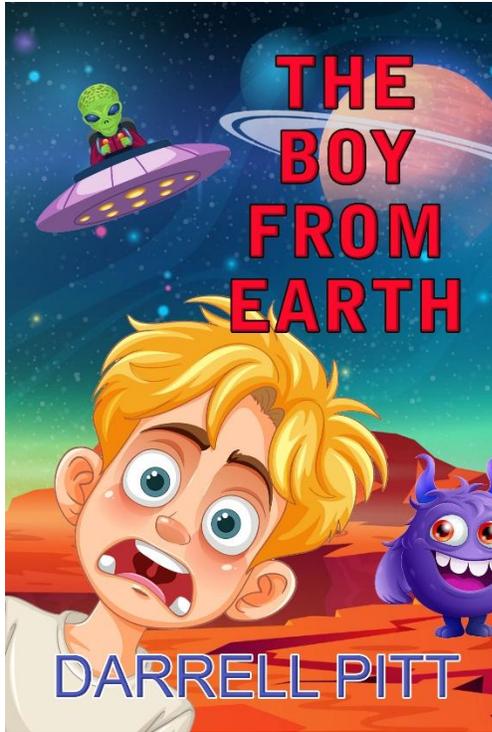


## *The Boy from Earth – Teaching Notes*



Twelve-year-old Bobby Baxter isn't exactly the bravest kid on Earth.

His list of things that scare him is up to number 689, and they include lightning, crowds, spiders, crocodiles, alien abductions, falling from great heights, falling from small heights and eggs.

So when he finds out that he's the first Earthling ever chosen to attend the famous Galactic Space Academy, light years away from home, he's terrified.

And that's before he discovers that someone at the academy wants the boy from Earth gone—permanently!

**Series:** Standalone novel

**Genre:** Middle Grade Sci-Fi / Adventure

**Theme:** Courage, Space Science, Anti-Bullying

### **1. Book Summary & Metadata**

- **Target Age:** 9 –14 years
- **The Hook:** Bobby Baxter is the most fearful kid on Earth, with a list of 689 things that terrify him. When he's chosen as the first Earthling to attend the Galactic Space Academy, he has to face his biggest fear yet: being the "primitive" new kid in a galaxy that doesn't want him there.

- Curriculum Links: English (Narrative Voice, Humour), Science (The Solar System, Gravity), HASS (Cultural Diversity and Inclusion).

## 2. Pre-Reading Questions

- **Fear Factors:** Bobby has 689 fears. If you had to list your top 3 fears, what would they be? Why is a "scaredy-cat" protagonist often more interesting than a "fearless hero"?
- **The "Primitive" Earth:** In this book, aliens think Earth is primitive. What are 3 things humans have invented that you think would actually impress a high-tech alien?

## 3. Discussion Questions

- **Character Growth:** Bobby starts the book defined by his fears. At what point in the story does he stop thinking about his list and start acting? What changed?
- **Perspective & Prejudice:** The students at the Academy treat Bobby differently because he's from Earth. How does this mirror real-world experiences of "the new kid" or someone from a different culture?
- **Humour as a Tool:** Darrell Pitt uses "laugh-out-loud" humor to deal with scary situations. How does humor help a reader (and Bobby) handle the more tense parts of the plot?

## 4. Activities

- **[STEM] – Designing the Academy:** The Galactic Space Academy is home to many different species. Design a dormitory room that would work for both a human and an alien who breathes a different gas or lives in 2x Earth's gravity.
- **[English] – Expand the List:** Create entries 690 to 695 for Bobby's list of fears based on things he encounters at the Space Academy. Write a short paragraph for each explaining why it's scary.
- **[Science] – The "Fire" Debate:** Aliens ask Bobby if humans have "discovered fire yet." Research and create a "Scientific Timeline for Aliens" that shows 5 major human milestones (e.g., Electricity, Space Flight, The Internet) to prove we aren't primitive!