Let’s Not Live On Earth

Connections

Visit the website of artist and poet Nicky Arscott, whose art is featured in the book.

“For Max” is for Max Ritvo whose amazing poetry can be found here.

“A Threat” refers to the story “The Lady, or the Tiger?” by Frank R. Stockton

“You Are Connected to Everything” is connected to the poem, “Requiem from an Office 7,000 Miles Away,” from the chapbook, Home No Home by Naoko Fujimoto which also appears as a graphic poem in this folio

“In February 2015” is about an incident in France. It’s worth mentioning that two years later, something similar happened, much closer to Blake’s home.

“The World” was sparked by the resurgence of the idea that the Earth is flat, which got huge media attention because of a Twitter debate recapped here.

Reviews

Publishers Weekly

The Millions

The Rumpus
Interviews

The Rumpus

Poet Spotlight

Connotation Press

Audio

“Neutron Star” at The Kenyon Review

The beginning of “The Starship” in TriQuarterly

“Easier to Write the Poem Where I’m the Queen” on the track Bashar Loves ELO

Excerpts from “The Starship” on the track “We’re Getting Older”

Questions for Reading Groups and the Classroom

Which poem is your favorite in the book and why?

What themes do you see in the book? Which speak to you the most strongly?

How would you feel about the earlier poems if “The Starship” didn’t follow them?

Questions regarding “The Starship” specifically

Is there anything that is hovering over your life right now and changing the way that you live?

If a starship came to Earth, would you react more like the husband or the wife in the poem?

If you were making a movie of “The Starship,” who would you cast?

What effect did the second person narration have on you as a reader?
Prompts for the Classroom

What’s your favorite monster? What makes your monster monstrous and what makes your monster human? Draw a mind map of these features. Then underline which features appeal to you most. How do you think your monster would perceive you? Write a poem about your monster.

“My Obsession with Just Is My Obsession with the Temporal” highlights Blake’s use of the word just across the book. Have you ever become obsessed with a word? Which word? Write a poem that uses repetition to push that word to its brink.

What type of genre fiction do you love to read? What elements of it do you like most? What elements are crucial to make a piece of writing fall into that genre? Write a poem that plays with the delineation between work of that genre and not.

More about Sarah Blake and her debut poetry collection, MR. WEST, here.