



Poetry Jump-Up

BY JOHN AGARD

Tell me if ah seein right
Take a look down de street

Words dancin
words dancin
till dey sweat
words like fishes
jumpin out a net
words wild and free
joinin de peotry revelry
words back to back
words belly to belly

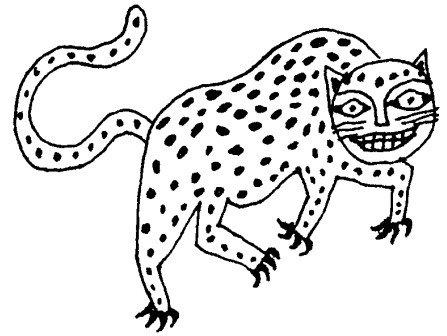
Come on everybody
come and join de poetry band
dis is poetry carnival
dis is poetry bacchanal
when inspiration call
take yu pen in yu hand
if yu dont have a pen

take yu pencil in yu hand
if yu dont have a pencil
what the hell
so long de feelin start to swell
just shout de poem out

Words jumpin off de page
tell me if Ah seein right
words like birds
jumpin out a cage
take a look down de street
words shakin dey waist
words shakin dey bum
words wit black skin
words wit white skin
words wit brown skin
words wit no skin at all
words huggin up words
an sayin I want to be a poem today
rhyme or no rhyme

I is a poem today
I mean to have a good time

Words feelin hot hot hot
big words feelin hot hot hot
lil words feelin hot hot hot
even sad words cant help
tappin dey toe
to de riddum of de poetry band
Dis is poetry carnival
dis is poetry bacchanal
so come on everybody
join de celebration
all yu need is plenty perspiration
an a little inspiration
plenty perspiration
an a little inspiration



(1) In the 9th line, 'revelry' means

- (a) book
- (b) fighting
- (c) boisterous merrymaking
- (d) jealousy

(2) The word 'bacchanal' in the third and again in the last stanza means

- (a) a long channel or ditch
- (b) a drunken or riotous celebration
- (c) a kind of hospital
- (d) a kind of temple

(3) In the second line of the next to the last stanza, why is 'Ah' capitalised? What does it mean?

(4) Find the following words in the poem and write their meanings (i.e. the 'correct' spellings):

- (a) de _____
- (b) dey _____
- (c) dis _____
- (d) riddum _____
- (e) wit _____

(5) Are words that are 'back to back' different from words that are 'belly to belly'? Make up your own example of words that are 'back to back' and another example of words that are 'belly to belly'.

- (a) back to back: _____
- (b) belly to belly: _____

(6) What is the theme (the meaning) of this poem?

(7) Write a new poem that shows little perspiration or inspiration.

(8) Write a new poem that shows a lot of perspiration and a little inspiration.