"I'NA SUIT YOU"

The Jamaican National Language Supplementary School Workbook





BLEMME FATALE PRODUCTIONS

Blemme Fatale Productions is a theatrical and eventsproducing company with a focus on weaving Black Diasporic historical research throughout the creative process to create authentic and representative theatre and cultural events. We offer exemplary theatre productions, events, and educational programs.

OBJECTIVES

Consequently Our Mission Is:

To offer inclusive, progressive alternative routes of education To demystify an elitist and hard-to-reach industry

To create local and community-focused mechanisms to serve those who aren't normally included

To nurture and facilitate cross-generational and cross-disciplinary relationships

To validate the Jamaican National Language across the diaspora

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Collaborators (I'NA SUIT YOU LONDON)

Natalie Fagan-Brown Liz Millman Curmiah St Catherine RVJ Wordplay

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Vowels + Dipthongs

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Nouns + Pronouns + Sentences

- Open Grammar Project
- Writing Jamaican the Jamaican Way (Ou fi Rait Jamiekan), The Jamaican Language unit (2009)

Non Verbal Cues

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Creative Writing

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PROGRAMME I'NA SUIT YOU

History of Jamaican National Language

T-Dot Creole

Etymology behind Jamaican National Language

Jamaicans in Canada (1776 - 1967)

Alphabet + Punctuation

Vowels + Diphthongs

Nouns + Pronouns + Sentences

Non Verbal Cues

Jamaicans in Canada (1967 -)

Creative Writing

Dub-Poetry

Translation

a wah dis? a who dat?

Listen to "Ode to Patios" and note down all the Jamaican words you hear.

What are the LANGUAGES of the Caribbean?



The Origins of Jamaican National Language

For centuries, the island, originally called Xayamaca, was home to diverse Indigenous communities. In the 1500s, Spanish dominance emerged, resulting in the near extinction of the predominantly Arawak-speaking Taino population due to enslavement and diseases. British forces overthrew Spanish rule in 1670. Between 1690 and 1838, Jamaica saw a demographic shift, with an influx of slaves from various countries and language backgrounds. These African slaves, influenced by different languages, developed a "pidgin" language by blending elements from various languages. This pidgin language evolved over time to meet the evolving needs of the people, eventually stabilizing its grammar and becoming a recognized language known as a "creole" by linguists.

What is a language?

- (1) A system of communication consisting of sounds, words, and grammar Cambridge Dictionary
- (2) A language is a dialect with an army and a navy *Max Weinreich*
- (3) A dialect is variation or a sub-division of a language Society of Caribbean Linguistics

Components of the Jamaican National Language

- Spanish
- Portuguese
- German
- Hindi
- Taino & other indigenous languages
- Irish & Scottish Gaelic
- Akan (spoken in parts of Ghana and Ivory Coast) Igbo (spoken in Nigeria) Yoruba (spoken in Nigeria, Benin, and Thenogo) Twi (spoken in Ghana). Kikongo
- Kimbundu (spoken in parts of Angola and Congo) EWE (spoken in Ghana and Togo)

Components of the English Language

- French
- Old Norse
- German
- Greek
- Dutch
- Greek
- Dutch
- Spanish
- Italian
- Arabic
- Native American Languages
- Jamaican

What is a creole language?

Creole languages, in a linguistic sense, are typically born out of contact between speakers of different languages. They emerge as a means of communication among people who do not share a common language. Creoles often develop simplified grammar and vocabulary, incorporating elements from various source languages.

Discuss the following statements:

- (1) Both English and Jamaican Creole fit the definition of Creole
- (2) Jamaican Creole is just broken English or slang.
- (3) Jamaican Creole is a language

The Birth of T-Dot Creole



"BaKardi Slang" is a hip-hop song by Kardinal Offishall which breaks down the city of Toronto's slang and popularised "T-dot". Toronto's linguistic diversity, particularly within the Black community, showcases a unique blend influenced by Jamaican Creole, the ancestral language for many Black residents. Jamaican immigrants, who form a significant portion of Toronto's Black population, play a key role in shaping this linguistic influence. Moreover, Black individuals from non-Jamaican backgrounds also adopt the Jamaican-influenced variant of Black Toronto The multicultural history of Toronto, characterized by successive waves of immigration from the Caribbean, East Africa, and the Middle East, has given rise to Multicultural Toronto English (MTE), a distinctive dialect. Additionally, second-generation immigrants, drawn to creative expressions like rap music, contribute to Toronto's slang and accent, thus solidifying MTE as a unifying cultural element for the city.

