

KS3 The Black Flamingo Knowledge Organiser – SPRING 1

Events		Context
Prologue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Symbolism used set the tone: Fairy tale genre and Flamingo eggs being taken all show Michael is searching for his truth. The concept of the egg – the beginning. The imagery on the page shows Michael's feelings about family, belonging and himself. 	<p>Who is Dean Atta?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Dean Atta is a British poet of Greek Cypriot and Caribbean descent. He is also known as the iPhone poet – famous for his art going viral in response to hate crimes. Atta is well known for his poetry and for his performance in the Spoken word scene. Atta says poetry was an opportunity to vent. "I started writing about stuff I was seeing in the news, my own sexual identity and being mixed race." When at university he was active in organisations that helped people to understand their cultures and not be defined or restricted by them, he was president of the African Caribbean Society and was the black students' rep on the student union council; he believes these roles helped instil a political and social conscience. Atta sexuality has been the premise of much of Atta's work; growing up, this was more of an issue for him than race.
Barbies & Belonging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At six, Michael begs his mum for a Barbie for his birthday – he gets a ninja turtle! Contrast between Callum & Michael – both mixed race boys. Michael is part black Caribbean (dad) & part white Cypriot (mummy). Michael clashes with Callum but plays well with Emily in her 'bubble gum pink' bedroom and her 42 Barbies. Michael is relaxed in this environment. Michael gets his Barbie for Christmas from mummy. He can't take her to his dads. Dad is not interested and doesn't eat with them. Uncle B puts in the effort. Change of names – Name Dead/Deed. Becoming an Angeli (Angel) and rejecting the fathers name of 'Brown' symbolically rejecting his father's heritage and culture. 	
Sandcastles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preferences of who Michael wants to kiss appear at an early age (kiss chase). At a young age the girls in Michael's school recognise and accept his femininity. Recurring dream of mum being killed and who would take Michael shows that he is insecure and other than with mum has no sense of belonging. Michael notices the freedom Anna has to play & dress in 'male' clothes. Mum is worried about money; Michael confides in Uncle B who is there for him. 	<p>Context and cultural reference.</p> <p>There are many complex and, changing contextual matters in this novel. If you want to know more please ask your teachers and we can point you in the right direction for some further reading and support you in any concerns you may have surrounding any of these issues.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Homosexuality was legalised in 1967 and same-sex civil marriage was legalised in 2014. Bob Marley: Robert Nesta Marley was a Jamaican singer, songwriter, and musician. Considered one of the pioneers of reggae, his musical career was marked by fusing elements of music, as well as his distinctive vocal and song writing style. He was an influential black figure founding The Bob Marley Foundation. It is an independent, non-profit organization, that focuses on the delivery of Social Interventions through Education, Culture, Environment and Sustainable Community Development. Rastafarianism is a religion that developed in Jamaica during the 1930s. It is classified as both a new religious movement and a social movement by scholars of religion. Justin Fashanu was an English footballer who played for a variety of clubs between 1978 and 1997. He was known by his early clubs to be gay, and came out publicly later in his career, becoming the first professional footballer to be openly gay. His family continue to campaign for young gay people particularly in the footballing community. Bisexuality is an attraction to more than one gender. Those who identify as bisexual feel a sexual and/or romantic attraction to people of a different gender as well as their own. While this offers a basic definition, bisexual people are a diverse group. Each individual perceives their sexual orientation differently. The bible and LGBTQ+ community is a complex matter. In times gone by the bible has thought to completely disagree with the idea of the LGBTQ+ community, however just like in society there are strives to ensure tolerance and acceptance in the belief system. HIV/AIDS: These are two diseases that were linked to the gay community in the 1980s, it was described as a pandemic with thousands of people dying. This disease is most transmitted through sexual contact or the reuse of infected needles. It is not limited to the gay community and can be caught by anyone. Patois is speech or language that is considered nonstandard, although the term is not formally defined in linguistics. As such, patois can refer to pidgins, creoles, dialects, or vernaculars, but not commonly to jargon or slang. Stonewall: Now a movement and charity supporting the LGBTQ+ community. The origin of the name comes from the Stonewall Inn. It was a well-known gathering place for gay men, lesbians, and transgender people. It became a target for police raids on Greenwich Village gay bars and was a scene on continued targeted action by the authorities in a form of prejudice against the community. The police roughed up many of its patrons. In accordance with a New York criminal statute that authorized the arrest of anyone not wearing at least three articles of gender-appropriate clothing, the police took several people into custody. Homophobia: dislike of or prejudice against gay people. Coming out: refers to the process that people who are LGBTQ go through as they work to accept their sexual orientation or gender identity and share that identity openly with other people. Coming out is a very brave thing to do, and it's extremely personal and different for everyone.
