



2022 Curious Questions Contest Entries

Our students come from different backgrounds. Some of their honest questions are on some controversial or religious topics. Sharing these questions does not constitute an endorsement.

Lily B., 12, Tennessee

1. What's the longest someone has stayed awake without sleeping?
2. Why do we have to eat and drink to live?
3. How do random words on a piece of paper turn into a story that entralls readers the way it does?
4. Why do we dress up for Halloween?
5. How many stars are in the sky?

Daniel A., 15, Arkansas – HONORABLE MENTION

1. Are sea cucumbers edible?
2. **Why are coins never made of gems?**
3. Are there sharks that dig burrows?
4. Why do trees change color from top to bottom?
5. Can people make Kevlar airplanes?

Dakota C., 13, Quebec

1. What is oxygen?
2. What is plastic?
3. How does DNA work?

Sophie P., 13, Ontario

1. Do different types of birds understand each other's chatter?
2. Why is C in the middle of the keyboard instead of A?
3. Does anyone know what names Adam gave the animals and are these names still used?
4. How does a person born blind dream?
5. Were there different breeds of animals taken onto the Ark, such as dogs?

Sarah S., 13, Alberta – HONORABLE MENTION

1. **Where do memories go if you forget them?**
2. Who knows what the future will bring?
3. Can I know what someone else is feeling?
4. How do I know who I am?
5. What lies beyond space?

Eli W., 12, Alaska

1. Why do we have 3 names?
2. Why do we eat roots?
3. Why do men have beards?
4. Why isn't the world flat?
5. Why are there a bunch of planets?

Javan W., 13, Alaska

1. Why do we grow up instead of grow down?
2. Why are there so many colors in the world?
3. What mysteries are under the floorboards in my house?
4. How did people figure out there was no oxygen in space?
5. Why can't we walk on clouds?

Elise N., 9, Ontario

1. Why does Daniel Schwabauer always wear a top hat?
2. Why do people use toothpaste to brush their teeth? Why not peanut butter?
3. Why did we burn the teepee last month?
4. Why weren't the deer guts in the backyard still not eaten by coyotes?
5. Why don't people's insides show on the outside?

Brock S., 12, Alaska

1. If the Vikings only used the stars to navigate, then how did they navigate during the day or on a cloudy night?
2. Why do so many children and teens today focus and immerse themselves in fantasy and virtual reality? Is it because they are afraid of the reality of the world their generation is inheriting?
3. There is a rock on Mars that closely resembles that of a human face. If that was carved by alien hands in likeness to themselves, then could they resemble humans so closely that they are walking among us today and we don't even realize it?
4. Why do so many artists depict cherubs as resembling fat, baby pigs with stubby little wings? Do they think skinny people can't be romantic?

Calvin T., 12, Guam – HONORABLE MENTION

1. **How far from home is considered a vacation?**
2. Why do we keep pets?
3. What's the highest IQ?
4. **Why is it called boxing "ring" when it's a square?**
5. Why do we carve pumpkins?

Nora S., 13, Maryland

1. If they make contacts for glasses... what would happen if they made sunglass contacts? Why don't they?
2. Why is drinking water not blue when water is always depicted as blue?
3. Why do scientists/chefs wear white coats when they can get them stained so much easier than any other color?
4. Would you think of gray as a lighter shade of black, or a darker shade of white?
5. Why/who decided to make January the first month?

Lucy S., 13, Maryland

1. Why is it usually moms who don't like video games and not dads?
2. Why is it so hard to do something when your brain tells you it's hard?
3. Why is it so hard for people to admit they were wrong?
4. Why do tears come out of our eyes when we're really happy or really sad?
5. Why are people always on a device? Don't they know they're losing brain cells?

Levi B., 11, Tennessee

1. Why is writing so interesting?
2. How is Daniel Schwabauer so inspiring?
3. Why can't I watch writing instead of TV?
4. I am 4'7"and 11...Why am I not growing?
5. I hate school except for writing?

Lauren B., 14, Tennessee

1. Do boys secretly love rainbows?
2. How many hippies live in TN?
3. Why do people not save water?
4. Is there an adult somewhere in the world who has never heard of America?
5. Are creative thinkers better creative writers?

Hunter W., 14, Rhode Island

1. Can you taxidermy a person?
2. Why only 5 toes?
3. Should I tell my parents that I'm adopted?
4. Why don't chickens wear pants?
5. Why am I asking questions?

Jett K., 13, Michigan

1. Is an immortal jellyfish really immortal?
2. Why is it fun to swim and not walk when swimming is just walking through liquid instead of air?
3. Who thought boiling leaves in water would taste good?
4. Why does water travel on upside down surfaces?
5. What do angels and demons look like?

