



Everyone do the Hopalookangaroo

Activity

This poem can be explored through movement and music, to help gain a sense of rhythm and rhyme:

- Clear a space for the children in which to move and dance around.
- Have a box of percussion instruments, such as triangles and tambourines, on hand to tap out the rhythm of the poem.
- Read out 'Hopalookangaroo', by John Agard.
- Ask the children what they think a jigaloo, boogaloo and hopaloo look like.
- Explain that, together, you are going to create a new dance move for each one.
- Get everyone moving together.
- Once you have your moves worked out, try out some of the musical instruments to see if they go well with the dancing.
- Then have a go at reading the poem through again, with the dances and instruments appearing in the right places.
- If you're doing well, try asking some of the children to clap every time they hear the "oo" sound too.

Discussion

What did the children notice about the poem? Could they hear the words that sounded the same? Did they notice anything else about the sounds and the dancing?

If you'd like to extend this session still further, you can gather the group together to create a wall frieze of all the animals in the poems doing their versions of the jigaloo, boogaloo and hopaloo.