



NEW WRITING
NORTH
YOUNG WRITERS

WRITING
FROM
HOME



Fantasy

Warm Up:

Grab a piece of paper and mind-map 'Fantasy' – what have you read (or watched) recently that fits into that category? What fantasy books or films would you like to read or watch?. What do these stories have in common? What makes them different?

Draw a Venn diagram of the overlap between fantasy genres and stories.

Give it a Try:

Exercise One – It's Like Our World But...

Set a timer for three minutes. Complete the sentence 'It's like our world but...' as many times as possible. Repeat the beginning of the sentence each time. (It's like our world but people can breath under water/ it's like our world but with no music etc)

At the end of the three minutes highlight your favourites

Choose one example either from your list & write a 'story in a paragraph' using that sentence as inspiration

Get inspired: Famous Fantasy protagonists!



Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz

Dorothy wants to go home and visiting the wizard is the only way she can get there



Frodo Baggins in The Lord of The Rings

Power has fallen into the wrong hands in Middle Earth and Frodo is the only one who can save the world

Exercise Two – Building Your Protagonist

Develop a short character profile for your character – write down what you think they want and what you think they need. How do these things show themselves to the reader? What a character wants may be a key plot point, what they need may be a character design.

Talk about the idea of ‘the chosen one’ – what makes your character UNIQUE?

Exercise Three – Defeating Evil

Design an antagonist to work against your protagonist – is this something physical (a person/ a demon?) or something else (self doubt/ money/ a force?)

What does your antagonist (whether physical or not) want/need?

How is your antagonist similar to your protagonist (is it even part of your character?) and how are they different?

What are they battling?

Challenge Yourself:

Encounter

Create a short encounter between your antagonist and your protagonist. Who has the power? This could be a script/poem/story/comic etc.

Explore Further:

Think of some stories that have really strong ‘world identities’ eg – *The Hunger Games*, *Avatar* etc

This workshop was devised by Zoe Murtagh for New Writing North Young Writers.



Zoe Murtagh is a writer, performance artist and poet. Her work is vibrant and interactive, creating playful disruptions to everyday life. Inspired by music that makes you tingle, science lessons and Kate Bush's dancing she creates work around themes of identity, heritage, the environment and friendship in a way that is fun, insightful and might even put a bit of fire in your belly. She is the current recipient of Northern Stage's 'Title Pending Award for New Theatre' and recently took part in 'Words First' poetry competition with BBC Radio 1Xtra and New Writing North. She has recently completed writing her debut short film 'After The Break' which was written through BFI Network and Film Hub North's Script Lab and has since been commissioned by New Creatives - a talent development scheme supported by Arts Council England and BBC Arts and delivered by Tyneside Cinema. She is a freelance artist with BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art and has made work for Live Theatre, Camden People's Theatre, GIFT Festival and Curious Festival.

New Writing North Young Writers is a programme for young people aged 12-19. We run creative writing groups, masterclasses and programmes in schools across the North East. We support young people to express their ideas, to work with professional writers and artists, to create and share new work, and to meet other young writers.

We would love to read your writing! Share it with us on social media using #writingfromhome or by emailing youngwriters@newwritingnorth.com. Search for New Writing North Young Writers on Instagram, Facebook or Twitter, where we will also be sharing regular writing prompts. Each week we will select a Young Writer of the Week whose work will be shared on our channels.

Find other writing workshops and much more on our website www.newwritingnorth.com

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