

THEY'RE MADE OUT OF MEAT

Terry Bisson, 1990 (Audio *Bisson-Theyre-Made-Out-Of-Meat.mp3*)

❖ 1.1. Find the following sentences and expressions in the text, highlight them. Fill in the blanks. Translate.

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|----|--|
| 1. | There's no doubt about it. We _____ up several from different parts of the planet, took them _____ our recon _____, and probed them all the way through. |
| 2. | You're asking me to believe in _____ meat." |
| 3. | "You're not understanding, are you? You're _____ to _____ with what I'm telling you. |
| 4. | Officially, we are _____ to contact, welcome and _____ in any and all sentient races or multibeings in this quadrant of the Universe, without _____, _____ or _____. |
| 5. | It seems _____, but there is a _____. |
| 6. | So we just _____ there's no one home in the Universe. |
| 7. | And we marked the entire sector _____. |
| 8. | Yes, a rather _____ but sweet _____ core cluster intelligence in a class nine star in G445 zone. |
| 9. | And why not? Imagine how _____, how unutterably cold the Universe would be if one were all alone ... |

❖ **1.2. Match the missing words from task 1.1 with the definitions below.**

a. an aircraft

.....

b. to imagine, to act as if...

.....

c. to say no to

.....

d. bias

.....

e. uninhabited

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f. impossible to live with

.....

g. having feelings, conscience

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❖ **1.3. Order the sentences:**

- Two alien beings are surprised to find creatures that are made of meat.
- The aliens decide to get in touch with a hydrogen core cluster intelligence.
- One of the aliens doesn't want to believe that it's possible for "meat creatures" to have thoughts.
- They are surprised that these "meat beings" could make machines and use radio waves to talk.
- The aliens find the idea of talking to "meat" ridiculous and so they pretend "there's no one home in the Universe".
- The aliens decide to erase all records and forget the "meat creatures", although officially they have to get in touch with them.
- The alien beings try to compare these "meat creatures" to other beings.

❖ **1.4. Give a short oral summary of the story so far (be prepared to recite the sentences above and comment on how the pictures below relate to the story).**



❖ **1.5. Listen to audio Bisson-Theyre-Made-Out-Of-Meat.mp3 and follow along in the text. Pause the recording after each expression below and mark the time (both in the chart below and in the margins of your book).**

• *They're completely meat.*

.....

• *We're supposed to talk to meat.*

.....

• *You're asking me to believe in sentient meat.*

.....

• *They can even sing by squirting air through their meat.*

.....

• *Nope. They're born meat and they die meat.*

.....

• *Unofficially, I advise that we erase the records and forget the whole thing.*

.....

• *It's just that the brain is made out of meat!*

.....

• *Which limits them to the speed of light and makes the possibility of their ever making contact pretty slim. Infinitesimal, in fact."*

.....

• *The brain, the brain does the thinking. The meat.*

.....

• *How strangely appropriate, that we should be meat's dream."*

.....

• *Are you beginning to get the picture or do I have to start all over?*

.....

❖ **1.6. Think of an example from your own experience when you saw a person (or a group of people) choosing to ignore someone or something because it was hard to understand. Write about it.**