



People of the North East are being asked to write, record, tweet or film how they feel about this region - the place they call home - as part of Dear Angel, a new literary artwork being created by writer and digital artist, Stevie Ronnie. Stevie wants to encourage you to think about the theme 'home' and share personal memories of the region, everyday experiences now and hopes for the future by writing letters addressed to The Angel of the North.

This ideas pack is one of three sets of suggested activities and exercises designed to creatively explore the idea of writing letters. The activities in this ideas pack are presented for individuals but could easily be adapted for groups of all ages. For more information, resources and ideas visit the Dear Angel website at: <http://dearangel.org>

Ideas Pack 2: Creative Letter Writing

Introduction

It can be fun to experiment with different approaches to writing a letter. You can take on another voice or write your letter in a variety of different forms. Letters can be poems and stories.

Activities

Activity 1: In Ten Years Time

Imagining you are 10 years older than you are now, complete the following writing tasks:

- Write a timeline of your typical day.
- Describe the room in which you spend most of your time. Use as much detail as you can.
- Describe a journey that you take on a regular basis. Try to use all of your senses (sight, hearing, touch, taste, smell).
- Go through all of the writing you have done so far and underline your five favourite things about your future self. Write a letter to the Angel that includes these five things. You can try writing your letter as a poem or a story.

Activity 2: Other Voices

- Take a piece of A4 paper, fold it in half three times and then open it back out again. Tear the paper into eight pieces. On each of the pieces write one of the following:
 - The name of your favourite actor / cartoon character.
 - The name of your first pet / teddy bear.
 - The name of the person you would most like to eat dinner with.
 - The name of the person you would least like to eat dinner with.
 - The name of a famous historical figure.
 - The name of your favourite musician.
 - Your favourite piece of furniture.
 - Your favourite building.
- Fold up the pieces of paper, shuffle them and pick one at random.
- Imagine the person, animal or thing you have picked is talking to their closest friend, telling them a story about their biggest secret.
- Return to the writing and turn it into a letter to the Angel of the North from the voice you have inhabited.



Further Suggestions

Condense your letter into 140 characters and tweet it at @_dearangel

Use your mobile phone or digital camera to make a short video letter using your writing as a starting point.

Draw a comic strip or make a digital comic that tells the story of your letter.

Use your computer or mobile phone to record yourself reading your letter. You could even work with your friends or classmates to put the audio recordings of your letters onto a CD or into a digital audio file.

Post your letter onto the Dear Angel facebook page.

Try to draw or paint a picture that responds to the ideas in your letter.

Make a photo-letter with old photographs. You could even put text and images together online via facebook or a blog post.

Links to digital tools, resources and example letters can be found online at <http://dearangel.org>

Sending in Your Letter

By mail to: Dear Angel, Studio 5D, 36 Lime Street, Ouseburn, Newcastle, NE1 2PQ

By email to: letters@dearangel.org

On twitter at: @_dearangel

On facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/dearangelofthenorth>

Audio and video letters can be dropboxed to: stevie@stevieronnie.com

All letters received by 20th May will be incorporated into an artist book that will be shown at Globe Gallery, Newcastle throughout Festival of the North East in June 2013. The book will then move to Holy Island en-route to Durham where it will be shown as part of the Lindisfarne Gospels Cultural Programme.