

The British Poem

Take some Picts, Celts and Silures
And let them settle,
Then overrun them with Roman conquerors.

Remove the Romans after approximately 400 years
Add lots of Norman French to some
Angles, Saxons, Jutes and Vikings, then stir vigorously.

Mix some hot Chileans, cool Jamaicans, Dominicans,
Trinidadians and Bajans with some Ethiopians, Chinese,
Vietnamese and Sudanese.

Then take a blend of Somalians, Sri Lankans, Nigerians
And Pakistanis,
Combine with some Guyanese
And turn up the heat.

Sprinkle some fresh Indians, Malaysians, Bosnians,
Iraqis and Bangladeshis together with some
Afghans, Spanish, Turkish, Kurdish, Japanese
And Palestinians
Then add to the melting pot.

Leave the ingredients to simmer.

As they mix and blend allow their languages to flourish
Binding them together with English.

Allow time to be cool.

Add some unity, understanding, and respect for the future,
Serve with justice
And enjoy.

Note: All the ingredients are equally important. Treating one ingredient better than another will leave a bitter unpleasant taste.

Warning: An unequal spread of justice will damage the people and cause pain. Give justice and equality to all.

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Questions to think about:

What is the poet trying to tell us through this poem?

What is the author describing when he says “Note: All the ingredients are equally important. Treating one ingredient better than another will leave a bitter unpleasant taste.”? Is this what we are experiencing now in England and in other places around the world?

Do you think the poem wants people to change the way they think? Is he trying to challenge the public?

Activity:

Have a go at writing your own poem about diversity; celebrating all of the differences that we have. You could create a poem telling the story of someone you have researched or you could write an acrostic poem about how we can celebrate our differences and strive for equality. It is entirely up to you. Think about how you might decorate your poem – what could be a symbol of diversity and equality – of celebrating our world and peace within it?

