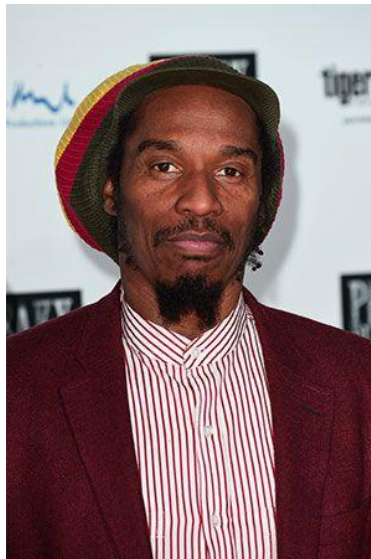


Author of the Month



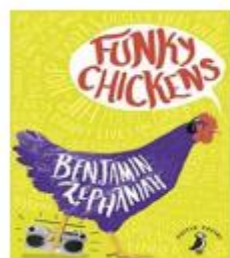
Benjamin Zephaniah

The British writer Benjamin Zephaniah was known for his poetry as well as novels, plays, and other works. The type of poetry he wrote is called "dub poetry," which means it is poetry that is performed—the words are recited over the beat of reggae music.

Benjamin Obadiah Iqbal Zephaniah was born on April 15, 1958, near Birmingham, England. His parents were Jamaican and even as a child he enjoyed the reggae music and poetry of Jamaica. He started writing poetry when he was very young. By the time he was 15 years old he had a lot of fans in his neighborhood. Soon his fame began to spread.

Zephaniah performed his poetry at different venues around England. In 1980 he published his first book of poetry, called *Pen Rhythm*. He wrote about the many social problems that people were facing in the early 1980s, such as unemployment and homelessness. His second volume of poetry, *The Dread Affair: Collected Poems*, attacked the British legal system.

Books by this author:



Let me know what you think!

Mrs K Ridley