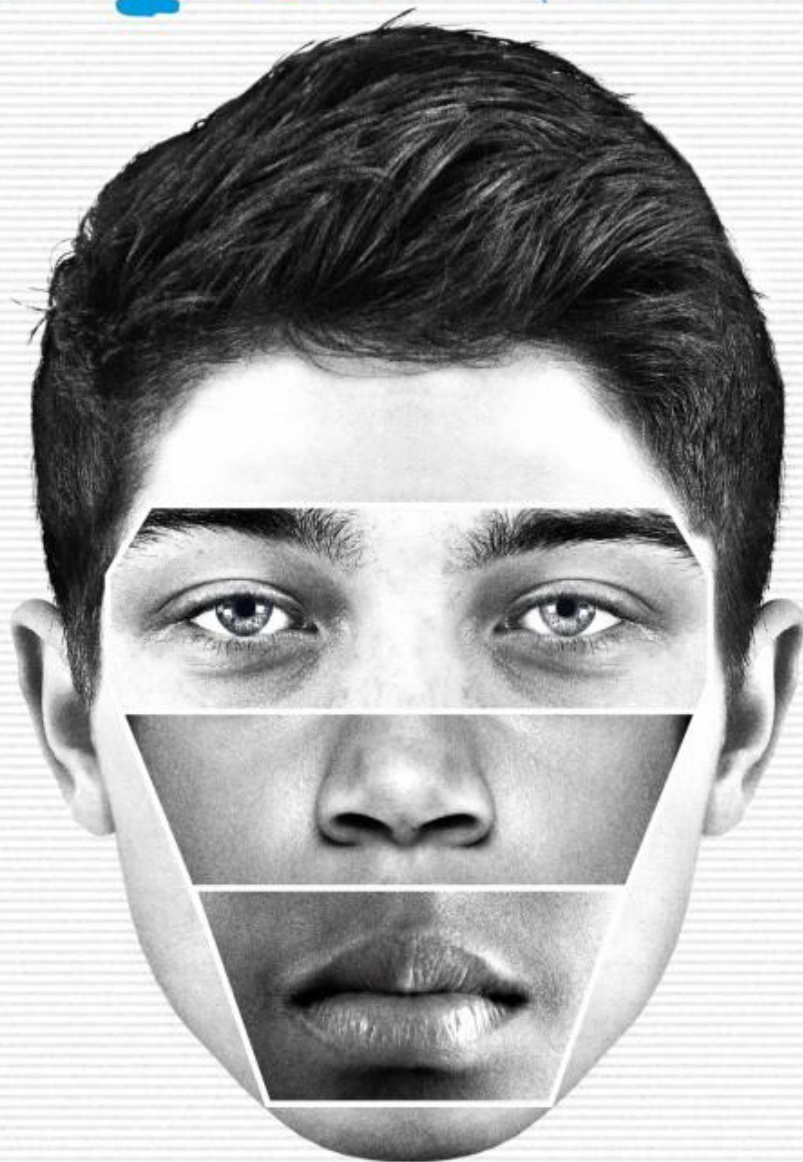


All Rico wants is to change the world

Benjamin Zephaniah



Terror Kid

Background info: Creating the book cover

Art Director Jet shares the process behind creating the stark and striking cover.

The idea was to have sections of faces from teenage boys with varying skin tones so it was clear the photo fit wasn't of protagonist Rico. Instead it would look like the police computer photo fit database was still in the process of finding a match. I liked that the face sections didn't marry-up tonally. I hoped by having the wanted person's face being formed of multiple races it might connect with readers from all backgrounds. I also loved how all races were brought together to create one handsome and misled character.

BENJAMIN ZEPHANIAH - BIOGRAPHY



Dr Benjamin Obadiah Iqbal Zephaniah was born and raised in Birmingham, England. He left school at 12, hardly able to read and write. He is dyslexic. Even now that he is a famous author, he is unable to write in a way which we would understand. His secretary is the only one to make sense of the way in which he spells words. He claims that reading is fundamental because it increases knowledge and when you have knowledge “no sucker can pull the wool over your eyes”.

Benjamin did not have a successful time at school. He was for example expelled for “redecorating” the toilets. He frequently got into trouble with the police and by the age of 14 he was in borstal, and then he was sent to prison for 2 years for a crime he did not commit.

