

# SAPPHIRE LEARNING RESOURCE

## SAPPHIRE A film BY NT

A learning resource for young people created by Shephard Manyika in response to NT's digital artwork SAPPHIRE. The work interrogates the idea of the Mammy and her lingering legacy: her dethronement as the acceptable presentation/'face' of black women in the form of the SAPPHIRE. The legacy of the Mammy: superseded by the SAPPHIRE. In SAPPHIRE, NT presents alternative representations of black women to point out the failures of stereotyping and continued, existence of these tropes through art and popular culture.



## SAPPHIRE

The Sapphire Caricature is the alternative to Mammy; a reinvention. It perhaps represents how black women are portrayed in the modern-day, but to what extent is this an accurate representation? It shows black women as rude, loud, malicious, stubborn, and overbearing. This is the Angry Black Woman (ABW) popularised in the cinema and on television. It could be said that artists like Nicki Minaj and Cardi B have now found a way of capitalising on these stereotypes and tropes to gain popularity and influence.



## MAMMY

A mammy is a U.S. historical stereotype originating from the South, depicting black women who work in a white family and nurse the family's children. The most famous being from the 1939 film *Gone With the Wind* as played by singer-songwriter and comedian Hattie McDaniel. The following year, McDaniel would become the first black person to win an Oscar in the supporting actress category. You will also find modern equivalents in *The Help* (2011), starring Viola Davis, for which she was also nominated for supporting actress.



Click  
Serena Williams- Power Moments



Click  
Ray Blk's Patience (Freestyle)



Click  
Little Simz - Woman feat. Cleo Sol



Click  
Dawn Butler ordered to leave Commons after saying PM 'lied'

As you're watching NT's film **SAPPHIRE** think of the following questions:  
 Who is the main character?  
 What do you notice about them?  
 Are they happy, angry, confident or in control?  
 What are they doing?  
 What could they be doing?  
 What are they surrounded by?  
 What does this say about black women?



How does this reflect to the women you know in your life? Can they relate to Mammy, Sapphire or some of the contemporary examples given above?