

# Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2024

## Talking Turkeys

**Do It Now: Complete the multiple choice questions**

1. Turkeys originate from:
- a) Turkey
  - b) Mexico  **Correct**
  - c) Brazil

2. The king who made eating turkey fashionable at Christmas was:
- a) Henry IV
  - b) Henry V
  - c) Henry VIII  **Correct**

- 3) The quantity of turkeys killed every Christmas in the UK is:
- a) One million
  - b) Five million
  - c) Ten million  **Correct**



# Benjamin Zephaniah



- Born in Jamaica
- Brought up in Birmingham
- Novelist
- Poet
- Vegan

1. What kind of language do you expect from Zephaniah?

2. What message do you expect from a vegan poet?

# Talking Turkeys

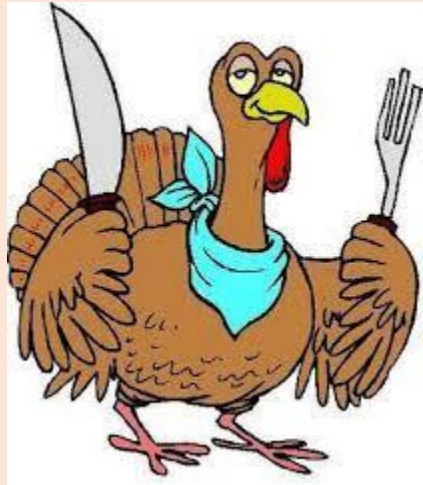
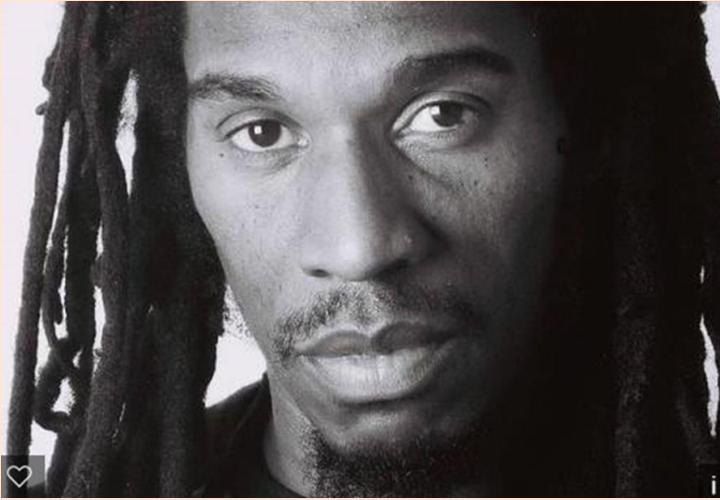
- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=Y-HAewZoG\\_I](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=Y-HAewZoG_I)
- Listen to the poem and then fill in the blanks, using your logic and the rhyme scheme.

**Underline any unfamiliar words.**

**What is the poem about? Summarise the narrative of the poem in 10 words or less.**

**What issue is Zephaniah taking seriously here and why? Include at least one quote in your response.**

# Talking Turkeys



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Summarise the narrative of  
the poem in 10 words or less.**

**What issue is Zephaniah  
taking seriously here  
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least one quote in your  
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# Talking Turkeys

Read the poem and then fill in the blanks,  
using your logic and the rhyme scheme.

cash      mind      chop      life  
me      wife      beans  
trees      plate      mum  
turkey

# Stanza 1

Be nice to yu turkeys dis christmas

Cos turkeys jus wanna hav fun

Turkeys are cool, turkeys are wicked

An every turkey has a

mum

Be nice to yu turkeys dis christmas,

Don't eat it, keep it alive,

It could be yu mate an not on yu

plate

Say, Yo! Turkey I'm on your side.

# Stanza 2

I got lots of friends who are turkeys  
An all of dem fear christmas time,  
Dey wanna enjoy it, dey say humans destroyed it  
An humans are our of dere mind  
Yeah, I got lots of friends who are turkeys  
Dey all have a right to a life,  
Not to be caged up an aenetically made up  
By an farmer an his wife



# Stanza 4

I once knew a turkey called

Turkey

He said "Benji explain to me please,

Who put de turkey in christmas

An what happens to christmas trees

I said, "I am not too sure turkey

But it's nothing to do wid Chirst Mass

Humans get greedy an waste more dan need be

An business men mek loadsa cash

# Stanza 5

Be nice to yu turkey dis christmas

Invite dem indoors fe sum greens

Let dem eat cake an let dem partake

In a plate of organic grown beans

Be nice to yu turkey dis christmas

An spare dem de cut of de knife,

Join Turkeys United an dey'll be delighted

An yu will mek new friends "**FOR** LIFE"

# Understanding Talking Turkeys

## Verse 1

1. Why should you be nice to turkeys?

## Verse 2

2. What emotion do turkeys experience at Christmas.

3. What do turkeys have a right to?

## Verse 3

4. What is the key message in this verse?

## Verse 4

5. What is Zephaniah's message about human beings?

## Verse 5

6. Why does the poem end with the two words, "For Life"?

## Challenge

**'Talking Turkey' means 'talking seriously about something in America.**

**Why has Zephaniah used this at the title? Include at least one quote in your response.**

# The Language of Talking Turkeys

**Be** nice to yu turkeys dis Christmas

**Say**, Yo! Turkey I'm on your side.

**Invite** dem indoors fe sum greens

**Let** dem eat cake

**Join** Turkeys United

What do all  
these lines have  
in common?  
What is the verb  
form?

The imperative verb  
form. Why has  
Zephaniah used this?

# Write a poem telling people how to have a British Christmas, using imperatives.

1. Brainstorm a typical Christmas in your house.
2. Make a list of things that you need for a typical Christmas in your house.



You work for an charity called “Animals For Life”.  
Design a poster to persuade people to stop eating turkeys  
at Christmas.

Include:-

- An eye-catching headline
- A striking image
- Persuasive facts about how many turkeys are killed at Christmas.
- Arguments inspired by Benjamin Zephaniah’s poem “Talking Turkeys”.
- Alternative options for Christmas dinner.

What techniques do  
we  
use when writing  
persuasively?