

DAYLIGHT COME

Study Guide

Daylight Come, is an experimental audio project that traces my family's history in the context of Jamaica, immigration to Britain, colonisation and past enslavement.

Voices were generated using ElevenLabs AI.

My thanks to Dr Lisa Hill of Anglia Research for her assistance with my genealogy research.

<https://calvinwalker.cc/daylight-come/>

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Table of Contents

[Quiz](#)

[Quiz Answers](#)

[Essay Format Questions](#)

[Timeline of Main Events](#)

[Cast of Characters](#)

[Glossary of Key Terms](#)

Quiz

1. What is the primary purpose of the *Daylight Come* audio project, and what technology was essential to its creation?
2. Describe the significance of the year 1948 in the context of Jamaican history and the narrator's family.
3. How does the narrative portray the city of Port Royal in the 17th century, and what eventually happened to it?
4. What is "colourism," as described in the audio project, and how did it manifest within Jamaican society and the narrator's family?
5. Explain the significance of Edith Clarke's 1957 study, "My Mother Who Fathered Me", in relation to the family structure described in the audio project.
6. What are "duppies," and what specific actions does the narrator describe as means of protection against them?
7. According to the pamphlet "Going to Britain?", what specific challenges and realities were West Indians likely to face when immigrating to England?
8. What are some of the specific details that indicate the challenging working conditions faced by Esther at the Savoy Hotel Laundry?
9. What are some of the beliefs and traditions associated with Nine Night, and how do they reflect African influences on Jamaican culture?
10. Describe the significance of the title *Daylight Come* in relation to the broader themes of the audio project.

Quiz Answers

1. *Daylight Come* is an experimental audio project exploring the narrator's family history within the context of Jamaica, immigration to Britain, colonization, and slavery. AI-generated voices were crucial for the project's development because of their constant availability for experimentation.
2. In 1948, the narrator's sister, Vera, was born in Jamaica, the same year as the Windrush voyage, a highly publicized ship trip that brought hundreds of West Indian people to Britain. This trip is a central part of the overall story.
3. Port Royal was portrayed as a debauched and sinful city during the 17th century, filled with pirates and wealth stolen from the Spanish. It was destroyed by an earthquake and tsunami in 1692.
4. "Colourism" is a social hierarchy based on skin tone, with lighter-skinned people having more privilege. Within the family, this is illustrated by the narrator's mother's disparaging comments on the lighter skin of Kingston gals, while also disparaging darker skin.
5. Clarke's study explores instability rates, low marriage rates, and high illegitimacy rates within Jamaican families, reflecting the family structure of the narrator's family where the parents were often not together or even known.
6. Duppies are restless spirits and can manifest in forms like the rolling calf, a shapeshifting goat. Actions such as drawing crosses, and placing 10 coffee beans, can be used for protection.
7. The pamphlet warned about job scarcity, financial difficulties, the cold British weather, and the necessity of adapting to British social norms and customs, including the high level of prejudice and racism.
8. Esther was paid a pittance for working in pitiful sweatshop-like conditions with a disregard for health and safety, which ultimately led to her contracting tuberculosis and suffering from other health issues.
9. Nine Night is a funerary tradition, which stems from Africa, where a wake is held for nine nights following a death. Traditions include protecting the spirit of the deceased, and specific rituals to ensure their spirit moves on.
10. The title *Daylight Come* signifies the end of the night of injustice and trauma, referring both to the historical legacy of slavery and colonization as well as to the personal struggles and searches for identity described in the audio project.

Essay Format Questions

1. Analyse the role of memory in *Daylight Come*. How does the narrator use personal and family memories to construct a narrative about identity, displacement, and historical trauma?
2. Discuss the significance of place in *Daylight Come*. How do the different settings of Jamaica and England contribute to the themes of the audio project, and how do these places shape the experiences and identities of the narrator and his family?
3. Explore the theme of intergenerational trauma in *Daylight Come*. How do the legacies of slavery, colonisation, and migration impact the narrator and his family across multiple generations?
4. Examine the use of language and voice in *Daylight Come*. How do the different voices and languages contribute to the narrative's complexity and emotional impact, and what do they reveal about the narrator's cultural identity?

5. Analyse the representation of women in *Daylight Come*. How does the narrative portray the lives, struggles, and resilience of women like Esther, Goddie May, and Vera, and how does the author's depiction interact with the larger historical context of the work?

