



John Agard, Playwright & Poet.

Born in Georgetown, British Guiana in 1949, John developed a love of language through listening to radio broadcasts, including cricket commentary.

He studied English, French and Latin and started writing poetry whilst studying for his A' Levels. After leaving school, he pursued his love of words, teaching languages, working in a library and writing for the Guyana Sunday Chronicle. He also published his first two books.

In 1977, John followed his father's example and moved to England, settling in Ironbridge, Shropshire. He worked for the Commonwealth Institute and the BBC, whilst continuing to write verse.

In 1997, John won the Paul Hamlyn Award for Poetry. By 2008, he was the poet in residence at the National Maritime Museum and his works featured on the GCSE English syllabus. Further awards followed, including the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry in 2012.

His modern work includes "Windrush Child," which you can hear on this webpage by following the next link.