

Culture and Identity in 20th C Literature
Year 9 Spring Term **KNOWLEDGE MAP**

<p>AIMS and OBJECTIVES To celebrate the ways in which literature from the 20th century and beyond has given a voice to the oppressed and shone a light on racism; to develop critical thinking and to challenge the beliefs and structures that perpetuate discrimination.</p>					
<p>Notable Black Writers in this Unit</p>	<p>Key Terms/Themes</p>	<p>Key Literary Terms</p>	<p>Key Black Figures – Throughout history, black people have made contributions to all areas of society – but in the past, these contributions have been ignored or diminished in favour of centring on white experience</p>		
<p>Benjamin Zephaniah Maya Angelou Grace Nichols John Agard Majorie Blackman Andrea Levy Angie Thomas David Lammy MP</p>	<p>Prejudice Oppression Colonialism Post-colonialism Imperialist BAME/IPOC Literary canon White privilege Segregation Institutional racism Windrush Generation</p>	<p>Perspective/Voice Memoir Dialect</p>	<p>British Oloudah Equiano – abolitionist Mary Seacole – 1800s. Defied racism to nurse British soldiers in the Crimea. Campaigns were waged to teach about her in school – rather than only Florence Nightingale. Diane Abbot – first black MP Poets- Linton Kwesi Johnson, Lemn Sissay Sir Lenny Henry – influential black comedian and actor Stormzy- influential musician</p> <p>World Phillis Wheatley – first African American poet to be published. Her writing proved that women who were slaves could have amazing intellectual ideas – something not previously considered – and this contributed to the anti-slavery movement. Rosa Parks – ‘first lady of civil rights’ Nelson Mandela – fought apartheid, became first black president of South Africa Martin Luther King - civil rights campaigner Sojourner Truth- escaped from slavery and became an abolitionist Toussaint L ’Overture- leader of the Haitian revolution Nanny de Maroon – Jamaican female national hero/leader Shaka Zulu – King of the Zulu Kingdom Oprah Winfrey – influential broadcaster and philanthropist Nina Simone- singer/song writer and civil rights activist</p>		
		<p>Questions for <i>writers and teacher/pupils of English Literature</i> when exploring texts that deal with race</p>			
		<p>Authenticity – can/should a white person write from a BAME perspective? Should we read texts that contain examples of racist language and behaviour, even if the book is anti-racist? The Literary Canon is predominantly white (and male); how can we ensure that we are hearing from BAME voices?</p>			
<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="background-color: #e0e0e0;"> <p>Black Lives Matter</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> <p>An organisation that demands the end of incidents of police brutality against black people. High profile deaths include George Floyd (2020) whose death sparked international protests and, in Britain, the toppling of the statue of slave trader Edward Colston.</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Black Lives Matter</p>	<p>An organisation that demands the end of incidents of police brutality against black people. High profile deaths include George Floyd (2020) whose death sparked international protests and, in Britain, the toppling of the statue of slave trader Edward Colston.</p>			
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American Civil Rights Movement

The Civil Rights Movement was a struggle for social justice that took place mainly during the 1950s and 1960s. Activists wanted Black Americans to gain equal rights under the law. Although the Civil War had officially abolished slavery, it didn't end discrimination against black people because the dehumanising practice and beliefs of slavery left a historical legacy. Some key events:

Late 19th C – 'Jim Crow' Laws. Segregation was established in law in the southern states.

Early 20thC – According to the Equal Justice Initiative over 4,000 African Americans were lynched between 1877 and 1950 in the South. The purpose of lynching was to enforce white supremacy and intimidate black people through racial terrorism.

1955 Rosa Parks – arrested for protesting segregated seating on a bus

1957 Little Rock Nine- black students were invited to attend classes at the formerly segregated Central High School, Arkansas. They were met with harassment and prejudice. Federal troops were eventually ordered to accompany them to school.

1960 – Black students stage sit-ins to protest not being served in segregated college canteens 'Greensboro Sit-ins'.

1963 March on Washington – the highlight of the protest march was Martin Luther King's 'I Have a Dream' speech.

British Black History - Timeline

There has been a Black population in Britain from the Roman times. In Tudor Britain, Black settlers from Spain and North Africa were known as the Blackmoors. In the 1760s there was approximately 20,000 Black people in Britain.

18thC – Black activist Oloudah Equiano contested slavery practices; although free Black people could not be enslaved within Britain, Black people who were brought as slaves to Britain were considered bound to their owners and slaves were bought and sold. Internationally, Britain was a major slaving power with much wealth created from the profits of the slave trade.

Early 19th C – British Slave Trade abolished and slavery was eventually abolished throughout British Empire. Dido 'Belle' Lindsay is considered the first Black aristocrat; she was born to a Sea Admiral who took a captured black woman as his mistress. She was raised alongside his other children. Her portrait is considered an important turning point in the depiction of black British identity. Mary Seacole defied racism to nurse British soldiers in the Crimea.

Early 20thC- Black communities in Britain continue to grow and the British Commonwealth was formed of former territories of the British Empire, now independent states.

Post WW2– in 1948 Britain's first group of post-war Caribbean immigrants came to London on the SS Empire Windrush. The immigration of workers from the English speaking Caribbean continued through the '50s and '60s. They were invited by the British Government to fill labour shortages and contribute to rebuilding the country after the war. They were encouraged by the 1948 British Nationality Act that granted citizenship and right of abode in the UK to all members of the British Empire.

1962 A succession of laws severely restricted Black entry to Britain. Emergent Black and Asian communities struggled against racial prejudice and intolerance.

1968- Enoch Powell MP criticised Commonwealth immigration in his infamous and incontrovertibly racist 'Rivers of Blood' speech. He opposed the upcoming race-relations Act.

1968- Race-relations Act made it illegal to refuse housing, employment or public services to a person on the grounds of colour, race, ethnic or national origins.

1980s- British Nationality Act: children of parents who'd arrived from former British colonies no longer entitled to automatic citizenship. Introduction of police Stop and Search powers. High incidence of Stop and Searches amongst the Black and Asian population led to charges of police racism. Benjamin Zephaniah's poem 'Dis Policeman Keeps On Kicking Me To Death' references police brutality.

1993 – Black teenager Stephen Lawrence was murdered in a racially motivated attack; a public inquiry into the original police investigation found that the Metropolitan Police was institutionally racist and it led to a cultural change of attitudes on racism and the police.

2012 – The British Home Office embarked on creating a 'hostile environment' for illegal immigrants

2018 – Evidence emerges of the devastating impact of the 'hostile environment' on those of the Windrush generation, since many of them were never given documents proving their right to remain and 'landing cards' from the Windrush era, which were their only records, were destroyed in 2010. People were wrongly detained, denied benefits or medical care to which they were entitled and,

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in at least 83 cases, wrongly deported from the UK. Children of Windrush generation also facing deportation to countries they've never known, The scandal led to the resignation of Amber Rudd as Home Secretary in 2018 and a wider debate about British immigration policy and institutional racism.