

'Checking out me History'

Q. Read the following poem 'Checking out me History', and answer the questions based on the poem.

Dem tell me
Dem tell me
Wha dem want to tell me

Bandage up me eye with me own
history
Blind me to me own identity

Dem tell me about 1066 and all dat
Dem tell me bout Dick Wittington and
he cat
But Toussaint L'Ouverture
No dem never tell me bout dat

*Toussaint
A slave
With vision
Lick back
Napoleon
Battalion
And first black
Republic born
Toussaint de thorn
To de French
Toussaint de beacon
Of de Haitian Revolution*

Dem tell me bout de man who discover
de balloon
And de cow who jump over de moon
Dem tell me bout de dish ran away with
de spoon
But dem never tell me but Nanny de
maroon

*Nanny
See-far woman*

*Of mountain dream
Fire-woman struggle
Hopeful stream
To freedom river*

Dem tell me bout Lord Nelsom and
Waterloo
But dem never tell me bout Shaka de
great Zulu
Dem tell me bout Columbus and 1492
But what happen to de Caribs and de
Arawaks too

Dem tell bout Florence Nightingale and
she lamp
And how Robin Hood used to camp
Dem tell me bout ole King Cole was a
merry ole soul
But dem never tell me bout Mary
Seacole

*From Jamaica
She travel dar
To the Crimean War
She volunteer to go
And even when de British said no
She still brave the Russian snow
A healing star
Among the wounded
A yellow sunrise
To the dying*

Dem tell me
Dem tell me wha dem want to tell me

I carving out me identity

John Agard

a.Summarise briefly the main theme of the poem in 150 words.

Q. Why does the poet make comparisons between certain people who are respected and admired throughout history?