What are the influence of Caribbean Languages on English?

Finish the quote ...

"And what I don't like is if the business is true ...

Fill in the Venn Diagram of the slang used in London, Toronto and New York



How do you describe how you speak?

At home- with Parents vs Siblings

With friends

With teachers

With leaders

What is mother tongue language?

The first language that you learn when you are a baby, rather than a language learned at school or as an adult Cambridge Dictionary

What is billingualism?

A bilingual person is someone who speaks two languages People may become bilingual either by acquiring two languages at the same time in childhood or by learning a second language sometime after acquiring their first language

Linguistic Society of America

What is multilingualism?

A multilingual person is someone who can communicate in more than one language actively (through speaking, writing, or signing). Multilingual people can speak any language they write in, but cannot necessarily write in any language they speak.

Linguistic Society of America

Do you consider yourself monolingual, bilingual or multlingual?

What is code-switching?

Code-switching is a linguistic phenomenon where a speaker switches between two or more languages or language variations in a single conversation or communication context. This behavior is often noticed in bilingual or multilingual individuals who effortlessly transition between different languages or dialects depending on various factors like the environment, subject matter, audience, or social setting.

What is the language continuum?

The Jamaican language continuum is a linguistic phenomenon showcasing the variety of language forms spoken in Jamaica. It encompasses a spectrum of linguistic styles, from Jamaican Creole (commonly called Patois) to Standard Jamaican English. This continuum is typically divided into three primary linguistic variations: The Basilect, Mesolect, and Acrolect.

Basilect	Mesolect	Acrolect

J A M A I C A N S I N C A N A D A (1 7 7 6 - 1 9 6 7)

Add an event:

(1) off the top of your mind, (2) about Canada (3) about Jamaica

Timeline

22nd July 1776 ——

The initial Jamaican immigrants who moved to Canada were established in Halifax. A number of these early settlers contributed to strengthening Nova Scotia's defenses by constructing the Halifax Citadel between 1795 and 1800.

7th August 1800 —

While a few Maroons stayed in Canada, finding it challenging to adapt to the harsh climate, most were relocated to Sierra Leone, where their descendants still reside today. Over 500 Maroons departed from Halifax on the HMS Asia, heading towards Freetown, Sierra Leone.

1848 ——

The Beginning of Black Communities like in Africville (Nova Scotia)

1908 —

Continuous Journey Regulation is passed limiting migration from Jamaica.

1939 - 45 ———

Michael Manley, the future Prime Minister of Jamaica, served in the Royal Canadian Air Force during World War II

1962 -

Jamaica gains independence from Britain, influencing migration patterns and cultural identity among Jamaican Canadians.

- 1796

Jamaican Maroons from Trelawny were relocated to Halifax, resulting in significant disputes. The Trelawny Maroons eventually rebelled due to factors like measles, shortages of provisions, and insufficient manpower.

— 28th August 1833

The British Parliament passed a law abolishing enslavement in all British North American colonies.

—— 1865

Canada's growing railway sector enticed African Americans and West Indians to immigrate in search of employment opportunities.

1914 - 18

Jamaican Canadians enlist in the Canadian military and support the war effort.

