

# 'My City' George the Poet

My city has a lot of faces  
Some can tell you what a 1. \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ is  
Before we hated people we were all created equal  
Then we learnt to despise the strife  
And forgot that variety's the 2. \_\_\_\_\_ of life.  
Look around you-  
Constantly standing on the brink of History  
Watching newsreaders linking mystery  
Even though a few reporters taught us to be cautious  
'Cos they stink of this 3. \_\_\_\_\_ called inconsistency  
See my city has a lot of faces  
Four of them belonging to Big Ben  
The rest of them 4. \_\_\_\_\_ behind big business and **Big Brother**  
Ensures all of them are monitored with them  
Under social tensions you can see London 5. \_\_\_\_\_  
30% minorities, 300 languages  
Differences – race and class, it's all enormous  
But the common ground we found surpasses all the borders.  
If you meet a rich man, **arse-kiss** all his daughters-  
Or his sons. We all live once  
And who 6. \_\_\_\_\_ us wouldn't want all of his funds?  
That's rhetorical but I don't need **Call and Response**  
To know that's how Londoners are from time to time-  
Only got the time to grind and 7. \_\_\_\_\_  
Technically I'm from an elegant city  
But I'm not the kind to wine and dine  
I 8. \_\_\_\_\_ up around lots of crime, the violent kind  
You might have heard about the rocks, the grime,  
The **hype** and shine- It's not just **Cockney rhyming**  
**Slang**, we've got **block-beef**, violent gangs.  
9. \_\_\_\_\_ interactions which most don't force  
Children navigating through **postcode wars**  
In 10. \_\_\_\_\_ with the least funding.

Look at the state of East London, that's a paradox-  
Witness the economy 11. \_\_\_\_\_ for the have-a-lots.  
Business is gonna be booming  
But there's a difference between having a front-row  
Seat and watching from the sidelines.  
TFL knows **the world is your Oyster**  
As long as you can 12. \_\_\_\_\_ it,  
Even though you might need to **re-mortgage**  
To get from Aldwych to Shoreditch  
Inconvenient if you're poor, which could be  
Expected in a tax system where the more rich get  
More rich; 273 times the wealth of the poorest  
Yet your door is next door to the extra poor.  
We look on the bright side but we're 13. \_\_\_\_\_ for sure  
Like all we have to ourselves is sex and war  
And a lot of diversity, so what could I personally  
Hate a complexion for? I see different coloured  
Hands 14. \_\_\_\_\_ for more.  
Feel free to come to London and still see the **London Dungeon**.  
Experience a **Tube** of mad claustrophobics  
Where food and bad posture don't mix,  
And join us in moving along to the **groove** of the song  
What a sight to see, we could 15. \_\_\_\_\_ a nicety.  
Some of us feel you've forgotten my city  
But hopefully you'll be proving us wrong  
If you can **take the rough with the smooth** then it's on.

a) The words in bold are Slang or Cultural references. Can you guess what they mean?

b) In your own words, what is George the Poet saying?

c) Think of ten adjectives to describe George the Poet's London: five positive and five negative.