over the intercom, filled with cold determination. 'I'm sorry,' she said. 'But I'm doing what has to be done to save our family... whether you agree or not.'"

The Galactic Gamioit

The Final Challenge:

- A race against time to thwart both family conspiracy and alien threat
- The cousins must combine their skills in an unprecedented way
- An unexpected sacrifice leads to a bittersweet resolution



Exemplars:

1. "The Stargazer shuddered as it approached the swirling quantum anomaly. In the control room, the cousins worked in perfect synchronisation for the first time. Liam's fingers blurred over the ship's controls, guided by Aiden's rapid-fire calculations. Mia monitored the Lumina's energy signature, calling out fluctuations. And Zoe, reconciled with her cousins, coordinated their efforts with tactical precision. 'It's now or never,' she announced. 'Our parents or the universe. We have to choose.'"
2. "'There's only one way to seal the breach,' Aiden said quietly, his young face grave beyond his years. The others stared at him in horror as understanding dawned. Mia shook her head vehemently. 'No. We'll find another way!' But Liam and Zoe exchanged a look of grim acceptance. They all knew Aiden was right. Tears streamed down Mia's face as she hugged her cousin fiercely. 'You better come back, you hear me?' Aiden smiled sadly. 'I'll do my best. For all of us.' With that, he stepped into the airlock, ready to save a universe that would never know his name."
3. "As the adults slowly awakened, the four cousins stood united, their earlier conflicts forgotten. Uncle Marcus approached, his face a mix of pride and uncertainty. 'I don't know how you did it,' he began, 'but you've changed everything. The future of human-alien relations...' Zoe cut him off, her voice steady. 'We know about Project Firewall,' she said. The blood drained from Marcus's face. Liam stepped forward, eyes blazing. 'We've made our choice,' he declared. 'Now you all need to make yours. The universe is bigger than our fears. It's time our family accepted that.' The cousins linked hands, ready to face whatever came next – together."

Vocabulary List

1. Interstellar: Occurring or situated between stars.
2. Quantum: The smallest amount of a physical quantity that can exist independently.
3. Stasis: A state of equilibrium or inactivity.
4. Nebula: A cloud of gas and dust in outer space.
5. Trajectory: The path followed by an object moving under the action of given forces.
6. Destabilize: Cause to become unstable or unreliable.
7. Resonated: Produced or showed resonance.
8. Encrypted: Converted information into code to prevent unauthorised access.
9. Protocol: A set of rules governing the exchange or transmission of data between devices.
10. Purge: Remove (a group of people considered undesirable) from an organisation or place in an abrupt or violent way.
11. Loyalties: Strong feelings of support or allegiance.
12. Dilemma: A situation in which a difficult choice has to be made between two or more alternatives.
13. Klaxon: A loud electric horn or alarm.
14. Synchronisation: The operation or activity of two or more things at the same time or rate.
15. Anomaly: Something that deviates from what is standard, normal, or expected.
16. Confluence: The junction of two rivers, especially rivers of approximately equal width; an act or process of merging.
17. Clandestine: Kept secret or done secretively, especially because illicit.
18. Paradigm: A typical example or pattern of something; a model.
19. Subterfuge: Deceit used in order to achieve one's goal.
20. Sentient: Able to perceive or feel things; conscious.

Exemplar Response to the Prompt

Stardate 2184.56 - Personal Log of Mia Zhang

I can't believe it's only been three days since our world turned upside down. The Stargazer's corridors still echo with the lingering hum of the Lumina's energy, a constant reminder that everything has changed.

My hands shake as I write this, part exhaustion, part lingering adrenaline. I keep expecting to wake up and find this was all some crazy dream concocted by one of Aunt Evelyn's virtual reality simulators. But the weight in my chest tells me it's all too real.

Liam, Aiden, Zoe... I've known them my whole life, but I feel like I'm seeing them for the first time. Liam's not just the annoying tech geek anymore. The way his fingers flew over those controls, decrypting the ship's systems in seconds – it was like watching a virtuoso pianist. And Aiden? His sacrifice... I still can't think about it without tearing up. The quiet determination in his eyes as he stepped into that airlock... I've never been more proud or terrified in my life.

Zoe surprised me the most. I always thought of her as the baby of the group, but the way she held us together, even after her moment of doubt – she's got the makings of a true leader. I think Uncle Marcus saw it too, judging by the look on his face when we confronted him.

Speaking of the adults, I'm still processing the magnitude of their deception. Project Firewall? Using us as unwitting test subjects? Part of me understands their fear, but another part is furious. How can we ever trust them again?

As for the Lumina... their presence lingers in my mind like a bittersweet melody. The potential for knowledge, for growth, for understanding the cosmos in ways we never imagined – it's intoxicating. But I can't shake the nagging fear. What if we're not ready? What if this changes humanity in ways we can't predict or control?

I stare out the viewport, watching distant stars flicker. Somewhere out there, the Lumina are waiting. And thanks to us, humanity now faces a choice that will echo across the galaxy. The enormity of it all is overwhelming.

But then I look at my cousins, huddled together in the observation deck, and I feel a glimmer of hope. If we could overcome our differences and save the ship, maybe humanity can rise to this challenge too. Whatever comes next, I know one thing for certain – we'll face it together, as family.

The ship's clock chimes, signalling the start of another day. Time to face the debriefings, the questions, the uncertain future. But first, I think I'll join my cousins. After all we've been through, a moment of quiet togetherness is exactly what we need.

End Log.