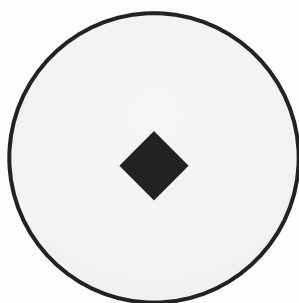


FOMALAIRE DIPLOMATIC CORPS



Orientation Manual

for Newly Appointed Interpreters

"Understanding begins by listening."

Burneil
INTERPRETERS OF THE REALM

PART I

Welcome, Interpreter

*"Understanding begins by listening. Your training starts
here."*

A Message From the Fomaltaire

Congratulations.

Whether you expected it or not, you have been selected to serve as an Interpreter. This is both an honor and a responsibility.

Many civilizations can speak. Far fewer truly understand one another. That is why interpreters exist.

Your assignment is **not** to decide who is right.

It is **not** to win arguments.

It is **not** to take sides.

Your task is something much more difficult:

- ◆ To listen.
- ◆ To observe.
- ◆ To ask questions.
- ◆ To understand.

The strongest interpreter is rarely the loudest one.

Welcome to Fomalautis.

INTERPRETER'S INSIGHT #1

Listening is not waiting for your turn to speak. Listening is trying to understand another point of view.

Where Am I?



Fomalautis is unlike any place on Earth. At first glance, it looks familiar. You will find forests, rivers, mountains, oceans, birds, flowers, and animals.

But look closer. Things here do not always appear where you expect.

- ◆ You may discover penguins near tropical plants.
- ◆ Parrots flying above snowy hills.
- ◆ Animals that seem perfectly ordinary standing beside creatures you've never imagined.

Fomalautis reminds visitors that appearances can be deceiving. Things do not always appear the way you expect.

Neither are people.

DID YOU NOTICE?

Every interpreter sees Fomalautis a little differently. As you read the books, pay attention to what each interpreter notices first.

What Is an Interpreter?

Imagine two friends arguing. Each believes they are right. Each believes the other isn't listening.

An interpreter does much more than translate words. A good interpreter notices:

- ◆ feelings
- ◆ fears
- ◆ misunderstandings
- ◆ body language
- ◆ silence

Sometimes the most important part of a conversation is what no one says aloud.

Great interpreters are curious. They ask questions before making assumptions. They understand that every person carries a different story.

ACTIVITY

Think about a time when someone misunderstood you. What happened? Could asking one more question have changed the outcome?

The Four Qualities of Every Interpreter

Every interpreter is different. Some are quiet. Some are bold. Some solve problems by thinking. Others learn by doing. But the best interpreters share four important qualities.

CURIOSITY

They want to understand.

COURAGE

They face unfamiliar situations even when they're nervous.

COMPASSION

They remember that everyone has feelings, even those who seem very different.

OBSERVATION

They notice details other people overlook.

WHICH QUALITY IS YOUR GREATEST STRENGTH?

- ☐ Curiosity
- ☐ Courage
- ☐ Compassion
- ☐ Observation

Why?

INTERPRETER'S INSIGHT #2

Sometimes the smallest detail changes everything.

Rules for Interpreters

Some rules are written. Others are learned through experience. Here are a few to remember.

- ◆ Listen before speaking.
- ◆ Ask before assuming.
- ◆ Stay curious.
- ◆ Respect differences.
- ◆ Keep your promises.
- ◆ Notice small details.
- ◆ Treat everyone with kindness.
- ◆ Never stop learning.

CHALLENGE

Circle the rule you think would be the hardest for you. Why?

What do these rules mean to you?

Your Interpreter's Journal

Every interpreter keeps notes. Draw or write your answers.

If you suddenly found yourself on Fomalautis...

WHAT WOULD SURPRISE YOU FIRST?

WHAT WOULD YOU MISS MOST ABOUT EARTH?

WHAT WOULD YOU WANT TO BRING WITH YOU?

INTERPRETER'S INSIGHT #3

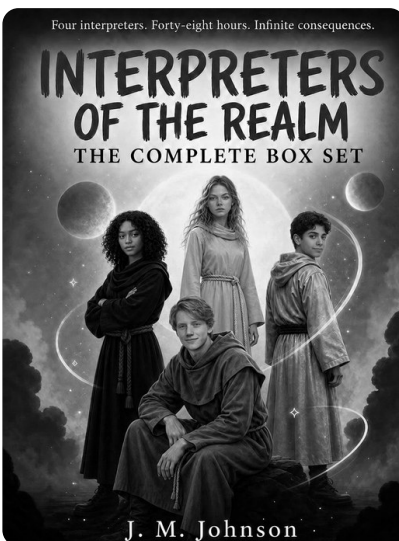
Good questions often matter more than quick answers.

Your Assignment Begins

You are about to meet four very different interpreters.

