

## Key stage 2

### Pupil A – Piece C: a newspaper report

Context: as part of their work on the 'Windrush generation', pupils read passengers' accounts of their journey from Jamaica and arrival in England. They studied newspaper articles, noting the structures and language used, and then wrote their own articles describing the arrival of the Empire Windrush.

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## WIND-RUSHING TO BRITAIN'S AID?

25<sup>th</sup> June 1948

Reported by  
Traveling correspondents

Yesterday, HMT Empire Windrush dropped the anchor at Tilbury Docks, Essex, carrying over a 1000 strong crowd of West Indians to not only rebuild the centre of the British Empire, but also to restart and rebuild their lives.



The stern of HMT Empire Windrush, full of excited West Indians

Following an advertisement in Jamaican newspapers of £28 passage on the Windrush, around 800 Caribbean men, women and children boarded the former German troopship with high hopes about new lives and jobs they would find in the Jamaican 'motherland'.

Sam King, an ex-RAF serviceman, was approached and stated, "The food was revolting. At lunch we were served tinned cabbage. At dinner it would be served with mashed potato and if it wasn't finished, it would be served fried for breakfast."

Many West Indians saw no future for themselves in hurricane-ravaged Jamaica and were looking for jobs, others just wanted to be able to see the United Kingdom for themselves.

John Hazel, 21, a boxer, revealed that the men on board slept in open spaces on the troopdeck where they held boxing matches and played music and dominoes to entertain themselves for the 30 day journey. The vessel, known as N.V. *Monterosa* before it was captured by the British ~~Navy~~ Navy in World War 2, is a 500ft long steel giant built by Blohm & Voss (a German ~~Ship~~ shipbuilding company) and is able to reach 14.5 knots.

After thousands of miles of travelling and England finally in sight, the air

was buzzing with excitement and expectation. The anchor dropped and the gangway put down, 1027 passengers descended from the *Windrush*, slightly disappointed by the cold, dull England they were greeted with.

Edward Casey, 53, a British shopkeeper, remarked, "These Blacks are going to steal all of our food housing, which is already in short supply! I say to send them back to where they came from!" Many other white locals replied in a similar way. The question is, will these ambitious West Indians be accepted in British society?