

Dear White Fella by Benjamin Zephaniah

1. Watch the first part of the video, then find a synonym for each word in the list below.

Dear white fella,

Couple of things the English ignore: when I born, I black. When I grow up, I black. When I cold, I black. When I go in the sun, I black. When I scared, I black. When I sick, I black and when I die, I still black.

fella (= fellow)	☐ friend	☐ man	☐ football player
grow up	☐ to become an adult ☐ to become independent		
scared	☐ sad	☐ afraid	☐ silly
sick	☐ happy	☐ lucky	☐ ill

2. Complete the text with the following colours:

BLUE – GREY - GREEN - WHITE - YELLOW – PINK – RED

Turn on the sound, listen and check your answers.

You, white fella, when you born, you _____. When you grow up, you _____.
When you cold, you _____. When you go in the sun, you _____. When you
scared, you _____. When you sick, you _____ and when you die, you
_____. And you have the cheek to call me coloured! Ha ha ha!

have the cheek to = dare = oser, avoir le culot de

3. Fill in the gaps with BE. Conjugate!

Dear white fella,

Couple of things the English ignore: when I born, I black.

When I grow up, I black. (...)

You, white fella, when you born, you pink.

When you grow up, you white. (...)

4. Colour idioms (expressions). Tick the correct answer.

a) I was tickled pink to be invited to your party.	☐ very indifferent	☐ very happy
b) You look like you feel blue. What's the problem?	☐ have a headache	☐ feel sad
c) My sister lives in Australia, I only see her once in a blue moon.	☐ very rarely	☐ once a month
d) Hurry up! I don't want to be late, it makes my father see red.	☐ be happy	☐ be angry
e) Her garden is very beautiful, she has green fingers.	☐ be good at gardening	☐ have dirty hands
f) That film is very funny but it doesn't stimulate the grey matter.	☐ the heart	☐ the brain

5. Dear White Fella is a poem written by Benjamin Zephaniah. Read his biography and fill in the gaps with the words in the box.

humour - write - inspired - prison - born - collection - nurse - medal - poet - brutality – future



Benjamin Zephaniah was in Birmingham, England, on 15 April 1958.

He is the son of two Jamaican immigrants, a postman and a

A dyslexic, he left school when he was 14, unable to read or As a young man, he got in trouble with the police and went to for burglary, for a short time.

The period of time he spent in prison helped him discover his potential and changed his He moved to London in 1979 and published his first poetry, Pen Rhythm, in 1980.

He became a very successful, he has written fifteen poetry books. His poems are often by social and political causes, but are tempered by hope and

In 2003, Benjamin Zephaniah was offered the Order of the British Empire (OBE), a, but he rejected it saying that the word 'Empire' evokes slavery, and oppression.