A POET’S LIFE

BENJAMIN ZEPHANIAH’S WHO’S WHO

Genre: Poetry
Level: A2+

Benjamin Zephaniah is a contemporary British poet. Let’s work with the power point presentation in [http://thinkoutsidetheboxyal.wordpress.com/](http://thinkoutsidetheboxyal.wordpress.com/) to learn about his life and work.

1-Look at the photos included in slides n° 1 and 2 and answer the following questions:

- What does Benjamin Zephaniah look like?
- What do you think he is like? What does he like doing?

2-In pairs or groups think about 5 questions you would ask Benjamin Zephaniah. Then go through the slides and see if you can find the answers.

3-Say if these sentences are True or False (correct the false ones):

- Benjamin was born in Jamaica.
- His parents are nurses.
- He was in prison for stealing.
- When he left prison, he started school. He wanted a better life.
- “Pen Rhythm” was his first album.
- Benjamin sings his own poems.
- Nelson Mandela hated Zephaniah’s poetry.

4-Complete the following sentences:

Benjamin’s hobbies are ............................................................................................................
He is against ..............................................................................................................................
He is a poet and also a ..................................................................................................................
5-WHILE READING: Complete the missing words from the poem with the following jumbled list (there are two extra words):

men- who -them- nurses- boring- poetry

I used to think ..................
Were women,
I used to think policemen
Were ..............,
I used to think poets
Were ..............,
Until I became one of ..............

6-Re-read the poem and choose the theme/s it presents. Explain your choice/s.

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7-What is the poem telling us? (Write √ or X)

There are jobs which are only for men.
Stereotypes are always correct.
The poet was mistaken about nurses.
Poetry is boring.

8-Change the title of the poem:

8-AFTER READING:

Ian McMillan is another contemporary British poet. Find information about him on the web and prepare a power point presentation with data about his life and work. Include:
date and place of birth; family; hobbies; likes and dislikes; occupation;
genres and main works; awards etc. Choose a poem and give reasons for
your choice.