Justine B., 14, Alberta – 3rd PLACE

1. How do you test to see if things are poisonous?
2. Why do people think you can't get a proper education outside of school?
3. Why are some people more brave than others?
4. What was the most common cause of death back in history?
5. **If hot air rises why are the tops of mountains so cold?**

Vera T., 12, Wyoming – 1st PLACE

1. **Do lions make hair balls?**
2. Why would people think of chickens more as food when they make such great pets?
3. Why do we think babies are cute even when they are practically bald?
4. Why do we forgive animals quicker than humans?
5. **Why do we get songs stuck in our heads?**

Liam B., 10, Maryland – HONORABLE MENTION

1. **If every single person could agree on one thing, what would it be?**
2. Why do some pillows say they're ultra firm when pillows are super mushy?
3. Is the word "breakdancing" a warning that if you do it it will break you?
4. Do people choose to run track because it's fun or just that it seems easier than other sports?
5. They say every snowflake is different, but no one has seen all of them, so how do they know that then?

Kolbe F., 13, Maryland

1. Why does a duck's quack echo?
2. How many times does lightning strike in a storm?
3. What would happen if I were to hang upside down for an hour?
4. How much would I weigh on Mars?
5. How many licks does it take to eat a lollipop?

Naomi C., 12, Ontario

1. Why are boys associated with blue, and girls with pink?
2. Why do cats have retractable claws, and dogs don't?
3. Why do people have favourite colours?
4. Who found out that durians are edible?
5. How many different instruments are there in the world?

William P., 12, Iowa

1. Does your body last longer in extreme heat or extreme cold?
2. Who invented the hat?
3. Why is it so hard to come up with questions when you need them, but easy when you don't?
4. Why are books the only way to calm a brain and why are they a distraction in themselves?
5. What would a circle look like if it had two edges?

Gretta K., 13, Maryland – HONORABLE MENTION

1. **Why are there almost always groups of birds clustered together on a wire? How do they communicate that they want to gather? What do they do up there?**
2. If I had a time machine, and traveled back to the Roman or Egyptian time, and gave the ruler an ice cream cone, what would his opinion of it be?
3. How can we taste the spiciness of a food if we don't have a "spicy" taste bud?
4. Every seagull's screech sounds like a dying seagull... if so, what do seagulls that aren't dying sound like?
5. If it wasn't necessary for humans to eat food to survive, how would that impact the world?

Asher V., 13, Texas – HONORABLE MENTION

1. **Why are there so few green, orange, purple, and pink cars?**
2. Would plants live better watered with Powerade or water?
3. Who thought to ferment stuff?
4. Why would anybody buy ripped jeans?
5. Why do eyes that look like frowns make a face so cute?

Auden V., 10, Texas

1. Why are we here?
2. What is the point of life?
3. Why did someone blow up a piece of rubber and call it a balloon?
4. Why do humans have two eyes--why not one or three?
5. Do people see colors the same as other people?

Oakley L., 11, South Carolina – 2nd PLACE

1. **Do horses like to be ridden?**
2. Who discovered the "scooby" and found it could make a drink called "kombucha"?
3. What was the original language Adam and Eve spoke?
4. Were there flies and gnats before the Fall?
5. **What was the first joke? Who made it up?**

Jackson L., 13, South Carolina – HONORABLE MENTION

1. Why do toddlers scream when they're happy, scream when they're sad, scream when they're scared and scream when they're mad?
2. Whose idea was it to connect a small handle to a shallow little bowl small enough to fit in your mouth? (Spoons)
3. If everyone knows that one day he or she will die, how do they go about so confidently without any thought of the future? This is a question of eternity - Heaven or Hell. Why don't people give any thought to that?
4. Would people say, "How on Earth?" on the moon?
5. **Is it possible to color materials with infrared or ultraviolet colors, making them invisible?**

Liddy V., 12, Texas – HONORABLE MENTION

1. Why do humans get married in a ceremony rather than fighting over mates like other animals?
2. When will the human race end?
3. **Are windows meant to let light in, let you see out, or are they purely an asset for defenestration?**
4. Does Earth's tilt of 23 degrees have to do anything with our 24 hours in a day?
5. How many of the stars we see in the sky have already gone out?

Elise C., 12, Ontario – HONORABLE MENTION

1. Why do I always laugh at my own jokes?
2. **Why do people in old movies and shows sound so funny?**
3. **Why are yawns "contagious"?**
4. Why do people think it's rude to put elbows on tables?
5. Why do people laugh when someone is hurt?

Ian S., 11, Washington

1. Is it right to always assume someone had good or bad intentions in doing something?
2. Why are toys and other things discarded when they could be given to others?
3. Why does music help some focus but others find it a distraction?

Evelyn I., 10, British Columbia – HONORABLE MENTION

1. **What is the oddest metaphor?**
2. Why should I care what mineral content is in my soap?
3. Why do we laugh?
4. Why do people like coffee?
5. How did new words get added to English?

Kate M., 13, Ontario – HONORABLE MENTION

1. Are some people just naturally better at life than others?
2. Do opposites actually get along?
3. Why do some very valuable areas of life have to be so complicated?
4. **Wouldn't it be cool if you could see yourself from other people's perspective?**
5. Who invented bread?

Aidan D., 12, Idaho – HONORABLE MENTION

1. Why do people spend so much money to build airplanes that can carry you across the sky, but they can't do something as simple as move backwards ON THE GROUND?
2. Why do people use money and not just trade?
3. Why are cats afraid of cucumbers?
4. Why do stars look like they are twinkling?
5. **Why do we need so many words?**