After his experience in prison he became a Rastafarian, a vegan, a musician and a poet. His poetry is strongly influenced by the music and poetry of Jamaica and what he calls “Street politics”, and as a young poet he had already gained a reputation of being capable of speaking on local and international issues. In the early 80s when Punks and Rastas were on the street protesting about high unemployment and homelessness, Zephaniah’s poetry could be heard on the demonstrations. His mission was to take poetry everywhere, he hated the dead image that academia and the establishment had given poetry and proclaimed that he wanted to popularise poetry by reaching people who did not read books. Then there is Benjamin Zephaniah, the children’s poet. His first book of poetry called “Talking Turkeys” had to go into emergency reprint after just 6 weeks. He has published several books for teenagers:



- *Face*: The novel tells the story of a young boy whose life is completely changed when his face is badly scarred in a joyriding accident
- *Refugee Boy*: A sensitive and intelligent boy from Eritrea seeks asylum in Britain to avoid the civil war raging in his own country. But he does not receive the welcome he thought he would, as he battles to survive a different kind of hostility.
- *Teacher’s dead*: A teacher is dead, murdered by two of his students in front of the school. He was a good man and people liked him. So how could this happen? It just doesn’t make sense to Jackson and he is determined to investigate the case until he understands.

FUN FACT: Benjamin loves his dreadlocks and calls his hair his “own personal garden”. He has been growing his hair since he was 11 years old and is proud that it now reaches his bum.

Neighbours

I am the type you are supposed to fear
Black and foreign
Big and dreadlocks
An uneducated grass eater.

I talk in tongues
I chant at night
I appear anywhere,
I sleep with lions
And when the moon gets me
I am a Wailer.

I am moving in
Next door to you
So you can get to know me,
You will see my shadow
In the bathroom window,
My aromas will occupy
Your space,
Our ball will be in your court.
How will you feel?

You should feel good
You have been chosen.

I am the type you are supposed to love
Dark and mysterious
Tall and natural
Thinking, tea total.
I talk in schools
I sing on TV
I am in the papers,
I keep cool cats

And when the sun is shining
I go Carnival.

Benjamin
Zephaniah

NEIGHBOURS - COMPREHENSION AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does the title relate to the poem?
2. Why does the poem begin so negatively? What imagery is used and what effect does it create?
3. Look at the pronouns in the 3rd stanza. Why are they used and what do they achieve?
4. How does the tone change in the 4th stanza?
5. Compare stanza 5 to stanza 1.
6. Why does the poem end with the “carnival” image?

THE BRITISH (serves 60 million)

Take some Picts, Celts and Silures
And let them settle,
Then overrun them with Roman conquerors.
Remove the Romans after approximately 400 years
Add lots of Norman French to some
Angles, Saxons, Jutes and Vikings, then stir vigorously.
Mix some hot Chileans, cool Jamaicans, Dominicans,
Trinidadians and Bajans with some Ethiopians, Chinese,
Vietnamese and Sudanese.
Then take a blend of Somalians, Sri Lankans, Nigerians
And Pakistanis,
Combine with some Guyanese
And turn up the heat.
Sprinkle some fresh Indians, Malaysians, Bosnians,
Iraqis and Bangladeshis together with some
Afghans, Spanish, Turkish, Kurdish, Japanese
And Palestinians
Then add to the melting pot.
Leave the ingredients to simmer.
As they mix and blend allow their languages to flourish
Binding them together with English.
Allow time to be cool.
Add some unity, understanding, and respect for the future,
Serve with justice
And enjoy.

Note: All the ingredients are equally important. Treating one ingredient better than another will leave a bitter unpleasant taste.

Warning: An unequal spread of justice will damage the people and cause pain. Give justice and equality to all.



COMPREHENSION AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the poem about?
2. What is the form of the poem?
3. Why do you think Zephaniah wrote this poem?
5. Creative writing: Write a similar recipe for one of the following: Luxembourg / your class/ your school building

LONDON RIOTS 2011 IN PICTURES



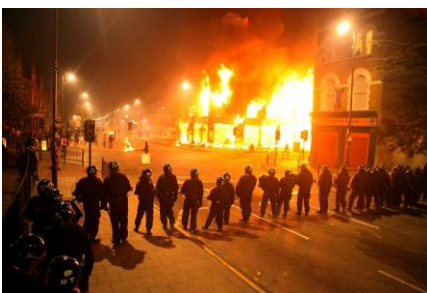
Mark Duggan – shot dead by police



Looters caused millions of damage



A desperate woman jumping from a burning building in Croydon



Riot Police- Did they act too late and too little?