Timeline of Main Events

- **600-800 AD:** Taino Indians settle in Jamaica.
- **1494:** Christopher Columbus lands in Jamaica, claims it for Spain, and names it Santiago.
- **1510:** Spanish colonize Jamaica, resulting in the destruction of the Taino population through brutality and disease.
- **1655:** The British capture Jamaica from the Spanish, renaming it Jamaica. Jewish refugees from the Holy Inquisition are allowed to settle. The British begin importing enslaved Africans to work on sugar plantations.
- **1660:** Jamaica's population is approximately 4,500 white and 1,500 black.
- **1670:** Spain officially cedes Jamaica to the British, leading to increased sugar cane plantations and a majority of enslaved Black Africans in the population.
- **1692:** A massive earthquake and tsunami destroy Port Royal, the center of Caribbean shipping and commerce and known as the "Sodom of the New World."
- **1739:** Peace Treaty signed between the British and the Maroons (formerly enslaved Africans who had formed free communities in the mountains) after years of conflict.
- **1807:** The Slave Trade is progressively abolished, but not slave ownership.
- **1832:** The Baptist War, a large slave revolt, involves 60,000 enslaved people against slavery.
- **1834:** The Jamaican Weekly Gleaner newspaper is launched.
- **1838:** Slave ownership is abolished in Jamaica, but indentured servitude continues.
- **1845-1854:** The first Asian Indians and Chinese arrive in Jamaica as indentured servants.
- **1865:** The Morant Bay Rebellion occurs, with British soldiers killing hundreds of Jamaican protestors and flogging many more, including pregnant women.
- **1881-1889:** Over 9,000 Jamaicans work as laborers on the French construction of the Panama Canal.
- **Late 19th Century:** Tourism begins in Jamaica, but is mainly restricted to the wealthy.
- **1912-1925:** More than 110,000 Jamaicans migrate to Cuba to work on American-owned fruit plantations.
- **1915:** Jamaicans recruited to fight for Britain in World War I.
- **1919:** Mabel Eugena Parks (Goddie May) is born in Jamaica.
- **1928:** Esther Eugena Parks (the narrator's mother) is born in Trinityville, St. Thomas, Jamaica.
- **1938:** The People's National Party is formed. Labor strikes and riots occur in Jamaica.
- **1939:** Jamaicans are recruited to fight in World War II, and are accepted into the Royal Air Force.
- **1943:** The Jamaica Labour Party is formed.
- **1948:** Vera (narrator's sister) is born in Mount Charles, St. Andrew, Jamaica. The HMT Windrush arrives in Britain, bringing many West Indians from Jamaica to England.

- **1951:** Hurricane Charlie devastates Jamaica.
- **1955:** The narrator is born in St. Thomas, Jamaica, and the Jamaica Tourist Board is established. Around 15,000 West Indians, mostly Jamaicans, migrate to Britain.
- **Mid to late 1950s:** Vera moves to England, with no clear memory of how or with whom. Goddie May emigrates to the UK around this time as well.
- **1957:** Anthropologist Edith Clarke publishes "My Mother Who Fathered Me," a study on family structures in Jamaica.
- **Late 1950s:** Great-Aunt Mel moves to England.
- **1959:** The BBC Caribbean Service publishes the pamphlet "Going to Britain?"
- **November 1960:** Esther moves to England, using the revamped warship, Ascania.
- **September 1961:** The narrator moves to England with Goddie May, and they live in Brixton.
- **1962:** Jamaica gains independence from Great Britain, and the narrator automatically becomes a British citizen. Helen Shapiro's "Walking Back to Happiness" is a #1 hit in the UK.
- **1963:** The coldest winter on record in the UK. The narrator's half-sister Sarah is born.
- **Mid 1960s:** The narrator and his mother move to a bedsit on Angell Road, and later a house on Somerleyton Road. Vera lives on the top floor. They later move to Leander Road.
- **1966:** The narrator's half brother, Stephen, is born.
- **Late 1960s/Early 1970s:** The family moves back to Geneva Road in Brixton.
- **1968:** Reggae music is born.
- **1970:** Esther's tv licence payment receipt is dated March of this year.
- **Mid-1970s:** Vera introduces her future husband to the family. Vera distances herself from her family.
- **1983:** Esther is employed at The Savoy Hotel laundry.
- **1970-1980:** Political violence takes place in Jamaica
- **1990s:** The narrator visits Goddie May frequently and sees her health declining.
- **2003:** A medical letter reveals Esther's symptoms are related to old TB. The narrator takes a photo of Goddie May in her flat.
- **2004:** Vera dies in Croydon on New Year's Eve. Goddie May dies in December.
- **November 2008:** Cousin Morris dies.
- **October 2011:** Esther dies and is buried in Lambeth Cemetery.
- **2012:** The narrator contacts the Salvation Army to try to locate Vera.
- **2013:** The narrator visits his sister's memorial at the Gardens of Remembrance, reflecting on his family history.
- **2024:** Daylight Come experimental audio project is created.

Cast of Characters

- **Calvin Walker:** The narrator and creator of the audio project "Daylight Come." He is exploring his family history and identity.

