

### **Text 1 - Andrea Levy**

Andrea Levy has made the lives of the Windrush Generation the central part of her writing. She is one of the most well-known black British writers working today. Her latest novel, *Small Island*, was published in February 2004. In this work she follows the lives of two ordinary couples, one black and one white, during the post war era.

Andrea was born in 1956 to Jamaican parents in North London. Her story is the story of thousands of families and three generations of black Britons. It is a story about learning to be British in a land where British used to mean white. Andrea recently explained that she is English, but this does not mean that she wants to be white. She is comfortable as herself.

She writes to try to understand the discrimination her parents faced. She describes the struggle of very ordinary people. Her characters are the new black Britons. She entertains with her stories, but she also speaks for the children of the Windrush passengers.

#### **Questions:**

how old is this person?

What did she do?

Where did her family come from?

What is her contribution to live in Britain today?

### **Text 2 - Lenny Henry**

Lenny Henry was born in Dudley in the West Midlands. His Jamaican family emigrated to Britain in the 1950s and settled in an area where many new immigrants found work. Lenny was one of only three black boys at his school and remembers being "different" and noticed.

Lenny went on to become one of Britain's best loved comedians and he now has numerous TV series and shows to his name. He first used stand-up comedy where he conversed with the audience and challenged their racist comments. Some of his best loved characters are stereotyped black personalities. He is popular with all sections of the British public.

For the past 15 years Lenny has worked hard to raise money for the charity Comic Relief and he is one of the main founders and organisers. Comic Relief raises money for disadvantaged young people throughout the UK. He also works to help prevent the discrimination that his own community suffered in the past. He helps young black comedians start their careers and encourages producers to use more black workers on film sets. He now has his own production company and makes very varied television shows and documentaries.

#### **Questions:**

how old is this person?

What did he do?

Where did his family come from?

What is his contribution to live in Britain today?

### **Text 3 Diane Abbott**

Diane Abbott was born in to a Jamaican family in London in 1953. She worked hard and did well at school and went on to study at Cambridge University. Since Cambridge, she has had a very successful career as a TV researcher, a journalist and as a politician.

Diane made headlines in 1987 when she became the first black female member of Parliament. She continues to represent the London boroughs of Hackney and Stoke Newington. These inner-city areas have a population which is 60% black. However, she has made her voice heard far beyond her own area.

Diane works hard to challenge problems of racial inequality and discrimination. She continues to campaign for more black people in Parliament. There are now 12 black MPs, many local government councillors and key decision makers in all areas of government. Diane does not think this is enough and is constantly promoting the needs and concerns of her community and its people. She now has a very high profile in the British media and is one of many Windrush children who are helping shape British society today.

#### **Questions:**

how old is this person?

What did she do?

Where did her family come from?

What is her contribution to live in Britain today?

## 1) Windrush Child by John Agard

Behind you,  
Windrush child,  
palm trees wave goodbye.

Above you,  
Windrush child,  
seabirds asking why.

Around you,  
Windrush child,  
blue water rolling by.

Beside you,  
Windrush child,  
your Windrush mum and dad.

Think of story time yard  
and mango mornings,

and new beginnings  
doors closing and opening.

Will things turn out right?  
At least the ship will arrive,  
in midsummer light.

And you, Windrush child,  
think of grandmother  
telling you don't forget to write.

And with one last hug,  
walk good, walk good  
and the sea's wheel carries on spinning.

And from that place, England,  
you tell her in a letter  
of your Windrush adventure.

Stepping in a big ship,  
not knowing how long the journey  
or that you're stepping into history.