Prime Minister David Cameron: Were the cuts he made to public services like youth clubs partly responsible for the riots?



Many thousands of people, like these in Clapham, southwest London, volunteered to clean up after the riots.

WHAT WERE THE CAUSES OF THE LONDON RIOTS?

THE SHOOTING OF MARK DUGGAN BY POLICE:

People were protesting about the killing of Mark by police which they felt was unlawful

GOVERNMENT CUTS

People were protesting about cuts to education and other government budgets

LOOTING

Some people were rioting because they had the opportunity to do so – and to steal expensive goods

MINDLESS VIOLENCE

People were rioting because they knew the police could not control them and they would get away with it

YOUTH UNHAPPINESS

Young people were protesting about the lack of opportunities they have; the lack of good jobs and educational opportunities

- Birmingham, Bristol, Liverpool and Manchester were also affected
- over 3000 people were arrested
- an estimated £200 million in damage were caused



WHO'S WHO IN THE NOVEL?

- Rico
- Karima
- Stefan
- Lena
- Detective Constable Holland
- Ana
- Lola
- Speech
- Mr Telford
- Mr Donavan
- Mrs Dovric
- Michelle Holland
- Kim
- Hutch
- Rohan and Dean
- Detective Inspector Kennedy
- Jackson Jones
- Michael Fieldsman

CHAPTER 1

Useful expressions

- riot
- to loot
- to arrest somebody
- sweatshop

Comprehension and discussion questions

- Who takes part in the riots?
- Why is it so difficult for the police to control the situation?
- “Opposites attract”- in how far is that saying true for Rico and Karima?
- Comment on Rico’s confrontation with the police.
- What do you know about Rico’s family history?
- Why does Rico want to change the word? How does he see the world?

CHAPTER 2

Useful expressions

- to mind one’s own business
- to question somebody
- (CCTV) footage
- crook
- to charge somebody with something
- to lodge a complaint

Comprehension and discussion questions

- What does Detective Holland accuse Rico of?
- Comment upon Rico’s attitude towards Detective Holland.
- Why does Rico’s father get so angry when the sergeant says that Rico was “just in the wrong place at the wrong time”?
- Why don’t they help the policemen when they see that the police station is burning?

CHAPTER 3

Useful expressions

- leftover parts

Comprehension and discussion questions

- What is Rico’s passion? Give examples to show that he is very good at it.

CHAPTER 4

Useful expressions

- casualties
- DIY
- battered
- Trade Union
- NHS

Comprehension and discussion questions

- What is so frustrating about Lena's job as a nurse?
- In how far is Rico influenced by his mother's job?
- What does Rico discover in the NHS file about his mother?

CHAPTER 5

Useful expressions

- discontent
- uprisings
- tuition fees

Comprehension and discussion questions

- Use the internet to look up what happened in the summer of 2011 in the following countries: Tunisia, Egypt, Portugal, Spain, Italy, Greece, and Britain.
- How does Rico react to these events around the world?
- How are the looters punished?
- What happened to Karima and her friends?

CHAPTER 6

Useful expressions

- solidarity

Comprehension and discussion questions

- The meeting with Speech: What does Rico mean when he says "I don't know you from Adam"?
- Why does he trust and follow the man?
- What does the man want him to do?

CHAPTER 7

Useful expressions

- woodpecker

Comprehension and discussion questions

- Explain Lola's nickname.
- What does the reader get to know about Lola?

CHAPTER 8

Useful expressions

- reluctant
- to reclaim

Comprehension and discussion questions

- Outline Karima's plan.
- What is Rico's reaction to her plan?

CHAPTER 9

Useful expressions

- Like father, like son.

Comprehension and discussion questions

- What are Rico's thoughts on 1) data protection and 2) going to the streets for demonstrations?
- Do you agree with Rico? Why, why not?

