"The Sun" By Benjamin Zephaniah



Vocabulary

- •"The left" trade unions, socialists, anti-racists
- •"The State" in this case, the police and the army
- "Jungle bunnies" racist phrase describing black people
- •"tom-toms" African drums
- "Page Three" Page 3 of The Sun showed naked women
- •"Princess Di" Princess Diana

New poem:

"The Sun" by Benjamin Zephaniah

This poem is about The Sun newspaper. In the poem, written in the 1980s, Zephaniah shows how much he hates this newspaper.

He puts himself into the shoes of someone who loves The Sun, and explains his whole way of viewing the world.







The narrator (Speaker) in "The Sun" is a person with very strong opinions. Read through the poem, then list below a few things he likes and a few he hates.

Things he likes: Things he hates: Vocabulary – take down these definitions and answer the 3 questions that follow.

Satire

Satire is the use of exaggeration, irony and humour to criticise a social or political issue.

Repetition

Repetition is where the same words are repeated.

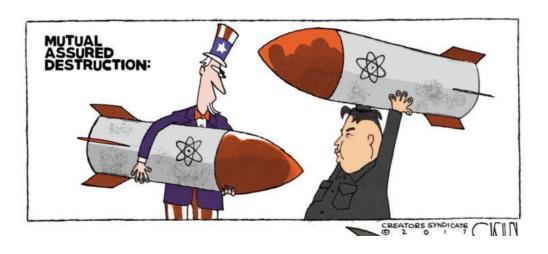
Bigot

A bigot is someone who hates people from another country, sexuality or gender.

- 1. Does this poem "The Sun" use satire? Give examples.
- 2. Give an example of repetition in "The Sun".
- 3. Give an exampl of bigoted ideas in "The Sun".

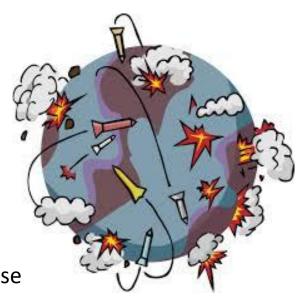
"god is mad" – a reference to Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD).

MAD is the idea that if everyone has loads of nuclear bombs, then nobody will ever use them. They will be too scared to use them because destruction would be "mutually assured", meaning equally certain for both sides.



The narrator supports MAD, saying it's "god".

What is your opinion? Do you support, partly support or oppose MAD? Write an answer in your copybook and give 3 reasons.





Zephaniah as Jeremiah Jesus in *Peaky Blinders*



After 96 people died in the Hillsborough stadium disaster in 1989, the sun printed lies about Liverpool football fans.

To this day, Liverpool shops refuse to stock The Sun.



Benjamin Zephaniah – "The Sun"



In real life, Zephaniah hates The Sun.

But in the poem, he takes on the **persona** of someone who loves The Sun and believes everything it says.









The Sun was always printing made-up stories, just to trick people into buying the paper.



The Sun hated gay people, blaming them for AIDS and harassing musicians such as Elton John. Elton John had to sue The Sun 17 times.



As well as Liverpool fans and gay men, The Sun was always having a go at the Irish as well.





The miners went on strike in 1984-5. The government wanted to close down the coal mines. The Sun completely backed the government, and portrayed miners' leader Arthur Scargill as a modern-day Hitler.



During the Falklands War between Britain and Argentina, an Argentine military ship was destroyed by British forces, killing hundreds of people. The ship was sailing away from the warzone at the time.

£50,000 BINGO! Today's lucky numbers are on Page 20



The Sun was obsessed with celebrity gossip, especially royals like Princess Diana.

Can you find examples of this in the poem?

Media harrassment from papers like The Sun damaged Diana's mental health.



Kinnock was the Labour Party leader. The Sun massively supported the right-wing Conservative Party and hated the left-wing Labour Party.

Can you find examples of this in the poem?



Last but not least, in 1987 The Sun attacked Benjamin Zephaniah personally.

