

## Benjamin Zephaniah

### Children's Author

Dr Benjamin Obadiah Iqbal Zephaniah was born and raised in Handsworth, Birmingham. At that time he called it the Jamaican capital of Europe due to the large Jamaican community there. His first real public performance was at 11 years old and by the age of 15 he had attracted a strong following in Handsworth and had gained a reputation as a young poet who was capable of speaking on local and international issues. His poetry was strongly influenced by the music and poetry of Jamaica and what he called 'street politics'.



## Agents

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### Jodie Hodges

[jhodges@unitedagents.co.uk](mailto:jhodges@unitedagents.co.uk)

+44 (0) 20 3214 0891

### Agent

Emily Talbot

[etalbot@unitedagents.co.uk](mailto:etalbot@unitedagents.co.uk)

+44 (0) 20 3214 0950

### Associate Agent

Molly Jamieson

[mjamieson@unitedagents.co.uk](mailto:mjamieson@unitedagents.co.uk)

+44 (0) 20 3214 0973

### Assistant

Amber Garvey

[AGarvey@unitedagents.co.uk](mailto:AGarvey@unitedagents.co.uk)

+44 (0) 20 3214 0864