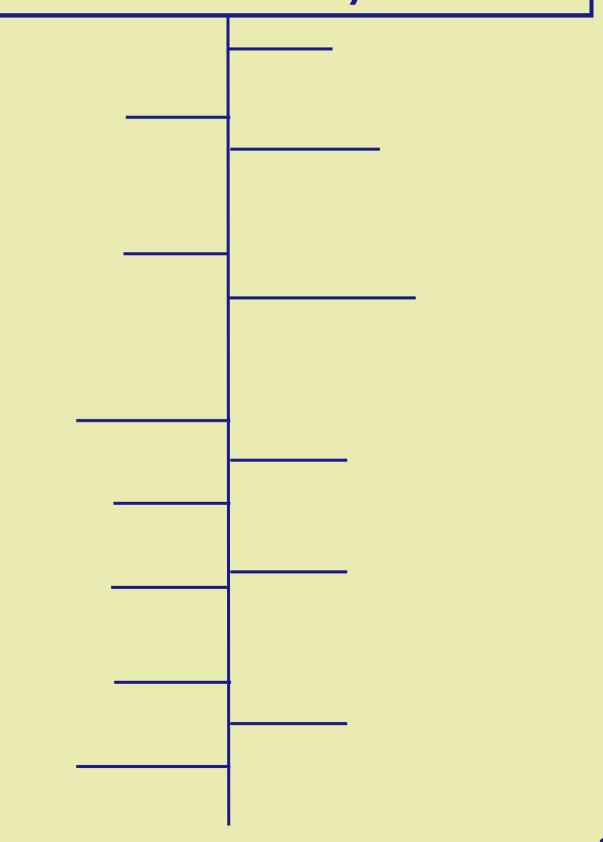
- 1955

The West Indian Domestic Scheme encourages

Jamaican women to immigrate to Canada to work as
domestic workers.

J A M A I C A N S I N C A N A D A (1 7 7 6 - 1 9 6 7)

Research and complete the timeline with an alternative history



ALPHABET

The Jamaican National Language alphabet comprises 25 letters, with the letter "c" sometimes viewed as a digraph as it solely appears in the form "ch."

uppercase	lowercase	name	pronounciation
А	a	ie	/a/
В	b	bii	/b/
Ch	ch	chii	/tʃ/
D	d	dii	/d/
Е	е	hii	/e/
F	f	hef	/f/
G	g	jii	/g/
Н	h	iech	/h/
I	i	hai	/i/
J	j	jie	/dʒ/
K	k	kie	/k/
L	I	hel	/\/
M	m	hem	/m/
N	n	hen	/n/
0	О	uo	/0/
Р	р	pii	/p/
R	r	haar	/ג/
S	S	hes	/s/
Т	t	tii	/t/
U	u	yuu	/u/
V	V	vii	/v/
W	W	doblyu	/w/
X	Х	ex	/ks/
Y	у	wai	/j/
Z	Z	zed	/z/

ALPHABET

Activity: Fill in your A-Z of Jamaican

A	В	Ch	D
E	F	G	Н
I	J	К	L
М	N	О	Р
R	s	т	U
V	w	x	Y
Z			

PUNCTUATION

In Jamaican, punctuation typically adheres to the same conventions as Standard Jamaican English and British English in general.

Some writers may use an apostrophe to separate two words that should be read together no av \rightarrow na'av (not have)

Sometimes an apostrophe may be used to indicate sound change when two words are merged du it → dwi'it (do it)

It may also be used to avoid difficult-to-pronounce strings of letters in the merged word
gi iin → gi'iin (give in)

VOWELS

There are five short vowels, three long vowels, four diphthongs, and 5 nasal vowels in the Jamaican National Language.

short vowels: a, e, i, o, u long vowels: aa, ii, uu diphthongs: ai, ie, uo, ou

nasal vowels: ahn, ehn, ihn, ohn, uhn

Short Vowels

Pronunciation	Jamaican National Language	English
/a/	aliv	olive
		one
/e/	ded	
	breda	
/i/		sick
	migl	
/o/		cut
	olgi	ugly
/u/	kuk	

Long Vowels

Long Vowel	Pronunciation	Jamaican National Language	English
aa	/a:/	aaf	
			water
			ask
ii	/i:/	iit	
			mean
		tiich	
uu	/u:/	dailuut	
			tune
		yuut	

VOWELS

Diphthongs

Pronunciation	Jamaican National Language	English
/ai/	baik	
		write
	bwail	
	breda	
/ie/	kiek	
		nail
	aalzwie	
/uo/	kuoknat	
		joke
		owner
/ou/	kou	
		town

notes on /uo/

This diphthong can be represented as ua and pronounced as /ve/.

When uo is found at the beginning of a word, it might be articulated (and spelled) with either an h or a w preceding it, depending on the speaker:

• uol (hole / whole / old) → huol → wuol

This rule extends to related terms as well:

- uoliip → huoliip → wuoliip (many / a lot / large group)
- uol-taima → huol-taima → wuol-taima (old-timer)
- di uol a dem → di huol a dem → di wuol a dem (all of them / everyone)

notes on /ou/

This diphthong can be represented as "au" with the corresponding pronunciation of /ɔu/.

