THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE REPARATORY COMPANY PRESENTS

ZOMO
THE
RABBIT

A HIP HOP CREATION MYTH
BY
PSALMAYENE 24 (A RESOURCE GUIDE)

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Zomo the Rabbit is a hip-hop creation myth about a rapping trickster who is given three “impossible” tasks to gain power. As he hops his way through Louisville, Zomo meets some very special animals that may be able to help him get what he wants.

**What Is Hip-Hop?**

Zomo’s quest for power requires him to meet some interesting new friends: Big Fish, Wild Cow, and Leopard. These animals are all representatives of the elements of hip hop!

Big Fish and her dancing shoes represent a style called breakdancing, made by “B-Girls/Boys”. Breakdancing is an athletic style of street dancing that involves freezes, spins, and flips!

Wild Cow is Louisville’s best graffiti artist. Graffiti is an art form done with spray paint that was created as a way of “tagging”, or marking a territory.

Leopard is a DJ, who makes the beats that hip hop is known for! They work together with the Emcee (or MC, Master of Ceremonies) to get the party going.

**Brain Teaser**

Can you spot all of the elements of hip hop in this picture?

*Image from Netflix show ‘The Get Down’*
Big Fish loves her sparkling dance shoes, and it is your turn to create your own! Take your time to design and color in the shoe above.

Use the space below to create your own mural! Wild Cow spends his time creating murals, or a work of art that is created on a wall. Don’t forget to add your signature! As a class, tape your murals to the wall and decide where each mural should go.
Sky God loves her yoga class taught by Zoey Flamingo! Why not try some yoga of your own in your classroom?

Step 1: Zoey instructs everyone to reach up to the sky! Take a deep breath and raise your arms above your head, bringing your palms together. Take another breath and reach down to touch your toes. This move can be called the Swan.

Step 2: Next, put your hands on the ground and take a step back, to make your body a triangle! This is dog’s favorite move and it is called Downward Dog. You can also do this from your knees if you prefer and call it Downward Puppy!

Step 3: After Downward Dog or Puppy, put your stomach to the ground and lay flat. Using your arms, push your chest up off of the floor like a snake. This pose is called Cobra!

Step 4: As a class, take a deep breath and then push back to sit up on your knees. Finally, Put your hands on your lap and take three breaths together.

Get On Up!
In our story, we meet three other tricksters that Zomo wants to be friends with.

A trickster is a character that appears in many different stories from all over the world. They are very smart and like to play pranks or “tricks” on other people. Their favorite thing to do is play! In our story we meet:

Anansi the Spider: A trickster from Africa who likes to tell stories.

Raven the Bird: A Native American trickster that is always very hungry!

Reynard the Fox: A European trickster that enjoys teasing wolves.

Extra discussion questions for your students:
If you could create a new trickster to fit into the world of the play, what animal would you choose and why?

The tricksters in the show are not very nice to Zomo. They won’t let him dance with them and he feels “dissed and dismissed.” Have you ever felt left out when playing? Share with the class ways to include others.

What are you wearing?
If you’d like to discuss costumes with your students, here is some helpful information. The costume design for Zomo the Rabbit was created by Melissa Shepherd and was inspired by the colorful prints, designs and lines of clothing from the late 1980s and the early 1990s of American Hip Hop fashion.

Fanny Pack - a bag worn around the hips and waist

Dashiki - A colorful print African shirt with pockets in the front

Airbrush - A style of writing and decoration used on clothing. It was very popular in the 1980s.

Research guide brought to you by Caisey Cole and Jordan Tudor