

STOWAWAY

Hi All! John David Anderson here. If you're like me, you like to ponder the really deep existential questions challenging humanity, such as, is there other intelligent life out there in the galaxy, and if so, are they friendly or do they want to eat us? And if they eat us, will they find us gamey or surprisingly moist and tender? What kinds of flavorings will they use? Have they heard of garlic?

Also if you are like me, you like to write down some of your thoughts when you are pondering what kind of meal you might make for our future alien overlords. So with that in mind I've penned a few writing prompts to get you started. You can use these to write a story, a novel, a poem, a list of things you should do to prepare for the impending invasion—whatever. The important thing is to use your imagination and have fun.

- 1) Imagine you are told that you have to leave Earth on a spaceship and you aren't sure when you will return. All essentials such as clothes, food, toiletries, and medicine will be provided for you. Otherwise you are allowed to take one backpack with you. What do you put in your pack and why?
- 2) Imagine aliens show up at our doorstep tomorrow and bring with them all kind of advanced technology, the likes of which we've only dared to dream. What is one piece of technology or scientific advancement you would want the aliens to give us and why?
- 3) Imagine you and your sibling (or best friend) are *both* stricken by some terrible disease that only gives you days to live, but you are given *one* pill that you're told might cure the disease. Would you take the pill yourself or give it to this other important person in your life (note: these are the only two available options. Don't try to cut the pill in half or study it to determine its chemical compound in the hopes of recreating a duplicate)?
- 4) Describe the scariest possible alien you can imagine. Consider its appearance, temperament, technology, and desires. Give the alien a name. Now imagine it shows up at your doorstep.
- 5) Pick a necessity that we currently have plenty of (water, trees, daylight, rain, electricity) and imagine what the Earth would be like if what you chose suddenly disappeared. How would humans adjust to the sudden absence? What would it change about society and culture? What disastrous consequences could it lead to?