

# Shine Brighter Première

## ShortFile 2 The Windrush Generation

Document 2, Extrait p.31 – Roman *Another Man in the Street*, Caryl

PHILLIPS, 2025

We were sitting out on deck listening to the sound of the sea. I say listening because it was so dark it was difficult to see the water. The deck lights above our heads were angled so they pooled about our feet. Complementing the sound of the sea, I could hear the low, intrusive grinding of the ship's engines. On the first night it had been impossible for any passengers to sleep, given this constant noise. Furthermore, we were skittish<sup>1</sup> and excitable emigrants, and our heads were populated with thoughts of what lay ahead in England. By the start of the second week most of us had accustomed ourselves to the perpetual rumbling vibration of the banana boat, and the mind-numbing<sup>2</sup> reality of the passage had now effectively stifled<sup>3</sup> our initial enthusiasm. I was cold, for the night breeze was getting stronger. [...] I had left both my parents, and two older sisters, in what I was already thinking of as the old world. But I knew that the family wouldn't miss me. They had no ambition, and they all felt safe within the narrow orbit of their predictable island lives. Why should they feel anything for me?

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<sup>1</sup> nervous

<sup>2</sup> boring

<sup>3</sup> repressed

After all, I had long ago left them and gone to live in the room at the back of the piano teacher's house. It was the only way I was going to get any privacy and peace and quiet. When I went to find my father at the stables<sup>4</sup> to tell him that I'd finally saved enough money to buy a passage to England, he looked me up and down and sucked his teeth dismissively. My father and I walked together in silence. There was little point in sharing with my father my hope of maybe getting a newspaper job in England. 'Hope' was a word that was absent from our communal vocabulary, but my girl Lorna understood what I wanted, and she encouraged and pushed me.

Caryl PHILLIPS, *Another Man in the Street*, 2025

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<sup>4</sup> building where horses are kept

Document 1, Extrait p.32 – Poème de Tracy OSEI-BERKO, The  
Windrush poem, *leighday.co.uk*

### **The Windrush poem**

Dear Britain,  
When invited  
They came for you  
After war broke your country  
They helped see you through  
But then, you held all the power  
So, they never really had a choice  
Colonised and subdued<sup>1</sup>  
They were a people without a voice  
So, to help rebuild  
They arrived on your shores  
To become your manufacturers  
And assistants in stores  
Their usefulness and very presence  
Became a never-ending debate  
And they were constantly subjected  
To animosity and hate  
But still, they persevered  
Because they also came for opportunities  
They faced adversity with strength

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<sup>1</sup> dominated

And created their own communities  
They enriched the economy  
And transformed the cultural scene  
They expanded the definition of 'Britishness'  
Through their music, art and cuisine  
They played their part  
And brought restoration  
But they also became more  
And rose above their station<sup>2</sup>  
Is that what irks<sup>3</sup> you?  
That they couldn't be contained  
That even after all these years  
Their influence remains?  
(Yours sincerely,  
A concerned citizen)

Tracy OSEI-BERKO, *leighday.co.uk*

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<sup>2</sup> social position

<sup>3</sup> bothers

## **Reflecting on Windrush**

The Windrush Generation and their descendants have made significant contributions to British society. Supporting the country to rebuild after the devastation of the Second World War, many went to work in the newly created National Health Service (NHS) as nurses, midwives, auxiliary workers, cooks and cleaners. They drove buses and trains for Transport for London and laboured<sup>1</sup> in factories across the country. They brought new musical genres to the UK – ska, reggae, lovers rock, calypso, and jazz – and forged successful pathways into politics, media, sports and television. [...] Annually, on 22 June, we recognise and thank the Windrush Generation and their descendants for their enormous contributions to our society. As part of this celebration, it is vital that we also acknowledge the prejudice, hostility and racism that this group has faced at both an individual and institutional level.

Paul FARMER, *ageuk.org.uk*, 2023

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<sup>1</sup> worked

## Évaluation de la compréhension de l'écrit – Guide pédagogique

### **How cricket helped Windrush arrivals build a sense of 'home' in Britain**

Cricket was played extensively in Britain in the 1950s, in towns, villages and cities, both in workplaces and as a social activity. And the sport had also become a ubiquitous cultural pastime in the English-speaking Caribbean.

Indeed, cricket was a key part of Britain's cultural imperialism, with the game helping to convey ideas about social order – in the colonial Caribbean, cricket clubs were segregated on the basis both of class and "race". An emphasis on respecting the rules, "fair play" and sporting behaviour all enhanced this sense of white English prestige.

After the Second World War, racism forced many new Windrush arrivals – predominantly black Caribbean men looking for employment in manual jobs – to set up their own cricket clubs. One such club is the still-active Carnegie CC, created in 1955 to cater for Caribbean cricketers in and around the Brixton area. [...]

Despite widespread racism, some Caribbean cricket celebrities were feted<sup>1</sup> by and ultimately found favour with the political establishment. Learie Constantine, for example, became the first black person to sit in the House of Lords in 1969. [...]

By the late 1960s and into the 1970s, there was a rich ecosystem of Caribbean cricket across Britain. Black cricket clubs were widely formed across English cities, starting with Leeds Caribbean (set up in 1948) and swiftly followed by others such as

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<sup>1</sup> celebrated, honoured

Sheffield Caribbeans, Bristol West Indians and the West Indian Cricket and Sports Club in Manchester.

The clubs and competitions were created by black people themselves, and were a significant bridge between England and “home” in the Caribbean – making cricket an important part of the black Atlantic cultural exchange.

Michael Collins, *The Conversation*, 2023