Music & Stars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Michael gets into an all-boys, performance school using his singing talent. Uncle B takes him to see the Red Arrows – recurring theme of freedom & flight. Michael gets bullied into fighting another boy – he eventually stands up & says 'No' Uncle B buys a telescope – stars, angels, planes, birds all signify freedom to him. Michael talked to his mum about the fight and violence at school. He dislikes it. Michael moves schools and meets Daisy – his new best friend. Michael Lies about the fight. He gives into peer pressure. Michael is inspired by Maya Angelou and starts to write Poetry. Michael admits to Daisy that he is gay, he invites her home, mum loves Daisy! Michael thinks about how he would look in Daisy's glittery red dress, Michael puts locs in his hair – embracing his Jamaican heritage. 	
Coming Out	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Michael writes a letter and asks out Rowan – he becomes ashamed and runs off. Michael talks to a teacher about being gay and his fears about going to Hell. Kieran brings the letter to Michael and is kind to him and shows racial solidarity and appears to be flirting with Michael, we pick up on this as the reader, but Michael is oblivious – An example of dramatic irony. Kiran tells Michael about Justin Fashanu – the first openly black, gay footballer. Michael comes out to his mum; she is concerned about HIV rather than Michael. Michael dreams of a world of acceptance where he dates Kieran (Fairy-tale genre) Religion and the origin story are on Michael's mind. He is concerned that he will go to Hell for being gay. 	
Sweet Sixteen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Michael keeps finding notes, bible references in his bag. Someone is targeting him. Michael is shouted at in the street for being gay; mum tells him life is cruel. Michael comes out to his sister Anna; she knows and asks if he has a boyfriend. Michael is given condoms by his mum; he starts to think about having sex. Michael meets a man from an app in a graveyard, he does drugs and prepares to lose his virginity. He doesn't remember, he is high. Atta has this on a black page. Michael decides it was a stupid thing to do so deletes the app and doesn't tell anyone what happened. He tells Daisy he went out with Uncle B. 	

Themes		Features of form (Prose, Poetry & the Spoken Word).						
