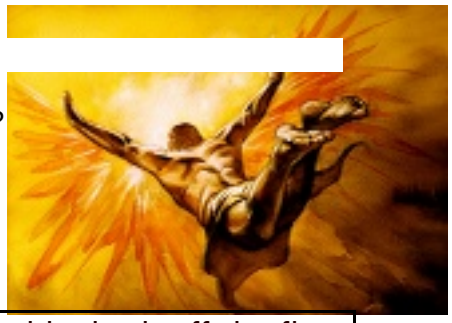
The Man Who Fell to Earth

Introduction – When Felix Baumgartner stepped on to the edge of his small space-craft he was just about to fall to the earth... this is an idea which has inspired stories and folklore for generations.

http://www.dailymotion.com/video/xubxtf_felix-baumgartner-red-bull-stratos-live-jump-replay_sport

Felix Baumgartner Red Bull Stratus Live Jump (Replay)



1. What did the control tower say just before he jumped?
2. How fast did he go?
3. Why did they clap when he stopped spinning?
4. What did he repeat to them?
5. Did he beat the record for the longest freefall?

Did you know - Franz Reichelt (1879–1912), a tailor, fell to his death off the first deck of the Eiffel Tower while testing his invention, the coat parachute. It was his first ever attempt with the parachute and he had told the authorities in advance that he would test it first with a dummy.

Activity One – Read the Native American Story.
A Legend, as told by Mrs. White Eagle.

Two Indian girls once went down to the spring in the big woods with their bark pails to get water for cooking. As they got near the sprint they saw someone sitting on the grass. He was a stranger and the girls knew that they had never seen him before. When they got nearer to him he got up. He smiled and tried to talk to them but the young women could not understand his language. It was very musical but they could not understand the words. Then he made signs to them and pointed first to the sky and then to the ground and waved his arms like the wings of a bird. The girls thought that he was crazy. They were scared and they ran away and left their buckets behind them.

At the Indian Camp they told their brothers about their experience. These young men went to the spring to meet the stranger. He was very friendly. He was clean and his face was white and shining. His hands were also. He explained to them by signs that he had fallen down from above. He was a Sky Man. He would go back into the sky world again. Something would come and carry him up.

The brothers invited the stranger to their father's wigwam. There he stayed for several days. He was very quiet and he would eat nothing. One day there was a heavy rain and thunder-storm. The Sky Man went out of the family's wigwam. They saw him standing in the rain at the base of a very large tree. A bright flash of lighting reached that spot. They saw that the Sky Man was gone. He had been carried away to the sky world by the lightening.

After that the girls sometimes thought they could see his face in the waters of the spring. Perhaps he was watching them from his place in the sky. The Sky Man never came again.

1. Do you like the story?
2. Do you think it is told well?
3. What do you think could make it more interesting?
4. Which different tenses are used in this story?
5. With your partner invent a different ending and tell the class.



Activity Two – Story telling in English – Read the article.

Telling a Story By: Chris King

When writing or telling a story orally, we must pay particular attention to our tenses. If you are the "storyteller", you are relating a story that has happened, the story has already taken place. It is not occurring as you tell it. Therefore, avoid using phrases like, "The King turns to the Princess and says …" It would be, "The King turned to the Princess and said".

What should you do when you are speaking as a character in the story? If you actually change your voice to take on a character's part - for example, you say something like, "The King turned to the Princess and said …" - then you would speak as if you were the King who is standing there in person, "No, I forbid you to marry that scoundrel …" Just make sure that once the character has spoken his lines, that you step back into the storyteller's shoes and tell the story in the past tense.

What if you are telling a story in the first person? You would still be sharing a story that happened before you appeared in front of the audience. You can vary the story's pace by saying, and I said to her, "Is that my favourite sweater you are wearing?" and then return to the past tense. It is always effective, whether or not we are telling or writing, to include dialogue. It breaks up the rhythm and adds colour to the story. The trick is to remember our role at the time - are we the teller or a character in the story?

How do you start your story? A traditional tale in English often starts with 'Once upon a Time' but there are many different ways to start your story. Often we use the past continuous to set the scene 'The king was reading his morning newspaper when…', or 'I was just having my lunch when…' but you could also set things up by using the past perfect to talk about what had just happened before the start of the story. 'The queen had just got dressed when…', 'I had just finished my lunch when…'.

