

LI: To understand the content, context and devices used in *Checking Out Me History* by John Agard.

- 1. Read the poem through once on page 34 in the booklet and pay attention to the annotations next to it as you read.** What are your first impressions of the poem? What mood is set? What do you think the poem might be about?
- 2. Read over the information on page 35 on context, themes and structure.** Now, create a mind- map or bullet-point list reducing this information into key points.
- 3. Next, read the poem through again.** Highlight/ underline any language devices you see being used in one colour. Next to these highlighted points, annotate the effect of these techniques. **Refer to terminology in the glossary.**
- 4. Now, read the poem again.** Using a different colour highlighter/ pen, identify any structural devices used and, just like with language, annotate the effect of the structure. **Refer to terminology in the glossary.**
- 5. What links to context can be seen within the poem?** Highlight and annotate.
- 6. What links to themes can be seen within the poem?** Highlight and annotate.
- 7. Now, listen to the GCSEPods on *Checking Out Me History*-** there are several short pods so make sure you listen to them all. As you listen, add key information to your annotations or create a mind-map/ bullet- point list of key information as you listen.

8. Finally, answer all of the following questions based on the poem:

1. How are possessive determiners used in this poem? Why?
2. Find three things John Agard has been taught about that he doesn't find very important to his own history.
3. Find three things he thinks he should have been taught about.
4. How has typography (think about the italics) been used in this poem?
5. How is anaphora and epiphora used in this poem? Explain the effect.
6. Who is Agard referring to when he writes "dem" and why is it mentioned so many times?
7. What idea is Agard criticising?
8. How is positive language used to describe Mary Seacole? Use key terminology from the glossary.
9. What metaphor is used in the final line and why is this important?
10. What's the mood of this poem? Provide a quotation as evidence!

Challenge tasks:

1. How has Agard presented the theme of Racial Identity in *Checking Out Me History*? Use **WETTER** plus links to **context** to form your response. Include **key terminology** from the glossary.
2. How has Agard presented the theme of Conflict in *Checking Out Me History*? Use **WETTER** plus links to **context** to form your response. Include **key terminology** from the glossary.
3. Which other poems that you have seen so far could you link *Checking Out Me History* to and why? Compare writers' intentions in both poems.