- ◆ Each arrived on Fomalautis unexpectedly.
- ◆ Each was given an ambassador.
- ◆ Each experienced the same extraordinary forty-eight hours.

Yet no two stories are exactly alike.



AS YOU CONTINUE YOUR JOURNEY, ASK YOURSELF

- ☐ Which interpreter thinks most like me?
- ☐ Which ambassador would challenge me the most?
- ☐ What would I notice that the others might miss?

Turn the page.
Your orientation has just begun.

PART II

Meet the Interpreters

*"Every interpreter brings different strengths. There is no
single right way to understand another person."*

Four Interpreters

The Fomalaire do not choose interpreters because they are the strongest. Or the fastest. Or the smartest.

Every interpreter brings something unique.

- ◆ One notices people.
- ◆ One notices emotions.
- ◆ One notices opportunities.
- ◆ One notices patterns.

Together, they remind us that every problem can be understood from more than one point of view.

AS YOU READ EACH JOURNAL, ASK YOURSELF

What does this interpreter notice that the others do not?

INTERPRETER'S INSIGHT #4

People can witness the same event and remember it very differently.

Meet Gwynneth



Gwynneth

"Sometimes the hardest conversations are the most important ones."

Gwynneth has always cared about doing the right thing.

She notices how people feel, worries about hurting others, and wants everyone to get along. That makes her an excellent interpreter.

But on Fomalautis, understanding people isn't always enough. Sometimes the truth is uncomfortable. Sometimes honesty is risky. Sometimes courage means speaking even when you're afraid.

STRENGTHS

- Compassion
- Diplomacy
- Careful thinking
- Emotional awareness

CHALLENGE

Learning when to speak, and when to stay silent.

If you are like Gwynneth...

You probably notice how your friends are feeling before they say a word.

Meet Hudson



Hudson

"Some of the biggest problems begin with the smallest details."

Hudson enjoys quiet. He would much rather observe than be the center of attention. That turns out to be surprisingly useful. While everyone else is watching exciting events unfold, Hudson quietly notices the things that don't quite make sense. He also discovers that sometimes the biggest responsibility isn't solving a problem... it's helping someone else manage theirs.

STRENGTHS

- Observation
- Patience
- Empathy
- Staying calm

CHALLENGE

Speaking up when something doesn't seem right.

If you are like Hudson...

You probably notice things other people overlook.

Meet Patrice



Patrice

"If there's a way out, Patrice will find it."

Patrice doesn't spend much time worrying. She acts. Fast.

She isn't afraid to try something new, bend a few rules, or tackle a challenge head-on.

That confidence often gets her into trouble... but it also helps her survive situations that would overwhelm many people.

STRENGTHS

- Courage
- Independence
- Quick thinking
- Confidence

CHALLENGE

Remembering that not every problem can be solved by moving faster.

If you are like Patrice...

You probably believe it's better to do something than stand around worrying.

Meet Andico



Andico

"Sometimes the quietest questions lead to the biggest discoveries."

Andico has learned that every day is valuable.

He thinks deeply. He notices connections. He wonders about questions other people don't think to ask.

While others focus on what is happening right now, Andico often finds himself wondering why. Sometimes understanding begins long before anyone realizes there's a mystery.

STRENGTHS

- Curiosity
- Insight
- Reflection
- Hope

CHALLENGE

Remembering that some answers take time.

If you are like Andico...

You enjoy looking beneath the surface to discover how things fit together.

Meet the Ambassadors

Every interpreter is assigned an ambassador. These ambassadors come from a civilization very different from Earth.

- ◆ Some are serious.
- ◆ Some are energetic.
- ◆ Some are difficult to understand.

Just like people, every ambassador has strengths... and challenges.

As you read the books, you'll discover that becoming an interpreter isn't only about understanding other civilizations.

It's about understanding another individual.

INTERPRETER'S INSIGHT #5

It's easier to understand a group after you've learned to understand one person.

Ambassador Profiles



Dandekar

Known For: Intelligence

Greatest Strength: Strategic thinking

Likes: Questions, honesty, careful planning

Can Be Challenging Because: He expects people to think before they act.



Mergl

Known For: Enthusiasm

Greatest Strength: Loyalty

Likes: Adventures, games, excitement, and his little buddy

Can Be Challenging Because: He doesn't always realize how much bigger and stronger he is than everyone else.



Cassel

Known For: Confidence

Greatest Strength: Laser focus

Likes: Looking impressive, being admired, taking charge

Can Be Challenging Because: Pride sometimes gets in the way of listening.

THINK ABOUT IT

Which ambassador do you think would be easiest for you to work with? Why?

The Warring Civilizations

Not everyone on Fomalautis is an ambassador. Two powerful civilizations stand on the edge of war, and understanding them is part of every interpreter's training.



