

Figurative Language	uses figures of speech to go beyond the literal meaning of words
Mood	The emotional atmosphere or feeling that a literary work evokes in the reader.
Setting	The time, place, and social environment in which a story or event takes place.
Cultural	Relating to the ideas, customs, and social behavior of a society.
Autobiographical	Relating to the story of a person's life, written by that person.
Historical	Relating to or based on events from the past.
Dictatorship	A government where one person or a small group holds absolute power, often through force.
Oppression	The prolonged cruel or unjust treatment or control over a group of people.
Semantic Field	a group of words that share related meanings or concepts.

Context

The circumstances that form the setting for an event, statement, or idea, and in terms of which it can be fully understood.

Culture

The ideas, customs, and social behaviour of particular people or a society.

Multiculturalism

the presence of, or support for the presence of, several distinct cultural or ethnic groups within a society.

Analytical Verbs

Use these to create a point and develop your analysis

-to criticise

- to teach

- to warn

-to reveal the importance of

-to celebrate

Agard wrote 'Checking out me history' to **criticise** the Eurocentric bias in traditional education and to assert the importance of recognising Black history and identities.

Annotate a poem

Step 1: Are there any words with specific connotations?

Step 2: What can you deduce or infer from certain words or phrases?

Step 3: How do these words create an effect?

Dem tell me bout Florence Nightingale and she lamp
and how Robin Hood used to camp
Dem tell me bout ole King Cole was a merry ole soul
but dem never tell me bout Mary Seacole

Throughout the poem, John Agard uses the word 'Dem' numerous times, many of which are sentence starters. The word itself is part of Agard's dialect but the actual meaning lies within. In my opinion by the use of 'dem', John Agard actually means the media and people of the world; he means to say that throughout life himself and everyone else is taught not about Black history and all the greatness behind it but instead people are fed with useless information that has no actual meanings or values.

*From Jamaica
she travel far
to the Crimean War
she volunteer to go
and even when de British said no
she still brave the Russian snow
a healing star
among the wounded
a yellow sunrise
to the dying*

Dem tell me
Dem tell me wha dem want to tell me
But now I checking out me own history
I carving out me identity

The poet uses Personification in this line and gives a star a quality of life which is 'healing'. This blends well into this stanza in the fact that generally throughout this stanza John Agard has used multiple amounts of emotive language such as 'brave', 'healing star', 'wounded', 'dying'. All of these represent deep emotion and in my opinion are to represent a strong, brave and respected woman who fought through life, with many ups and downs but always managed to heal and continue fighting.

P - In 'poem', 'poet's surname' presents the theme of _____ to _____

E - The quote '_____',

E - suggests _____

A - The (SST) _____ has connotations of _____

L - Perhaps 'poet's surname' intentions here were to _____

C - Contextually, poet's surname...

Success Criteria:

- A clear topic sentence using keywords from the question.
- Embedded evidence.
- Explore your evidence in detail
- Analysis of your evidence by zooming in on ONE word.
- Include a technique and the intentions of the poet.
- Include CONTEXT to prove it!

P - In 'Checking Out Me History', Agard presents the theme of discovering your true identity through learning real, often hidden, history.

E - The quote 'Dem tell me wha dem want to tell me / bout de man who discover America / but dem never tell me bout Nanny de Maroon'

E - suggests that a biased education deliberately leaves out important figures and stories from Black history, making it hard for people to understand their full heritage.

A - The repetition of "Dem tell me" highlights the feeling of being controlled and force-fed a limited view of history, showing it was imposed, not truly taught.

L - Perhaps Agard's intentions here were to encourage young people to question what they're taught and actively seek out the full, diverse history that shapes them.

C - Contextually, Agard grew up with a colonial education that ignored Black history. His use of Caribbean slang in the poem is also a powerful way of claiming his own voice and cultural identity against the dominant culture.