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# Great Lego Build-off finals held at Librarium

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First-place winner Noah Brandenburg (left) and Joseph Payne participate in the lego build off at the Librarium in Tulsa on Friday. Kid's were challenged to build a creation that encompassed the theme Fizz Boom Read and were judged on creativity, aesthetics and following the theme. JACKIE DOBSON/ Tulsa World

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Posted: Saturday, July 26, 2014 12:00 am

By NOUR HABIB World Staff Writer | 0 comments

Plenty of robots and mad scientists popped up at the Librarium on Friday morning. A mine, a ship and an MRI machine also made an appearance.

These were all among the creations made by more than a dozen kids at The Great Lego Build-Off finals on Friday. The annual event allows the winners from various branch library Lego contests held throughout the summer to compete for the title of champion.

The Build-Off is divided into divisions — the elementary school age group competed Friday morning, and middle-schoolers and high-schoolers competed in the teen division in the afternoon.

Enthusiasm and confidence were high as the first- through fifth-graders built their creations within the allotted hour. The judges score participants on creativity, aesthetics, complexity and how closely the creation sticks to the summer reading theme. This year's theme for kids is "Fizz, Boom, Read."

Jenna Owens, 10, was building a robot and an airplane car.

"For like two weeks I had absolutely no idea

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what to build," she said. "And then I was like, I should build a robot!"

She decided to also add the plane because it fit the theme.

"Airplanes have to do with science, because

of air pressure and wings and stuff," Jenna said.

Nine-year-old Matthew Domanchuk built an evil lair during the branch competition and decided to make a mine this time around.

"I thought I had a good idea of it, and I thought it would be pretty easy to build," he said.

He said he is a Lego fan at home.

"You can build anything," Matthew said.

Most of the other kids attending agreed.

Tzion Wing, 10, built an MRI machine on Friday.

"You can make literally everything," he said. "Nothing's impossible with Legos."

Some kids put some extra thought in their projects, like 9-year-old Kaiten Kern, who wrote a story about her creation, titled "The Captain, the Co-pilot and the War."

Kaiten made a war machine for the contest.

"Then I noticed that this is a library, so people can read about it," said Kaiten, who passed out illustrated copies of the story to the judges.

Joseph Payne, 7, was one of the youngest and most enthusiastic contestants. He built an evil scientist tower, based on the character Dr. Doofenshmirtz from Disney's animated "Phineas and Ferb" show.

Kelly Payne, Joseph's mother, said Legos are his passion.

"That's really what he does with time," she said. "That's how he calms down, it's what he does for free play."

Payne said she's happy that her son has found an outlet for what he enjoys.

"School is not his thing," she said. "I tell him, everyone is good at different things. And so, finding what you love and what you're really good at, that's important."

Noah Brandenburg, 11, was named the champion on Friday. He built an intricate ship, with a scientist below deck building robots and a library on the top deck traveling around the world delivering books to others.

Christina Walsh, teen services coordinator for the library, said Legos are an educational tool.

"They're really fun, but they're also really great for kids to learn how to build things," she



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said.

“While they’re having fun, they’re also flexing their brains a little over the summer.”

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