



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 designed for groups of 3 or more people. For more information, resources and ideas visit the Dear Angel website at: <http://dearangel.org>

Ideas Pack 3: Celebrating Your Community

Introduction

One of reasons the North East is such a special place to live is the strong sense of community that exists here. Why not get together with your friends, family, classmates or the members of a community group and write letters together?

Activities

Activity 1: Finding the Common Voice

- Ask each member of your group to attempt the following:
 - List three things that have changed for the better in their lifetime.
 - List three things that have changed for the worse in their lifetime.
 - Describe in one sentence why they like being a member of your community.
 - Describe in one sentence what a community is.
- Discuss your answers in pairs or small groups, with each pair or small group noting the common answers to the prompts.
- Bring the whole group back together and talk about your responses. Try to create a set of responses upon which everyone can agree.
- Use the common ideas to write a letter to the Angel that is signed by all of the members of your group.

Activity 2: A Manifesto for Change

- Ask each member of the group to list three things about the world that infuriate them in their day-to-day life.
- Collect the responses together.
- Hold an open vote to establish the most popular frustration or frustrations within the group. Members of the group can vote as many times as they like.
- Imagine that the Angel of the North has the power to change this thing. Write a group letter to the Angel that explains why the problem exists and suggesting how it could be done.



Further Suggestions

Condense your letters into 140 characters and tweet them at @_dearangel

Use your mobile phones or digital cameras to make short video letters using your writing as a starting point.

Draw comic strips or make digital comics that tell the story of your letter.

Use your computers or mobile phones to record yourselves reading your letter. Put the audio recordings of your letters onto a CD or into a digital audio file.

Post your letters onto the Dear Angel facebook page.

Try to draw or paint pictures that represent the ideas in your letters.

Make photo-letters with old photographs. You could even put text and images together online via a series of blog posts.

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.