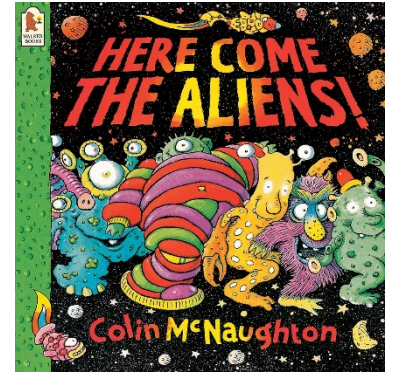


# Here Come the Aliens!

Book by Colin McNaughton



**Grade Levels:** 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Objectives:** Word Chain Composition – Rhythm Dictation – Form – Improvisation to Composition

**Materials Needed:** Book – Barred Instruments – Alien Cards – Word Chain Worksheet

## Sequence:

- **Day 1:**
  - Read **Here Come the Aliens!**
- **Day 2:**
  - Create Alien groups.
    - There are 10 different aliens in the book, so I had about 2-3 students in each group.
  - Assign each group an alien or let them pick their own!
    - I scanned and printed off pictures of each of the alien along with the text used on that page for the alien. I'm happy to share the visuals with you if you send me an email!
  - Give an 8 beat word chain example for an alien.
    - I made one up using adjectives from the text that accompanied the page that alien was on. I told students they could either use the text to create their word chain or they could come up with their own words to describe the alien!
  - Have groups create their word chain and dictate the rhythm on their word chain worksheet. Practice speaking it on text and with rhythm syllables.
    - I had students check in after they wrote the word chain, so I could make sure it was only 8 beats – I also had them check in after they dictated the rhythm to make sure they did it correctly! You could certainly leave the dictation part out if you wanted!
- **Day 3:**
  - Return to groups and review word chains from last class.
  - Have groups add movement/ actions to accompany their word chain.
  - Have groups create a 3 part form. Their form could include any of the following:
    - Spoken Word Chain
    - Word Chain w/ Movement
    - Rhythm Syllables of Word Chain
    - Rhythm of Word Chain Played on an Un-Pitched Percussion Instrument

- Have groups practice performing their word chain using the form they created.
- Write the form on the word chain worksheet.
- **Day 4:**
  - Return to groups and review word chains in the form created last class.
  - Have students individually improvise using their word chain and begin to gather melodic ideas they like.
  - Have students share their favorite melodic ideas with their group.
  - As a group, decide on melody using the ideas discussed.
  - Write letter names under the rhythm on the word chain worksheet.
  - Practice playing melody together.
- **Day 5:**
  - Return to groups and review word chain w/ melody.
  - Students can choose to add the melody to their form, creating a 4 part form or not use the melody and keep their previous 3 part form.
  - Have students practice and be prepared to share!
  - Perform!
    - Read the book, having students share their creations after you read the alien page that corresponds with their alien!

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Word Chain

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Rhythm

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Form

\_\_\_\_\_