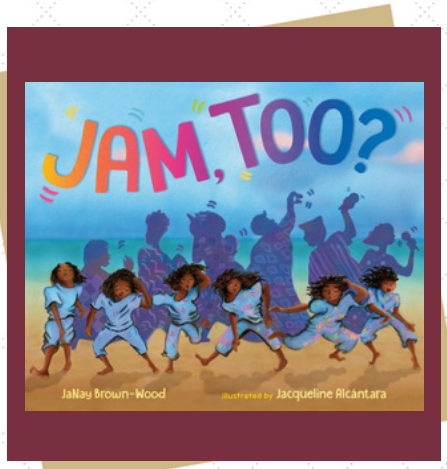


BEYOND THE BOOK GUIDE

Jam, Too? by JaNay Brown-Wood

Book Summary

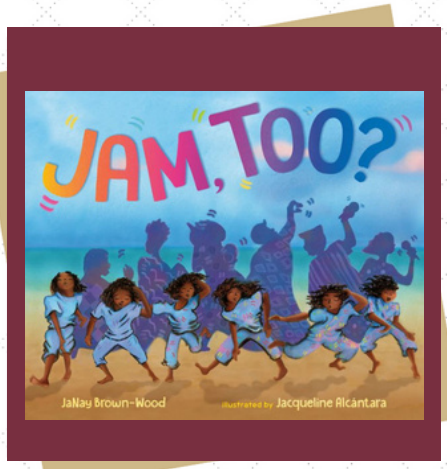
A young girl watches and listens as a drum circle forms on the beach. She doesn't have an instrument, but given her curiosity, she cannot help to feel eager to join the group. Will she find a way to jam, too?

Before Reading the Story

- Discuss what you see on the cover of the book.
- Make predictions on what the story may be about.
- Have you ever heard of the word "jam"?
- Who do you think the people are behind the girl and what are they holding?

Target Vocabulary

- **conga:** a tall, narrow (skinny) drum that's from Cuba and is played with your hands
- **jam:** a group of musicians playing music together for fun
- **djembe:** a goblet (cup)-shaped drum that comes from West Africa and is played with your hands
- **shekere:** a musical instrument made from an empty gourd (a pumpkin/squash-like fruit) with dried beads wrapped around it; you can shake it, hit it against your hand, or hold it and twist your wrist; from West Africa
- **zills:** (finger cymbals) two small, thin circle-shaped metals worn on your fingers and banged together; from the Roman Empire, Middle East, and Turkey
- **maracas:** a musical instrument made from an empty gourd and filled with dried beans that you can shake; maybe from Chile, Brazil, or West Africa - but we don't know who made them first!
- **bongos:** a pair (two) of small drums from Cuba that you play with your hands
- **brother, peeps, folks, amigos, mates:** other ways of saying "friends"
- **rhythm:** the beat you tap along to when you hear a song



BEYOND THE BOOK GUIDE

During the Story

- Read the book aloud with the pictures facing your child.
- Make predictions about the story based on the pictures.
- Provide definitions and connections for any of the target vocabulary words that may be unfamiliar.
- Have your child repeat the words that they do not know.
- Relate the details in the story to events and experiences in your everyday life.
- Ask questions throughout the story to help your child understand what's being read.

After Reading the Story

- Have your child re-read the book in their own words using the illustrations.
- Make a drum at home or in the classroom using materials available. For example, tables, boxes and cans may be used as drums, while pencils and sticks can be used as drumsticks.
- Jam with your class, family or friends! Choose your favorite song, play your favorite instruments, or show off your favorite dance moves - just jam out.
- Has there even been a time where you felt left out or scared to join a group? What was that like? How did it feel after you asked? How can you help someone that may feel left out or scared to join?

Example Questions to Ask

- The first man was playing which kind of instrument?
- Why does the girl sit across the street?
- What do you think it means to "take it in?"
- Finish this sentence from the book: "I see somebody new coming along, will they ____?"
- What special skill does the young girl bring to the drum circle?
- Why do you think it took the young girl a long time to ask if she could jam?
- How do you think the girl felt when she joined them?