

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.

| | | |
|----|--|--|
| 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

.....

f. impossible to live with

.....

g. having feelings, conscience

.....

❖ **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.