



NEW WRITING
NORTH
YOUNG WRITERS



Icons & Role Models

This workshop is designed to help us explore the influential figures in our community, as well as be inspired by our achievements.

Warm Up:

Complete the phrase '*I want to be known for ...*' as a chunk of free writing. Keep writing for 3 minutes without taking your pen off the page. You could describe in detail one thing you want to be known for, or you could list all of the many things you want to be known for... just keep writing!

Get Inspired:

Spend some time researching a well-known LGBTQIA+ figure. Maybe you have one in mind, or you can choose someone from our Queer Icons list (see Appendix 1). Write down what you find interesting about them.

Give it a Try:

Write a letter to your LGBTQIA+ hero or figure explaining why you have chosen them and what they have taught you. Think about what character traits they must have and what they admire. Are there any questions you would like to ask them? Or anything you'd like to tell them about your life?

Next, imagine your influential person is giving a speech in the middle of your town or city, what would they say? How would they arrive? What would people leave with? Write down your impressions from the perspective of someone who's in the crowd.

Challenge Yourself:

Going back to your free writing about what you want to be known for, imagine you have achieved this and write yourself a letter from the point of view of a fan, someone you have affected with your actions/beliefs/music/art. How does it make you feel to write a positive letter about yourself?

If you'd like to try out a different form of writing, find a quote from your inspirational person or a line from an article or interview about them. Use this line as the first line of a poem.

Further Reading:

If you are old enough, or have permission from your parent/carer, watch the film *Pride* (2014) and make notes about the tactics they use to achieve their goals.

Appendix 1:

QUEER ICONS

ACTIVISTS / INFLUENCERS / ARTISTS /
SCIENTISTS / ATHLETES / MUSICIANS

MUNROE BERGDORF / JAMIE WINDUST / SCOTTEE / CHARLIE CRAGGS /
JUNO DAWSON / JACOB TOBIA / KATE MCKINNON / ELLEN DE GENERES /
HANNAH GADSBY / FOX FISHER / OWL UGLA STEFANIA /
HELOISE LETISSIER (CHRISTINE & THE QUEENS) / FREDDIE MERCURY /
MARSHA P JOHNSON / STORME DE LAVERIE / LAVERNE COX /
MISS MAJOR GRIFFIN GRACY / ALAN TURING / ALISON BECHDEL /
LAURA JANE GRACE / JACK HALBERSTAM / MARK ASHTON / BILLIE JEAN KING /
MEGAN RAPINOE / MHAIRI BLACK / SAMRA HABIB / SOFIE HAGEN /
KAI CHENG THOM / RAIN DOVE / PARIS LEES / RU PAUL / MARLENE DIETRICH /
DUSTY SPRINGFIELD / LESLIE FEINBERG / LOIS WEAVER / SYLVIA RIVERA /
CHELSEA MANNING / CHAZ BONO / TRAVIS ALABANZA / KEITH HARING /
ANNE LISTER / HOLLAND TAYLOR / ELTON JOHN / SAM SMITH / EZRA FURMAN /
KD LANG / GRACE PETRIE / FRANK OCEAN / AUDRE LORDE / JACKIE KAY /
MARGARET CHO / MAE MARTIN / DESIREE AKHAVAN / DOROTHY ARZNER /
SANDI TOKSVIG / LYRA MCKEE / STEPHEN FRY / CARA DELEIVINGNE / SHAMIR /
RUBY ROSE / TAN FRANCE / URSULA K LE GUIN / FRIDA KAHLO / SIMON NKOLI /
HARVEY MILK / KARL HENRICH ULRICHS / ALOK MENON / BARBARA GITTINGS /
CHRISTINE JORGENSEN / HAYLEY KIYOKO / SHARICE DAVIDS/ BILLY PORTER /
LENA WAITHE / PIERRE SEEL / JONATHAN VAN NESS / EDITH WINDSOR /
MICHEAL SAM / WU TSANG / CARRIE BROWNSTEIN / SUE PERKINS /
PAT HENSCHER / TERRY DONAHUE / IAN MCKELLEN / OSCAR WILDE /
KRISTEN STEWART / ANNIE CLARK / CARSON MCCULLERS / JUDITH BUTLER

AND SO MANY MORE! WHO IS MISSING? ADD YOUR OWN!

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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NORTH**



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**