

The Star Side of Bird Hill
Glossary for Readers

WORDS AND NAMES:

[Character names: **bold**]

Absalom Jones: First African-American ordained as an Episcopal priest

Accra Beach: a beach on the South Coast of Barbados

Angelique Ward: Phaedra's schoolyard competitor turned close friend

Arawaks: indigenous people of South America and the Caribbean

Avril: Phaedra and Dionne's mother, a nurse in Brooklyn, who sends them home for the summer to live with their grandmother after she becomes too ill to care for them.

Bajan: the casual term used to describe people from Barbados. See also, Barbadian.

Barbados: A small island in the eastern Caribbean celebrating 50 years of freedom from English colonial rule in 2016. Pop: approximately \$285,000.

Bathsheba: a village on the East Coast of Barbados known for its rough seas and rock formations

Bimshire: an old-school Bajan term of endearment for Barbados

Bird Hill: the mythical place where the novel takes place over the summer of 1989, a semi-rural parish in Barbados. Not to be confused with the real Bird Hill, an area in Barbados's Haggatt Hall, St. Michael

black-black or blue-blue or good-good : meaning very black or very blue or very good, repeats word twice to indicate depth or intensity.

buller man: a derogatory term for a gay man

Jean: Avril's best friend, Bird Hill's seamstress and occasional hairstylist

Bussa's Rebellion: Barbados's largest slave rebellion, led by Bussa 1816, and commemorated in a 1985 statue on the island's ABC Highway

Caribs: indigenous peoples of coastal South America and Caribbean

CBC: Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation

c'dear: "Awww." Bears relationship to the Jamaican "hush" meant to sympathize with and alleviate hurt.

channa: chickpeas

Chefette: a local Bajan fast food chain known for its chicken and ice-cream. A favorite haunt of the Bird Hill kids.

Chris Loving (Christopher Alexander): Younger sister Phaedra's best friend in Bird Hill

cook-up rice: a one-pot meal consisting of a variety of meats, fish and vegetables

cou-cou: Bajan dish made of okra and cornmeal, similar to grits or polenta, typically served with flying fish

Crop Over season: two months (June & July) of parties, musical and masquerade competition culminating in the annual Grand Kadooment Day parade and related festivities in early August

Dahved Levy: a popular Bajan radio personality in New York City

Dionne Braithwaite: Older sister who turns 16 in Bird Hill, hot-mouthed and brimming with resentment

djombi: a ghost, see also "duppy"

Donna Husbands: Young Phaedra's age mate and begrudgingly accepted close friend in Bird Hill

EastEnders: a popular British soap opera filmed starting in the 80s and watched by Caribbean viewers across the diaspora

Eddoes: root vegetable often featured in Bajan Sunday lunch, part of a family of ground provisions popular in Caribbean cuisine

Errol Rose: Avril's trifling husband and sometimes musician

Evangeline: Errol Rose's new lover

Father Loving: Bird Hill Church of God in Christ pastor, husband to Mrs. Loving and father to Chris and Trevor.

Girl Guides: Girl Scouts equivalent in Barbados

Grand Kadooment Day: official finale of Crop Over season marked by a masquerade parade and judging stations. Rihanna has been known to appear in costume at Kadooment Day in recent years.

Guineps: local fruit covered in leathery green skin, also known as ackee or guinepa on other islands

Hyacinth Braithwaite: the girls' grandmother

ixora (flowering shrub)

J'Ouvert or Foreday morning: the early-morning celebration that proceeds carnival or Kadooment Day

jug-jug: a traditional Bajan dish, usually made at Christmas

Kiddie Kadooment: the children's parade where kids dress up and compete, usually a few days before Grand Kadooment

Legendary Mas Camp: the band house where Phaedra and her friends find their costumes for Kiddie Kadooment

liming (adj): hanging out. Also a noun or verb, as in, "Let's have a lime." Or "we were liming by my sister's house."

this man country: idiom old school West Indians sometime use to refer to America

the *Nation*: Barbados's newspaper of record
nine-night vigil: a mourning ritual with origins in Jamaica

obeah: an African-based spiritual tradition, generally practiced in secret

oho: "I see"

Oistins, Barbados: Barbados fish market and sight of Friday night fish fries
Old Year's Night: New Year's Eve

Pebbles Beach: a popular beach on the South Coast road

PG Tips: a brand of tea consumed in Britain and its Caribbean colonies

Phaedra Ann Braithwaite: Avril's youngest daughter, bookworm, tomboy, and eager to absorb her grandmother's wisdoms

Pickney: child

play mas: to put on a costume, in the case of Star Side for Kiddie Kadooment in Barbados or the West Indian Day parade in Brooklyn.

Roti: a curry stew with meat, fish or vegetables wrapped inside a dhalpuri roti skin, popular in the Caribbean

Saranne: Dionne's hot-bottomed best friend in Bird Hill, visiting for the summer from Trinidad
seen?: slang as in, "you see?")
the Sevens: St. Vincent's AIDS hospital ward

Simone Saveur: Phaedra's nemesis & schoolyard tormentor
St. John, St. George, St. Philip: parishes in Barbados at varying distances from Bridgetown

Taneisha: Dionne's best friend back in Brooklyn.

Trevor Loving: Dionne's friend and love interest in Bird Hill

Trixie: Jean's mother & Saranne's aunty, local shop owner & occasional sex worker

Vacation Bible School (VBS): a mashup of summer camp and Bible School which the Bird Hill kids attend

V.I.M.: a popular New York City shoe and sneaker store

Wunnu: how Bajans say "You". As in, "Wunnu going to watch the basketball game this evening?"

Yampie: cold in the eye, not to be confused with the Bajan Sunday lunch favorite, yam pie

Zelma (Ms. Zelma): Hyacinth's best friend

See also Totally Barbados online & Frank Collymore's

Barbadian Dialect: Notes for a Glossary of Words and Phrases of Barbadian Dialect.