

benjamin Zephaniah

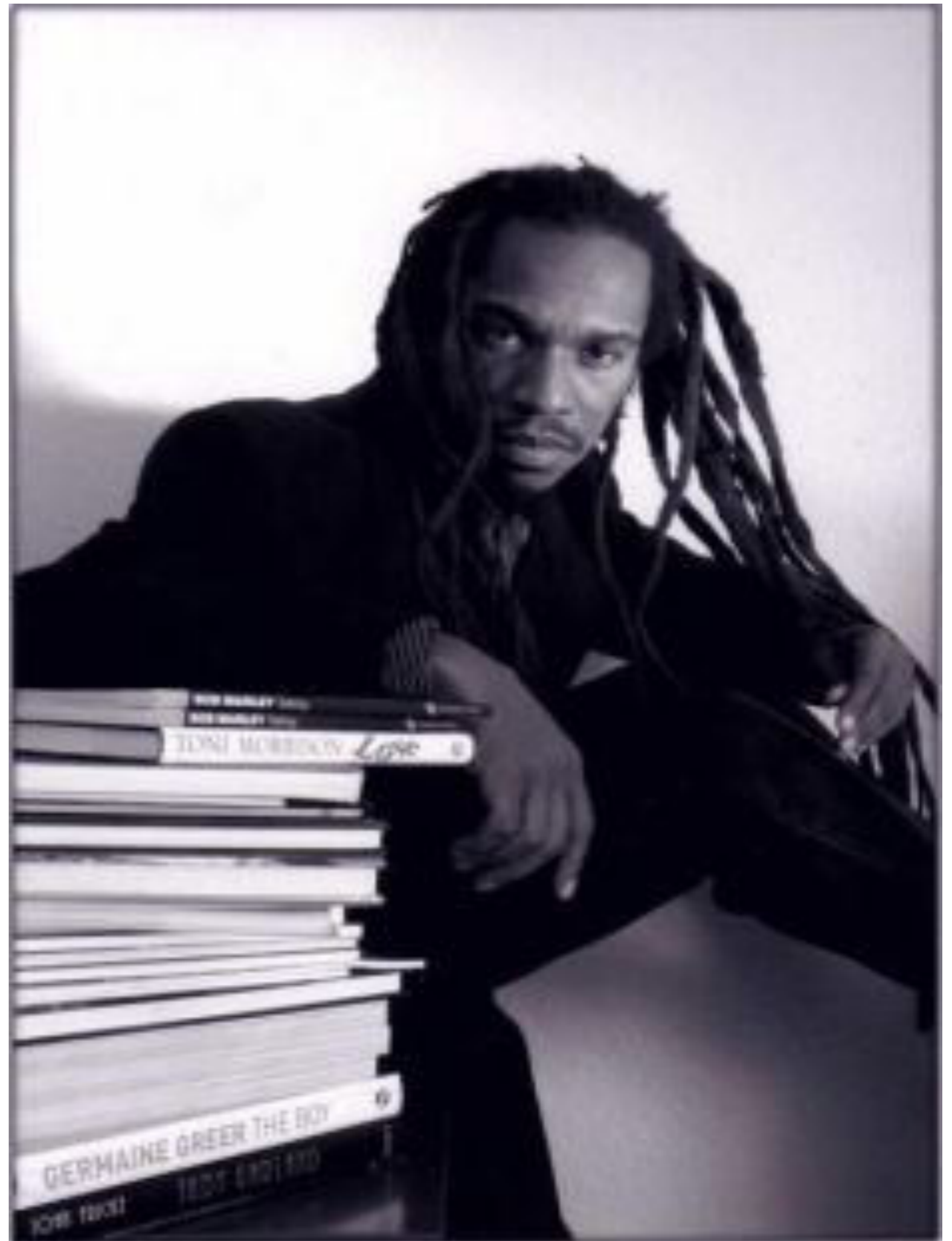
Benjamin Zephaniah is a British poet and writer. In 2008, he was voted one of Britain's top 50 post [World War 2](#) writers, in a poll by the Times newspaper.

- Benjamin Zephaniah was born in Birmingham in April, 1958, the son of Caribbean immigrants. He was dyslexic, and left school at 13, as he couldn't read or write.

His poetry is influenced by the street culture of Jamaica. His first performance was at age 10, and by 15, he was quite well known in and around [Birmingham](#).

Benjamin Zephaniah moved to [London](#) when he was 22.

- He published his first book of poetry which sold well. He also made a name writing and reading his poems in clubs and other venues.
- His poems seemed to capture the mood of the early 1980s in Britain, and were often about homelessness or unemployment. He was described as Britain's most recognizable poet.
- Zephaniah is known for his strong and often controversial beliefs and opinions. He has suggested changing the British voting system, and has publicly turned down an OBE medal.
- His poetry book for children, *Talking Turkeys*, was an immediate bestseller. He has also written several novels aimed specifically at teenagers, as well as several collections of poetry.
- In 1991, Zephaniah performed on all 6 continents in just a 3 week period.
- He has a fan club in the central African country of Malawi, and spends part of his time in Beijing, China.



benjamin Zephaniah Quiz

1) What did Benjamin write? Put a 😊 next to your answer.

A)poems

B) Story's

2) Where was he born? Circle the answer.

A)London

B) Birmingham

3) Why did he leave school? Put an ← next to the answer.

A)Because he wanted to.

B) He could not read or write.