How do you end your story? Fairy tales in English end with the words 'And they all lived happily ever after'. Many stories end with 'And the moral of this story is…'. You can also conclude by mentioning what would happen next… 'After that the queen never wanted to go to a restaurant again'. It adds suspense if you use an open ended conclusion ; 'And as the door closed, The King heard the phone ringing…'.

How do you make your story more interesting? Generally speaking, if you use enough descriptive adjectives and describe your characters and the details of their lives fully, then your story will be more interesting. Describe what things look like and the way people do things. Describe the style of rooms and clothes, the tastes and smells. Use the five senses. Make comparisons, talk about how people feel, use reported speech and make each character have their own voice.

Activity Three – Movie Man Who Fell From the Sky - Watch the trailer
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cb-YcQh9pzM&feature=autoplay&list=LPZQL9GnNqDlQ&playnext=1
The Man Who Fell To Earth (Is David Bowie) U.S. Theatrical Trailer No1. Voice over William Shatner.

Now let's play stop and start with a music video which tells the story of the film:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h1iiAvlFYhU&list=LPZQL9GnNqDlQ&index=4&feature=plcp
"THE MAN WHO FELL TO EARTH" - TALKING HEADS - "ONCE IN A LIFETIME"

Your teacher will pause the movie, in teams, you have to re-tell the story using the past tenses. If you hesitate or make a mistake in the past tense, the other team gets a point and carries on the story telling.



Activity Four - *Watch the video and Follow the lyrics.*

Ground control to major Tom
Ground control to major Tom
Take your protein pills and put your helmet on
(Ten) Ground control (Nine) to major Tom (Eight)
(Seven, six) Commencing countdown (Five), engines on (Four)
(Three, two) Check ignition (One) and may gods (Blastoff) love be with you

This is ground control to major Tom, you've really made the grade
And the papers want to know whose shirts you wear
Now it's time to leave the capsule if you dare

This is major Tom to ground control, I'm stepping through the door
And I'm floating in a most peculiar way
And the stars look very different today

Here am I sitting in a tin can far above the world
Planet Earth is blue and there's nothing I can do

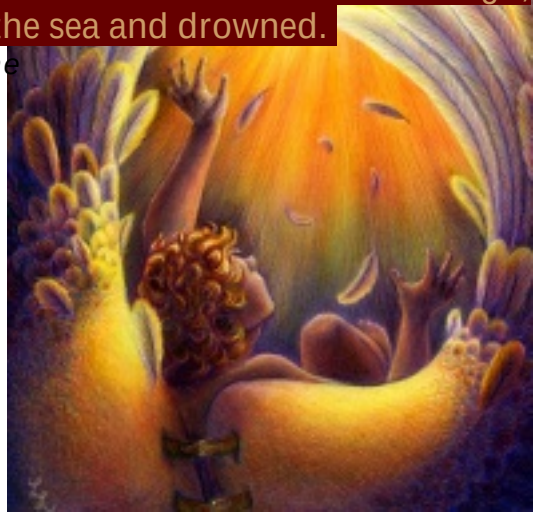
Though I'm past one hundred thousand miles, I'm feeling very still
And I think my spaceship knows which way to go
Tell my wife I love her very much, she knows
Ground control to major Tom, your circuits dead, there's something wrong
Can you hear me, major Tom?
Can you hear me, major Tom?
Can you hear me, major Tom?
Can you…
Here am I sitting in my tin can far above the Moon
Planet Earth is blue and there's nothing I can do

In pairs re-tell the story of the song. Each pair will tell part of the story. Beginning, Middle part one, middle part two, middle part three and The End.

Activity Five – The Myth of Icarus – The Man who fell to earth.

Daedalus and his son Icarus were imprisoned inside a massive labrynth in Crete. The father made them each a pair of wings, and with these they were able to escape. Daedalus warned his son, “Don’t fly too high or the sun will melt the wax on your wings and you will fall. Follow me closely. Do not set your own course.” But *Icarus* became soexhilarated by his ability to fly, he forgot the warning and followed his own course instead. He flew too high, the wax melted, and *Icarus* fell down into the sea and drowned.

With your partner re-tell the story, add some more detail.
Describe the characters and their feelings, describe the scenes.



Activity Six
Now invent your own story, in teams, about a man who falls from the sky and act it out.