V O W E L S

Nasal Vowels

Nasal Vowel	Pronunciation	Jamaican National Language	English
ahn	/ã/	kiahn	
		kyaahn	
ehn	/ɛ̃/	wehn	
		dehn	
ihn	/ĩ/	ihn	
ohn	/õ/	sohn	
		duohn	
uhn	/ũ/	suhn	

Plural di + noun + -dem

Jamaican National Language	English
di pikni-dem	
di nieba-dem	
	the men

It is not necessary to add the plural marker -dem if it follows a cardinal number di faiv buk, the five books

If the plural noun is indefinite it is also not necessary to use the -dem marker Buk de pan di tiebl, Books are on the table

Plural Reduplication

In rare cases it is possible to create a plural noun by repeating it: buk-buk (several) books

In other cases, a reduplicated noun can indicate affection or intimacy: gal-gal, daughter (affectionate appellation)

Associative Plural

If the plural suffix -dem is attached to the end of a proper name, it means (person named) and the others

Jan-dem, John and the others

write one sentence with a plural noun

Yard Names

In Jamaica, a diverse system of nicknaming thrives, often reflecting a person's traits or looks instead of their official name. These nicknames, referred to as "yaad niem" or yard names, are commonly used by friends, family, and acquaintances for everyday interactions, excluding formal settings like schools, government offices, or other institutions.

What Yard names have you heard before? When did you find out it wasn't their real name?

Honorifics

There are several standard honorific titles which are used in Jamaican, either independently, or in combination with a surname:

Mista,Mr. Mis, Miss Misiz, Mrs. Ma, Ma'am Sa, Sir Mas

PRONOUNS

Personal Pronouns

There are six basic personal pronouns in Jamaican: mi, yu, im, wi, unu, dem
mi, I (first person singular)
yu, you (second person singular)
im / ihn, he / she (third person singular)
also: shi / ar, she
also: i / it, it
wi, we (first person plural)
unu, you (second person plural)
dem / dehn, they (third person plural)

write the same sentences with different personal pronouns

No special conjugation is needed when using different personal pronouns in a sentence

Possessive Pronouns

mi, my	fi mi, mine
yu, your	fi yu, yours
im, his	fi im, his
shi, her	fi shi, hers
wi, our	fi wi, ours
ınu, your (pl.)	fi dem, theirs
dem, their	uufa whose

SENTENCES

Word Order

Basic Jamaican sentences are S-V-O, that is to say, they follow the order subject-verbobject

Mangguus nyam foul, Mongooses eat chickens

The subject, verb, and object may take the form of phrases rather than a single word, but the basic sentence order is the same

Di man chrech out im han, The man stretched out his hand

write a sentence with the S-V-O order

Question Words

here are several main question words, or interrogative pronouns that are used to ask questions in Jamaican

wa, what
uu or huu, who
wa-taim, when
wich-wie, how
we or wich-paat or wichapaat or wepaat, where
wa mek or a wa mek, mek, why
uufa, whose
wich or wish, which
umoch, how much / how many

