

NEW WRITING  
NORTH  
YOUNG WRITERS

WRITING  
FROM  
HOME



## Aliens

### Warm Up:

Imagine you are an alien. Fill in the blanks in this sentence 'Hello my name is... and I have come to tell you...'

eg. 'Hello my name is Zoe and I have come to tell you a message from the future.'

Once you have done that try translating your sentence into an invented alien language! eg. 'Dip dop doop, ba ba da deep Zoe oop de meep hoop le teep top.'

### Get Inspired:

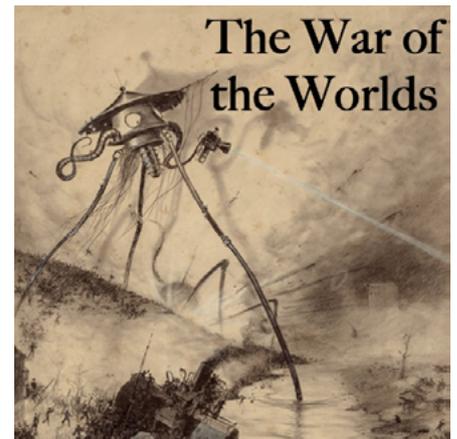
#### Famous Alien books and films!



*ET* is a classic family film featuring an alien that comes to Earth. [Watch the Trailer here.](#)



*The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* is a bestselling book that has also been turned into a film. [Watch the Trailer here.](#)



*The War of The Worlds* is a classic Sci-Fi book by H.G. Wells featuring an alien invasion of Earth. It has also been turned into a movie.

### Give it a Try:

#### Exercise One:

Imagine you are on a spaceship floating in the galaxy, you were born there and have always lived there, you look out of the window at a planet (you can choose which one). Describe what you imagine the land on that planet to be like.

#### Exercise Two:

One day you wake up and go to the bathroom to brush your teeth and when you look in the mirror you don't see your own face – you see an alien staring back at you. Describe this moment of discovery. Describe an alien's morning routine. Where do they wake up (a pod? A nest?). Imagine they look in the mirror and see YOUR FACE! What do they do?

### **Exercise Three**

Imagine you are either a human wanting to send a message to aliens or an alien wanting to send a message to humans. What do you want to tell them and how do you want to do it? Think about crop circles/codes/signals/mind reading/light shows/ news reports etc.

### **Exercise Four**

You've been hiding an alien in your wardrobe from your Mum. It's Halloween and you've been out trick or treating, you go to take the alien some of your sweets – they've gone! What happens next...

## **Challenge Yourself:**

Pick your favourite song or nursery rhyme. Have a go at rewriting the lyrics to be about extra terrestrial happenings. For example:

*Row, row, row your boat,  
Gently down the stream,  
Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily,  
Life is but a dream.*

might become:

*Glow, glow, glow up high,  
Noises all around,  
Somethings coming in the night,  
Who's appearing now?*

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](mailto: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](http://www.newwritingnorth.com)

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