Thursday 2nd July 2020

I can create images and phrases linked to poetry.

James Berry and music.

Music is an important part of Jamaican life, and James Berry's poems celebrate what he calls 'everyday' music – bird calls, tropical storms, the chatter of family and friends, and traditional songs and stories. They bring you the sounds, sights and smells of James's Jamaican childhood.

James's poems sound very musical because of their strong rhythms. Some are almost like a songs, with repetition and refrain. Here you can find free verse, couplets, proverbs, rap, conversations between two different voices and haikus.

Now read his poem called, 'Everyday Music.'

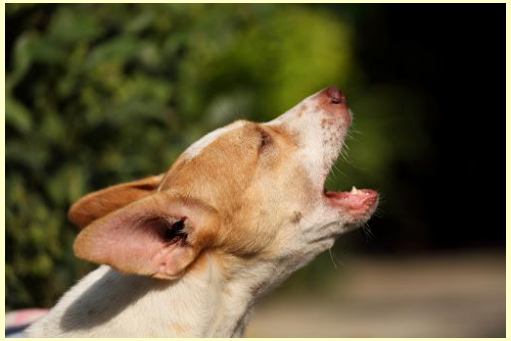
Everyday music

All a mix together
village sounds make my music
with horses' hooves clop-clopping
flock of hens cackling
woodchopping echoing
a donkey hee- hawing
roosters all around crowing.

All a mix together
village sounds make my music
with wind and rain rushing
our flooded gulley babbling
birds all around singing
a lonely cow mooing
rolling sea land drumming.

All a mix together
village sounds make my music
with fighting dogs yelping
birds in trees twittering
a lonely goat bleating
hidden ground doves cooing
hidden mongoose shrieking.

Can you name these animals from the poem?



Are there any other words or phrases you do not understand?

Use a dictionary or the internet to find out their meanings.

What is a gulley? Use this picture to help you.

Draw your own picture of a Jamaican village. Use a ruler to label images from the poem.

A lonely goat bleating.