Onomatopeia

susu, whisper susu-susu, whispering tip tip, drip drip / drip drop

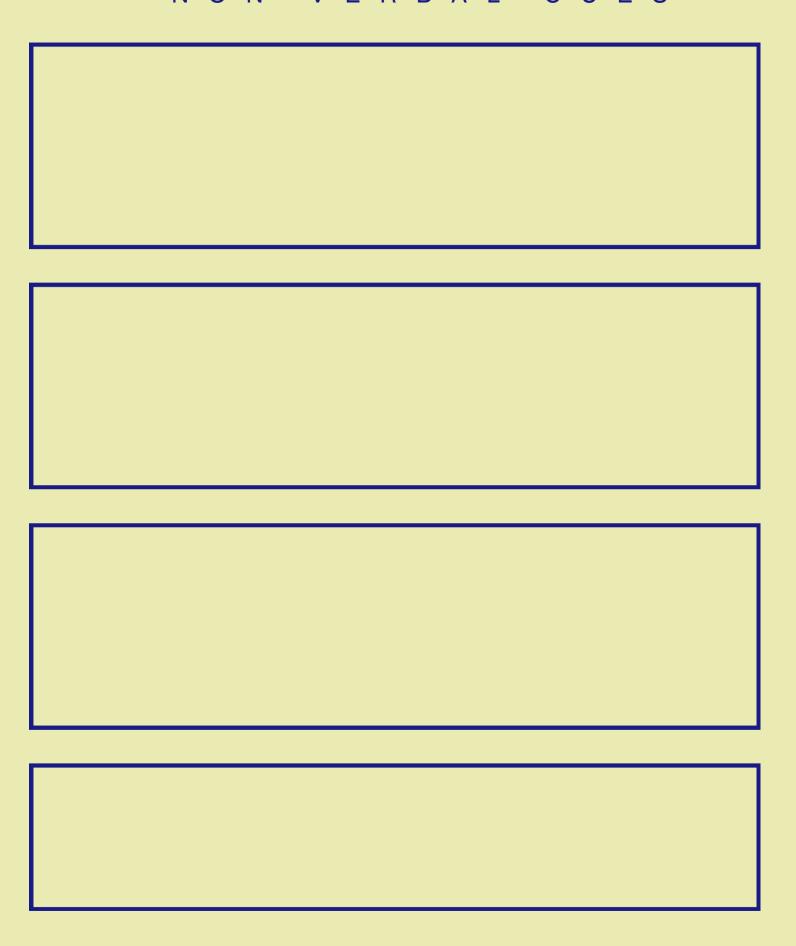
Interjections

Interjections can be used to express such things as surprise, hesitancy, pain, frustration, approval, or disapproval

Interjection	Meaning	Intention
kisstiit	kiss teeth	annoyance or scorn
cho	hmph	scorn, impatience, annoyance, disagreement, expostulation
ku!	look!	to call attention to something nearby

With a partner try dialogue with an interjection response

NON-VERBAL CUES



Add an achievement: (1) Global (2) Jamaican (3) personal

Timeline

1967

The points-based immigration system in Canada is introduced, allowing more skilled immigrants, including Jamaicans, to enter the country.

The first Caribana is held in Downtown Toronto.

1969 —

The Jamaican Canadian Association (JCA) is established.

1988

Dudley Laws helps to found Black Action Defence Committee

The Canadian Multiculturalism Act is passed,

1993 —

Jean Augustine becomes the first Black Female Member of Parliament

1996

Donovan Bailey won the 100m gold at the Atlanta Summer Olympics

June 1968

Lincoln Alexander becomes the first Black Member of
Parliament

Feb 1985

On the 14th of February 1985, Kensington Patty Palace and other patty shops were prohibited from calling the product "beef patty" as it didn't adhere to the criteria under the Meat Inspections Act. The Canadian government conceded to conditional amendments to the commercial use of the name patty and on the 23rd of February, people gathered in Kensington Market to eat patties and drink ginger beer to celebrate.

1995

Through a motion passed by Jean Augustine, Black History Month becomes a federal declaration

2020

Sandy Hudson co-founds the Black Lives Matter movement in Canada

J A M A I C A N S I N C A N A D A (1 9 6 7 -)

Create a Caribana-themed collage

J A M A I C A N S I N C A N A D A (1967-)

Create a headline in response to the Toronto "Patty Wars"

Body Warmup

Stand up and locate a comfortable area. Prepare to move around during this exercise.

Start by grounding yourself and taking a moment to focus on each of your senses. Inhale deeply through your nose five times, exhaling through your mouth on the final breath.

As the music plays, let's engage in a movement-based mindfulness activity. Participants will take turns altering the movements silently, while the others observe and follow. Wait until most participants have grasped the current movement before making a change. Let's see who can lead the group successfully.

What links can you make between these words

carnival	culture	rebellion
resistance	caribbean	music
indentureship	mother tongue	creole
africville	patois	

Guided writing session on "I'NA SUIT YOU"

name it: what doesn't suit you?
who has said this about you before?
where/when have you thought this about someone else?
describe the scenario
how do you feel about it?

Miss Lou's "Fi Wi Language"

List 5 things you learn about Jamaican National Language from this audio.

Write down as many Jamaican National Language words from this audio that you can hear

Vladimir Lucien's "Declaration"

Baron pepper

Tamarind balls

Guava jam

Guava cheese

Local rum

Cocoa stick

Fish wrap in newspaper

Cinnamon

Nutmeg

Spice rum

Bay rum

Soft candle

Coconut balls

Fudge

Tablet seasonings

A whole damn ham

A dasheen

A yam

Breadfruit

A hand of green fig

Mango long

Sweet mango julie

Mango tifi

A hard flat biscuit called lababad, named

after Barbados

Bull that the old women used to make in

their home

And a old-time sweet called comfort

How does his list poem remind you of the Caribbean? What do you recognise from his list?