Societies gender conventions & children	Michael is not encouraged to play with Barbies but seems to be heavily steered into liking the Ninja Turtles – the figure, cake and slippers. Emily has 42 Barbies and a bubble gum pink bedroom; Michael likes this but as a boy it is not the social norm for boys to like these things. Anna has the freedom to play with boys' toys and wear boys clothes.	Weekly Spellings:	Week 2 – w/c 15th January 2024		Week 4 – w/c 29th January 2024		Week 6 – w/c 12th February 2024	
	Quote		'No Michael, I didn't think you were serious' (Birthday gift of a Barbie).	Diversity	Representation	Identity	Original	
Male & racial expectations.	Mum discouraged Michael from taking the Barbie to his dad's despite being open enough to his likes to buy it for him as promised. Atta uses Callum to contrast Michael, to emphasise his femininity. Mixed race explored using the term 'Half' on a black page.		Campaign	Stereotyping	Resilience	Homophobic		
	Quote		'It's dyed pink, I think it looks pretty'(Michael). 'I hate Pink!' (Callum) 'Don't let anyone tell you that you are 'half' anything.	Neutral	Confidence	Judgmental		
Divided family units	Atta uses Emily to contrast Michael's economic and domestic situation. Emily's dad buys Versace dresses and lots of Barbies – Michael's left! At Christmas time Michael's dad does not remain at the dinner table next to Michael. Michael's father has rejected him.		Persuading	Prologue	Competence	Biased		
	Quote		'Michael, do you have a Daddy too?' (Emily)	Experience	Connection	Prejudice		
Identity & names/ labels	Atta plays with language, father being 'Brown' and mother being 'Angeli' the connotations linked to these are symbolic to society and Michael's ideas. Michael lists negative images linked to carrying around his father's name.		Connotation	Author	Control	Contentment		
	Quote		'But I read: Name Dead and it makes sense'. 'I don't want his name dragging behind me like a dead dog on a lead'	Week 3 – w/c 22nd January 2024	Week 5 – w/c 5th January 2024	Acquaintance		
A sense of belonging	Michael feels disconnected from his father's family the Brown's. The name change and the idea of being 'half' – Atta using a black page (35). Recurring dream of a plane killing mum & becoming an orphan.		Discipline	Gregarious	Connection	Benevolence		
	Quote		'Would Trevor take Anna but leave me an orphan?'	Acceptable	Coping	Conscientious		
Symbolism of flight	The idea of feathers, wings, and freedom in the early chapters. The concept of the name change to Angeli – Angel wings to fly. Recurring dream of the plane killing mum and setting Michael adrift. The love of the Red Arrows and their grace, speed, and freedom.		Reasonable	Hypocrisy		Controversial		
	Quote		'Fast like freedom' (Red Arrows) 'I don't need a plan because with my new name I can really fly'	Punishment				
Sexuality	Michael comes out as being gay, his mum seems more concerned about HIV. Rowan is bi-sexual but has a girlfriend. Kieran seems to be open to Michael.		Justified	Hypothesis				
	Quote		'Why don't you give a brother a chance?'	Etymology				
Racism	Atta creates characters that provide various points of view on racial matters, he does this to open dialogue and promote tolerance in society.		Opportunities	Ineffectual				
	Quote		'Why did you pick the whitest boy in school' (Kieran) 'I don't fancy black boys' (Daisy)	Imaginary				
Religion	Michael shows an awareness of the Christian faith's views on homosexuality. Atta sets much of the formative action in a Catholic school with girls like Destiny commenting on God's judgement. Michael comments on religion.	Disappointment	Interpretation					
	Quote	'I think I am going to Hell when I die and a living Hell on Earth' 'I imagine us in Eden – two black boys in Paradise (...) the fruit on the tree of knowledge has gone rotten.	Communicate					
Characters:	1. Michael	Key Vocabulary & Definitions.	Diversity: the state of being diverse; variety. The practice of including people from a range of different social and ethnic backgrounds and of different genders and sexuality.					
	2. Friend (Daisy)		Representation: the action of speaking or acting on behalf of someone or the state of being so represented.					
	3. Mum		Prologue: a separate introductory section of a literary, dramatic, or musical work.					
	4. Sister (Anna)		Stereotyping: a fixed and often ill-informed idea that many people have about a thing or a group that may often be untrue or only partly true.					
	5. Uncle B		Neutral: not supporting or helping either side in a conflict, disagreement, etc.; impartial.					
	6. Granny B		Persuading: to make someone do or believe something by giving them a good reason to do it or by talking to that person and making them believe it.					
	7. Kieran		Fate: the development of events outside a person's control, regarded as predetermined by a supernatural power.					
	8. Rowan		Resilience: the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties; toughness. To be able to keep going when things are difficult.					
	9. The mean girls		Identity: the fact of being who or what a person or thing is. Identity is simply defined as the characteristics determining who or what a person or thing is.					
			Benevolence: the quality of being well meaning; kindness. The desire to do good to others; goodwill; charitableness.					