- **Vera:** The narrator's older sister, born in Jamaica in 1948. She moves to England sometime between the mid and late 1950s. She is described as having a manic laugh and nosebleeds. She becomes increasingly distant from her family and dies in 2004.
- **Esther Eugena Parks:** The narrator's mother, born in 1928 in Jamaica. She is described as strong, talkative, and a devout Christian, capable of passionate rants. She migrates to England in 1960. She works hard in the UK, eventually developing tuberculosis, and dies in 2011.
- **Mabel Eugena Parks (Goddie May/Mrs. Telfer):** The narrator's maternal aunt, born in 1919 in Jamaica. A significant figure in the narrator's childhood, she moves to Britain and lives in Brixton. She is the mother of Cousin Morris. She is a source of stability and support for the narrator. She dies in 2004.
- **Maudrianna Lenorah Parkes (Maud):** The narrator's maternal grandmother and older sister of Great-Aunt Mel. She is described as living a hard life and dying young.
- **James Patterson:** Esther's father, a farmer and devout Christian who teaches her to read the Bible.
- **Great Aunt Mel (Jocelyn Melvina Parks):** The narrator's great aunt, born in 1904 in Jamaica, and older sister to the narrator's grandmother Maud and Esther's Aunt. She moved to England in the late 1950s. She is described as large in stature, statuesque, and a matriarchal figure. She eventually returns to Jamaica, while her husband remains in Britain.
- **Uncle:** Great-Aunt Mel's quiet, philosophical husband.
- **Telfer:** Goddie May's husband, who opposes the narrator being adopted by her. He is described as beating her.
- **Morris Morrison (Cousin Morris):** Goddie May's son, born in the 1930s, and the narrator's cousin. He is a "ladies man," enjoys music, and has a habit of spending money carelessly. He never lives up to his responsibilities as a father and dies in 2008.
- **Theodora:** The narrator's cousin, who is entrusted by Goddie May with funds for Morris's burial.
- **Almond (Uncle Alti):** Goddie May's older brother.
- **Tattis (Aunt Tat):** Goddie May's younger sister.
- **Sissy:** Goddie May's cousin who worked as a domestic for Ian Fleming in Jamaica.
- **Big Head:** The father of the narrator's half-sister, Sarah. Described as irresponsible and unreliable with child support payments.
- **Hunter:** The Barbadian father of the narrator's half-siblings, Stephen and Hazel, described as heartless and irresponsible.
- **Sarah:** The narrator's half-sister, born in 1963.
- **Stephen:** The narrator's half-brother, born in 1966.
- **Hazel:** The narrator's half-sister, born two years after Stephen.
- **Mr. Sibly:** The headmaster of the narrator's school, who leads assemblies with religious hymns.
- **Jeffrey:** A West Indian road sweeper who the narrator remembers from his childhood.
- **Mr. Sunday-Ani:** The narrator's African landlord.

- **Ian Fleming:** The author of the James Bond novels. He worked in his Jamaican home, Goldeneye, in the 1950s.
- **Christopher Columbus:** Landed in Jamaica in 1494, claiming it for Spain.
- **Henry Morgan:** A buccaneer who attacked Spanish ships, acquired wealth, and was knighted by the King of England.
- **Helen Shapiro:** A pop singer whose song "Walking Back to Happiness" hit number one in the UK in 1962.
- **Norman Manley:** Founder of the People's National Party in 1938.
- **Alexander Bustamante:** Founder of the Jamaica Labour Party in 1943.

Glossary of Key Terms

1. **Akan:** A major ethnic group from Ghana, many of whom were enslaved and transported to the Americas. **Ashanti:** A subgroup of the Akan people, known for their powerful kingdom and resistance to colonisation. **Blighty:** A British slang term referring to England, often used in a nostalgic way by those abroad.
2. **Brixton:** An area in South London, known for its large Afro-Caribbean community, and where the narrator and his family first settle in England.
3. **Buccaneers:** Pirates or privateers, often operating in the Caribbean during the 17th century, who attacked Spanish ships.
4. **Colourism:** Discrimination based on skin tone, which favours lighter skin within marginalised groups.
5. **Duppies:** In Jamaican folklore, duppies are malevolent spirits, often associated with the dead, who can cause harm or mischief.
6. **Empire Windrush:** A British ship that famously brought a large group of West Indian immigrants to Britain in 1948, marking a significant moment in post-war migration.
7. **Gibraltar Camp:** A refugee detention centre in Jamaica during World War II, housing displaced Europeans. **Great Depression:** A severe worldwide economic downturn that began in 1929, which affected the economies of the Caribbean.
8. **Igbo:** A major ethnic group from Nigeria, many of whom were enslaved and transported to the Americas. **Indentured Servants:** Individuals who were forced to work for a set period under contract, often under harsh conditions; a system that continued after the abolition of slavery.
9. **Jamaica Tourist Board:** An official organisation established to promote tourism to Jamaica.
10. **Maroons:** Communities of formerly enslaved Africans who established independent settlements in the mountainous interior of Jamaica.
11. **Nine Night:** A traditional Jamaican wake, originating from Africa, which involves a series of ceremonies and rituals held over nine nights following a death.
12. **Obeah:** A system of religious and magical beliefs and practices originating in West Africa, which is a kind of folk magic in the Caribbean.
13. **Patois:** A Jamaican Creole language that blends English with West African, Taino, Irish, Spanish, Hindi, and Portuguese influences.

14. **Privateers:** Privately owned ships authorised by a government to attack enemy vessels during wartime. **Taino Indians:** The indigenous people of the Caribbean, including Jamaica, who were largely exterminated during the Spanish colonisation.
15. **Trinitarian Bible Society:** A Christian organisation that distributes Bibles, which the narrator's mother was known to use.
16. **Windrush Generation:** The name given to the people who immigrated to Britain from Caribbean countries between 1948 and 1971.