

## Why write? ....A Mattifesto

**Because** biros and pencils and keyboards are good weapons that ask questions

**Because** playing with words is fun and helps us to find out who we are

**Because** our words and our feelings go together, and how we use words changes the way that we feel

**Because** words help to shape our hopes, dreams and fears

**Because** writing can help us to get through things

**Because** the more we gain control of language the more we gain control of life

**Because** we all have a right to write, to give voice to our lives, loves and experiences, and nobody can tell us what we can and can't write

**Because** we all have our own stories to tell, whoever we are, wherever we come from,

**Because** our words and our lives belong to us, each and everyone of us, and do not belong to teachers or publishers or government or the Queen or the BBC

**Because** each place and each person has their own language and own words – nobody owns spelling, nobody owns grammar, nobody owns how we say words – and content is more important than form

**Because** by writing our own stories and truths we resist the lies and pigeon-holes offered us by newspapers and television

**Because** we own our words, and our truth, so let's use them and let others hear them – it has nothing to do with money or big business – so let's share our words and find our own audiences and means of production

**Because** language is power and language fights back

**Because** it can be serious or funny or painful or angry or sad or entertaining or any or all of these and other stuff too

**Because** we are all different and we are all the same, and writing helps us to understand and love each other