The Grutacians

Known For: Warrior mentality

Greatest Strength: Physical strength and discipline

Likes: Order, strength, tradition

Can Be Challenging Because: Their strength and advanced technology could wipe out Earth.



The Denatans

Known For: Their hideous, drooling stench

Greatest Strength: Slyness

Likes: Anything salvageable

Can Be Challenging Because: They are clever, intelligent, and eager to salvage anything, or any planet.

THINK ABOUT IT

Two very different civilizations. If you were the interpreter, how would you begin to understand each one?

Before You Continue...

Every interpreter keeps a journal. Each journal tells the story of the same extraordinary forty-eight hours.

But every interpreter notices something different.

AS YOU READ, PAY ATTENTION TO

- ☐ What surprises each interpreter.
- ☐ What they misunderstand at first.
- ☐ What they learn about themselves.
- ☐ What they notice that the others do not.

There are no "wrong" perspectives.
Only different ones.

And sometimes... understanding another person's point of view is the first step
toward understanding the whole story.

Ready?

Turn the page to begin your training as an Interpreter of the Realm.

The best interpreters never stop asking questions.

PART III

Interpreter Training Academy

*"The best interpreters are not the strongest. They are
the most observant."*

Observation Challenge

Could You Be an Interpreter?

Interpreters notice details that other people miss. Test your observation skills!

Imagine you're walking through Fomalautis. How many unusual things can you find?

- ☐ A penguin near tropical flowers
- ☐ A parrot in a snowy tree
- ☐ A buffalo grazing beside a pond
- ☐ A cactus growing next to a waterfall
- ☐ An animal you've never seen before
- ☐ Someone standing quietly by themselves
- ☐ Two people who don't seem to agree
- ☐ Something that doesn't belong

CHALLENGE

Draw one more unusual thing you might discover on Fomalautis.

DRAW HERE

INTERPRETER'S INSIGHT #6

The world is always telling a story. The question is whether we're paying attention.

Which Question Would You Ask?

Good interpreters ask good questions. Read each situation. Circle the question that would help you understand the most.

SITUATION 1

Two ambassadors suddenly stop talking to each other. Would you ask:

- ☐ Who started the argument?
- ☐ What happened just before they stopped talking?
- ☐ Who's right?

SITUATION 2

A friend seems upset but says they're fine. Would you ask:

- ☐ Are you sure?
- ☐ Would you like to talk?
- ☐ Why are you acting strange?

SITUATION 3

Someone behaves very differently from you. Would you think:

- ☐ That's weird.
- ☐ I wonder why.
- ☐ They're wrong.

INTERPRETER'S INSIGHT #7

Curiosity builds bridges. Assumptions build walls.

Your Ambassador Needs Help!

Every ambassador is different. What would YOU do?

Scenario One

Your ambassador refuses to attend an important meeting because they'd rather go exploring. How would you convince them?

Scenario Two

Your ambassador accidentally embarrasses someone. How could you help make things right?

Scenario Three

Your ambassador becomes frustrated. What's the first thing you'd do?

Design Your Own Ambassador

Every ambassador is unique. Create one of your own!

Name

Special Ability

Home Planet

Favorite Hobby

Height

Biggest Fear

What makes them difficult to understand?

DRAW YOUR AMBASSADOR HERE!

YOUR AMBASSADOR

Invent a New Planet

What would your planet be like?

Planet Name

Animals

Climate

Plants

What makes your planet unusual?

DRAW YOUR PLANET!

YOUR PLANET

INTERPRETER'S INSIGHT #8

Every world seems strange until someone takes the time to understand it.

Solve the Misunderstanding

Sometimes two people disagree simply because they mean different things. Read each example. Can you think of a better way to communicate?

"YOU'RE LATE."

Could you say it another way?

"YOU NEVER LISTEN."

Try again.

"I DON'T UNDERSTAND."

What question could you ask instead?

"THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE."

How could you keep the conversation going?

Create Your Own Interpreter

Congratulations! You've just been chosen as an interpreter. Tell us about yourself.

Your Name

Three strengths

Something you're still learning

What kind of ambassador would challenge you the most?

What kind of ambassador would you enjoy working with?

DRAW YOURSELF WEARING AN INTERPRETER ROBE!

SELF-PORTRAIT

Mission Complete!

Before you continue your journey through the books... think about everything you've learned.

A great interpreter:

- ◆ listens carefully
- ◆ notices details
- ◆ asks questions
- ◆ respects differences
- ◆ stays curious
- ◆ keeps learning

WHICH SKILL WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO IMPROVE?

- ☐ Listening
- ☐ Observation
- ☐ Patience
- ☐ Courage
- ☐ Compassion
- ☐ Curiosity

Welcome to the Realm, Interpreter.
Your journey begins with *Gwynneth*, Book One.