

REMEMBER: your answers will vary. The answers below are examples.

1. In your own words, explain what you think the poem is about.

The poem describes the thoughts and feelings of a young child as they go on a long journey, leaving the world they know behind them. They think of the things that they will miss about their home but also describe what they will have in their new home.

2. Which words or phrases tell you what the Windrush child left behind?

'Behind you... palm trees wave goodbye'

'think of grandmother...telling you don't forget to write.'

3. What sort of place was it?

From Agard's descriptions, we get the impression that it is probably a warm, tropical place as it talks about palm trees, mangoes and blue sea. Later on in the poem, it says about a 'Caribbean eye', which gives us further insight into the world they left behind.

4. Who will the child miss? How do you know?

We know that the child will miss their grandmother as it says in the text that he/she thinks of her Grandmother on the journey telling them, 'don't forget to write' and their 'one last hug'. The fact that the child is thinking about their Grandmother on their journey, shows how much she must mean to them.

5. Why is the child's grandmother important to her/him?

The Grandmother is clearly very important to the child. Not only are they thinking about her on their journey and remembering their time together but they also remember what she has said, 'grandmother's words your shining beacon'. This shows how much she values their relationship and their Grandmother's words.

6. 'Windrush child' is repeated four times in the first four verses of the poem. Why do you think the poet chose to do this?

To emphasise how others may have viewed the children who came on the 'Windrush' or how they might have perceived themselves.

7. Can you find another repetition or echo in the poem? Why do you think the poet chose to do this?

'walk good walk good' and 'walking good walking good' – this suggests 'well wishing' and confidence for the journey ahead. The use repetition is emphasising this.

8. Do you like the poem? Why/why not?

I think this poem is simple, yet powerful. I think the use of repetition is very effective. The descriptions allow the reader to imagine the world they were leaving behind as well as their anticipation of 'new beginnings'.