

Windrush Day

22nd June 2022



Poem about the Windrush Generation

Chesham Primary school class 8



They stepped onto the ship, their hearts filled with glee,
But they soon would realise, all was not as it was painted to be.

People boarded the ship excitedly, looking forward to an excellent future,
but on arrival, they could not use their skills, such as pilot, doctor, or teacher.

Perplexed expressions, as the sea welcomed them to their new home with a wave
The sacrifices they made to help Britain, and gain the life that they craved

Hopeful Caribbean hearts, beautiful people treated with overwhelming hate.
Never did they believe the call to rebuild Britain would be a huge mistake.

These men and women had huge dreams of England, but it was not what they expected.
Instead, they experienced discrimination and hate; they felt despondent and rejected

So many people, looking forward to going to England, waving their families goodbye.
They'd left their homes with hope, but their dreams were shattered in the blink of an eye

The invitation to come and work, to have the chance of a better life,
turned out to be nothing more than what it was - a big marketing lie.

Beautiful people were being tormented, because of the colour of their skin.
The people who had invited them, now rejected them - what a terrible sin!

The delight on their faces swiftly faded when they were bullied and mistreated.
But they journeyed on, they would not be held back, oppressed, or defeated

Chesham Primary school class 8 in discussion with 'The Windrush Lady',
Chair of Governors, Alyson Malach

Poem about the Windrush Generation

Chesham Primary school class 9



In 1948 Britain called for help from far and wide

A diverse group of people faced high waves and high tides

Britain need help after devastation in World War two

The invited the many and not the few

The palm tree waved its last goodbyes

The people of the Caribbean waved back, praying, looking up to the skies

They hopped on board the Empire Windrush, without hesitation,

Ready for toil, but full of hope and expectation

But when they finally arrived, and set foot on English soil

Their excitement simmered, it no longer boiled

They had started out with joy and hope and with expectation in the air

But when they arrived, they were filled with sorrow, shattered dreams, and despair

Their brains were spinning round, like a carousel

Whilst their hopes and dreams were shattered, falling in a never-ending well

The racial comments said to them, filled them with disgust

but knowing that there were people who liked them, helped them get back up

The signs in the shops 'no Blacks/no Coloureds' made them cry

They'd left warm, loving families, and now faced stern stares from cold eyes

Thank you, Windrush Generation we appreciate, all you have done and continue to do

Britain is a better place because of you

Chesham Primary school class 9 in discussion with 'The Windrush Lady'

Chair of Governors Alyson Malach

Thank you, Class 8/9,

Windrush day in Chesham Primary School

The children were excited, interested and really cool

They asked lots of questions and shared interest in Windrush and me

They listened to learn, understand, and showed great empathy

They all agreed to write a line of a poem for me to recreate

Their words and prose were well written and delivered for me to pull together and shape

The lines were so rich, so powerful, and true

I hope I have done justice to these poems for you

Thank you, class 8 and thank you class 9

Hopefully these two poems can go on the walls in school and be put online

Happy Windrush Day

The Windrush lady (Alyson Malach Chair of Governor)