CHAPTER 10

Useful expressions

- speed camera
- car registration number
- fine

Comprehension and discussion questions

- In how far can one see that Mr Telford is satisfied with Rico's work?

- What does Speech want Rico to do for him? How does he manipulate Rico?
- What does Rico discover on the Fixed Penalty Office Website?

CHAPTER 11

Useful expressions

- bargain

Comprehension and discussion questions

- Why did Karima change her mind about her plan of rioting?

CHAPTER 12

Useful expressions

- revolutionary
- refugee
- loan shark

Comprehension and discussion questions

- Complete the grid to make a summary of the discussion between Rico and Speech

Speech's ideas	Rico's reactions

CHAPTER 13

Useful expressions

- hacking
- firewall
- militant

Comprehension and discussion questions

- Underline expressions in the chapter to show that Rico is starting to have doubts about Speech's so-called cyber protest.

CHAPTER 14

Useful expressions

- awkwardly
- rampage

Comprehension and discussion questions

- Why is Michelle Holland called out of the classroom?
- At what point does Rico realise the connection between what happened at the police station and his hacking attack?
- Explain his reaction at the very end of the chapter.

CHAPTER 15

Useful expressions

- suspicious
- not to be on speaking terms with somebody
- mastermind
- bomb plot
- to be set up

Comprehension and discussion questions

- Who does Rico decide to contact?
- How do newspaper reporters describe Rico?

CHAPTER 16

Useful expressions

- to bad-mouth somebody
- to fall out with somebody
- to go down memory lane

Comprehension and discussion questions

- Why did Lola run away from home?
- In how far can Rico be accused of conspiracy to mass murder?
- Which options does Rico have?

- Explain the saying “Blood is thicker than water” in relation to the events in this chapter.

CHAPTER 17

Useful expressions

- escape route
- loudhailer
- armed

Comprehension and discussion questions

- Describe the meeting between Lola, Kim and the police officers.

CHAPTER 18

Useful expressions

- to be choosey
- to draw attention to somebody/something
- shed
- allotment
- to be on the run

Comprehension and discussion questions

- Describe Rico’s escape, concentrating on the following aspects: food, a place to sleep, hygiene, and people he meets.

CHAPTER 19

Useful expressions

- cautious
- hustler

Comprehension and discussion questions

- What do Rohan and Dean expect in return for having helped Rico?
- How does Rico manage to escape the situation?

CHAPTER 20

Useful expressions

- to leave a trail
- to lie low
- escapism

- remote

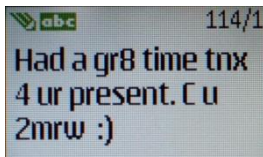
Comprehension and discussion questions

- Here is Lola's message. Rewrite it in proper English.

It's Woodpecker. Meet me 2nite @ 9 outside the potters house. CU. X

Text message language – what do the following mean in proper English?

l8r	
u	
C	
2	
XX	
lol	
ur /ru	
m8	
b4	
ASAP	
gr8	
BTW	
FYI	
PLS	
BRB	



Rewrite the following text message in proper English.

- What are Lola and Rico's arguments for and against giving up?

CHAPTER 21

Useful expressions

- juvenile
- nicked
- extremist ideas

Comprehension and discussion questions

- Explain why Rico decides to turn himself in to the police.

CHAPTER 22

Useful expressions

- squad
- legal representative
- to play by the book
- intimidated
- jargon
- to convert
- religious fanatics
- digital trespass

Comprehension and discussion questions

- Why does Rico's religion seem to be of importance?
- Why do the policemen see a link between the bombing of the police station and Rico's previous arrests?

CHAPTER 23

Useful expressions

- steadfast
- fuelled by
- charisma
- forensic examinations
- nosy
- exploited
- outrageous
- custody
- to plead

Comprehension and discussion questions

- Why is it so hard for Rico to prove his innocence?
- Which crimes is he charged with?

CHAPTER 24

Useful expressions

- to punch

Comprehension and discussion questions

- Why is the chapter called "Friends Disunited"?

CHAPTER 25

Useful expressions

- hearing
- human rights
- blind spot
- prosecution
- defence
- verdict
- courtroom

Comprehension and discussion questions

- How does the story end for Rico?

POEM – HOPE AND FEAR

Read the poem at the back of the book. Which lines remind you of scenes from the novel?