

From Creative Signs to Creative Writing

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The Task:

Imagine

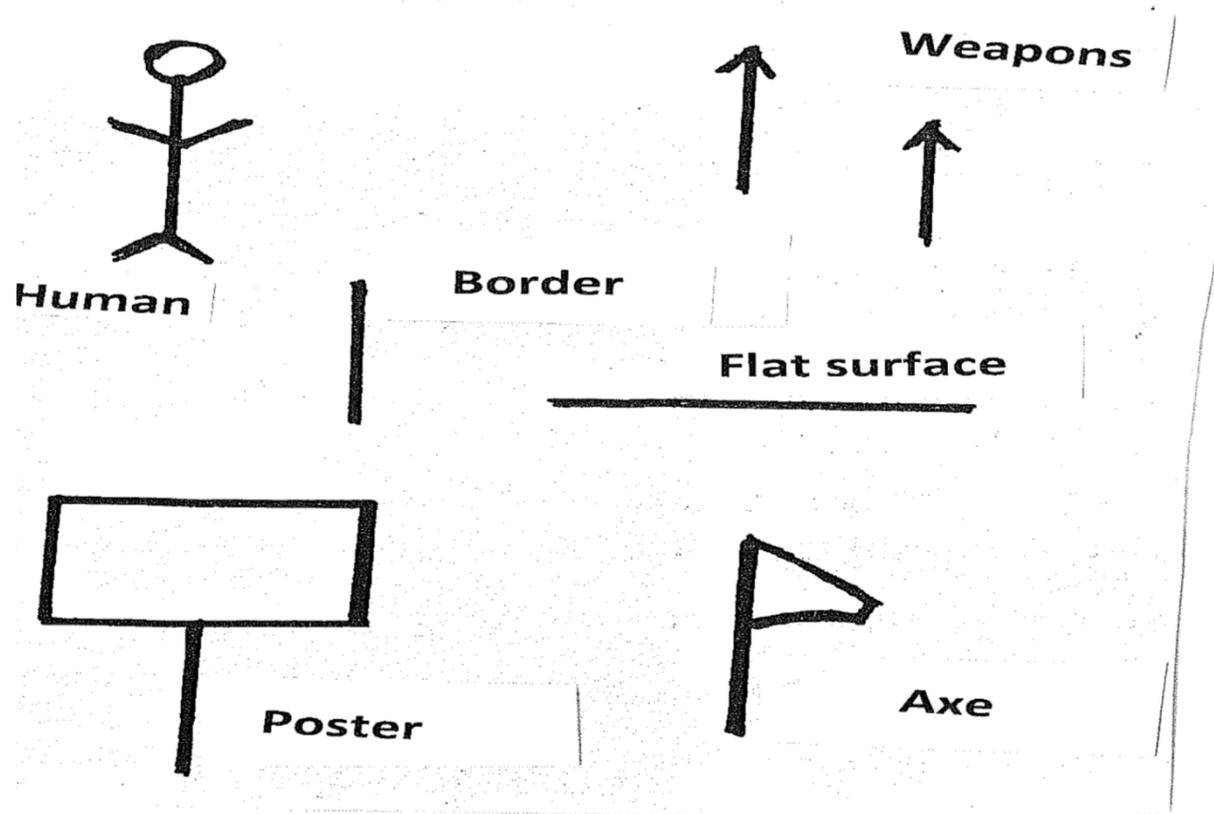
Aliens are watching from outer space. It is the time of the cold war (1961). Try and send this message:

The message

Planet earth is in the hands of two super powers. It is the period of the cold war. Many people in both system are fighting against each other, many want peace. The suffering is great. Planet earth is in danger of breaking apart!

But there is a complication: the aliens don't understand our writing system....

Try using the following signs...



This is how the artist does it....



A.R.(alf) Penck, Großes Weltbild 1965
"large picture of the world"

A.R. Penck born 1939

- German painter, sculptor, filmmaker, writer and musician.
- Penck formulated the basis of his mature style while living in East Berlin from 1963 to 1972.
- In 1969 he smuggled his works to Cologne for a one-man show.
- On obtaining an exit visa from East Germany in 1980, Penck settled in Cologne. He remained in the West, living and working in Dublin, London, Düsseldorf and Cologne.

(<http://www.tate.org.uk/art/artists/a-r-penck-ralf-winkler-1753>)

A.R. Penck's style

- Limiting himself in sometimes brutally simplified Paintings to figures formed from simple constellations of lines, combined with other pictorial signs and emblems, he gradually stripped his painting of its tonal relationships; this served to heighten the legibility and symbolic content of graphically arresting motifs exposed against neutral backgrounds.
- He exercised a strong influence, not only because he addressed political and social problems in his pictures but also because of his ability to formulate models or concepts giving a general, comprehensive picture of the world.

<http://www.tate.org.uk/art/artists/a-r-penck-ralf-winkler-1753>)

The historical background....

- **By the 1960s Berlin was still divided - the USSR controlled the East and the USA guaranteed freedom in the West. Thousands of refugees escaped to West Berlin each day - much to the embarrassment of the USSR - so in 1961 Khrushchev closed the border and ordered the construction of a wall to stop people leaving.**
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/history/mwh/ir2/>

Race to the Moon

- It is 1961 and the Soviet Union has just launched the first man into space. President Kennedy responds by saying, "I believe that this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to Earth."
- Kennedy wants to show that America can defeat the Soviet Union in the space race. Both countries are sworn enemies fighting the Cold War, which will last for decades.

[<http://teacher.scholastic.com/space/apollo11/>]

Map of Cold War Europe



The importance of adjectives

Find 5 suitable adjectives for each column:

The..... alien/the ... man.../the... woman/...	appearance	Personality/character/ others
positive	The gleaming alien	The clever alien
neutral	The green alien	The quiet alien
negativ	The hairy alien	The dangerous alien

Expressing WAR and PEACE through verbs



Fight, kill, spy, undermine, explode....



Work, study, sing, laugh, hug,...

Start to write...

- Pick a character in the picture and tell the alien what is happening on earth. Make sure that you incorporate ideas that show which super power camp you belong to.
- Pretend to be RALF and tell us why you painted the picture
- “A typical day on planet earth” told from the perspective of the Alien.
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Bibliography

- Albrecht, Ulrike, 1999, Jahrhundertschritt. Goethe-Institut München, p. 21-24.
- <https://myvocabulary.com/word-list/war-vocabulary/>
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/history/mwh/ir2/>
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