

DHFS: NEWS AND VIEWS



Is it important to know about the author behind the book?

09:00am

LIVE  *Black History Month*

Book publishing company, Penguin Random House UK, has revealed a new book vending machine at Linlithgow Academy, near Edinburgh, Scotland. The machine gives the pupils access to more than seventy different books from Penguin's 'Lit in Colour' reading lists. The reading lists, set up around four years ago, are updated each year and aim to make works by writers of colour more visible and accessible in schools.

Learn more about this week's story [here](#).



Questions

Think about this week's story and share your initial thoughts on the book vending machine, with a focus on writers of colour.

Would it be something you'd like to see in your school? Why?

Do you have a favourite author?

What is it about their writing you enjoy?

Do you know much about them?

Do you think it's important to know about the author behind the book?



What is your understanding of Black History Month?

This year's theme is 'Reclaiming Narratives'. What does this mean?



[Watch this video to find out more](#)
[Black History Month Explained | Newsround - YouTube](#)



What is your understanding of Black History Month?

The blackhistorymonth.org website states that, *'One of the most exciting aspects of Reclaiming Narratives is its potential to inspire and educate the next generation. In schools, universities, and cultural institutions, this theme offers a fresh perspective on Black history.'* How do you think that schools, and other educational institutions, can help with this aim? Do you think the authors and books we read have a part to play?



Vital statistics

The Diversity in Literature in English Schools research, conducted by Runnymede Foundation in 2020, found that 82% of youth survey respondents did not recall ever studying a text by a Black, Asian or minority ethnic author.

Can you recall studying a text by a Black, Asian or minority ethnic author?

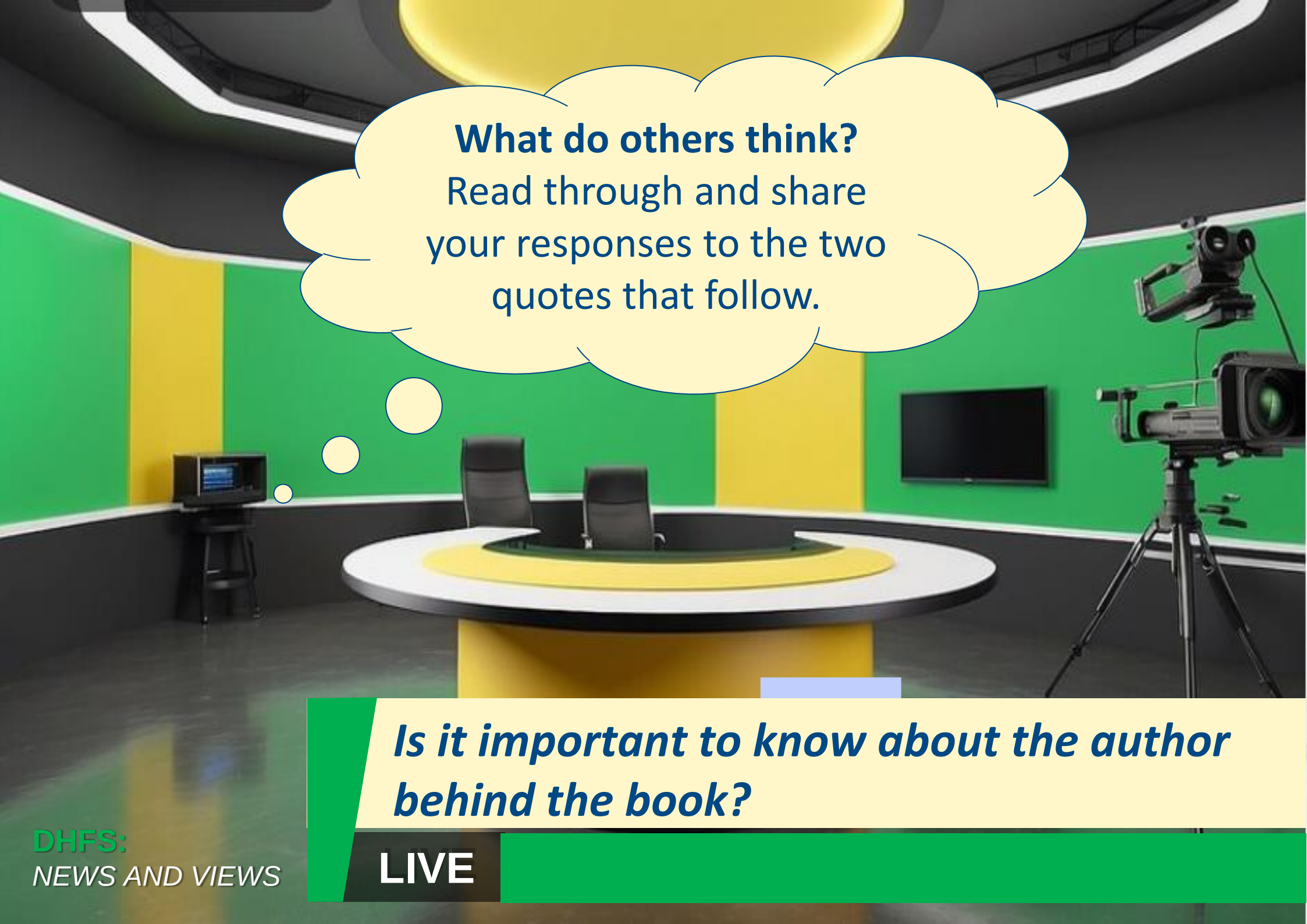
Why could it be important to consume media from a diverse range of people?



A woman with dark hair tied in a bun, wearing a dark blue polka-dot shirt, is smiling and reading an open book. She is sitting at a table in a kitchen. In the background, there is a white countertop with a sink and some kitchen items. A yellow balloon is visible in the upper left corner.

Penguin Random House Books says it has provided 900 books for the new book vending machine at Linlithgow Academy, and explains that the school was selected from 800 UK school applications for a machine. The vending machine offers books by authors Salman Rushdie, Toni Morrison, Arundhati Roy, and others. Are you surprised by the number of schools that applied to receive the machine? Would you expect it to be a higher or lower number?





What do others think?
Read through and share
your responses to the two
quotes that follow.

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'Books create belonging. They help us see and understand one another. They shine a light on the world. It's vital that the books we read in our formative years reflect the rich diversity of the society we live in.'
litincolour.penguin.co.uk.



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'How terribly sad that children of colour are unlikely to see people who look like them, who come from their backgrounds, represented in the books they are given to read in school, while white children are denied access to immersing themselves in Black and Asian characters, stories, perspectives and poems.'

Bernardine Evaristo, author of books including *Girl, Woman, Other*, which won the Booker Prize in 2019, making her the first Black woman and first Black British person to win it in its 50-year history.



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Some believe Black History Month shouldn't be needed, as Black history should *already* be a core part of the education curriculum, within the books and other content in schools. In your experience, do you think there needs to be more black history embedded within education?

How influential do you think knowing about an author is when choosing books to read?

Is it important to know about the author behind the book?

Final thoughts...



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