CREATIVE WRITING

Create a List Poem from all the Jamaican National Language words we've referenced so far						

John Agard's "Reporting from the frontline of the great dictionary disaster"

Why has the English dictionary grown so thin?
Why is it weeping between its covers?
Because today is the day
all words of foreign origin
return to their native borders.
Linguists are rioting in the streets.
Crossword lovers are on hunger strike.
But words are voting with their feet
and familiar objects across the British isles
have staged a mass evacuation.

Anoraks have been seen flying off backs remaking their Innuit tracks.

Bananas hands forming a queue are now bound for a Bantu rendezvous Hammocks
Leave bodies in mid-swing
And billow back to a Carib beginning

Pyjamas Without regard to size or age Take off on a Hindu pilgrimage

Sofas huddle themselves into caravans, their destination – the Arabian sands.

Even Baguettes (as we speak) grab the chance to jump the channel for the south of France.

This is a tragedy turning into a comedy for reports are reaching us by satellite that in the wee hours of the night The ghosts of ancient Greeks and Romans have been preparing an epic knees-up to mark the homecoming of their word-hoard. Stay tuned for lived and direct coverage On this day a dictionary mourns its language.

Explain what Agard refers to as the 'great dictionary disaster'.

What is the tone of the poem? How does Agard use listing and rhyme to support this tone?

What does this poem suggest about the English language?

All the writing we've engaged with so far can be linked to either celebration and refusal or both.

5 minute guided write Select your theme for your writing (celebration/refusal).

In pairs, skim through the Miss Lou poems and use the structure to determine your:

- WHO
- WHAT
- WHEN
- WHERE
- WHY
- HOW

Put a list of sensory words about your topic into your diagram

sight	sound	smell	taste	touch

vocal warmup

M - Top Of Your Head - "Mmm"

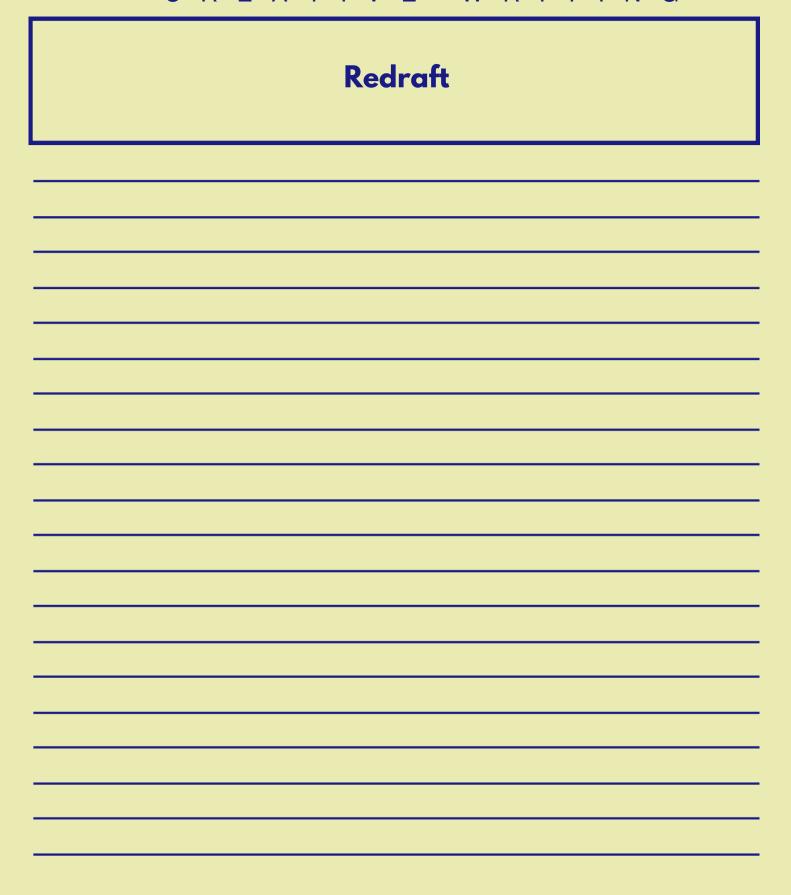
E - Neck - "Ayy"

A - Heart - "Ahh"

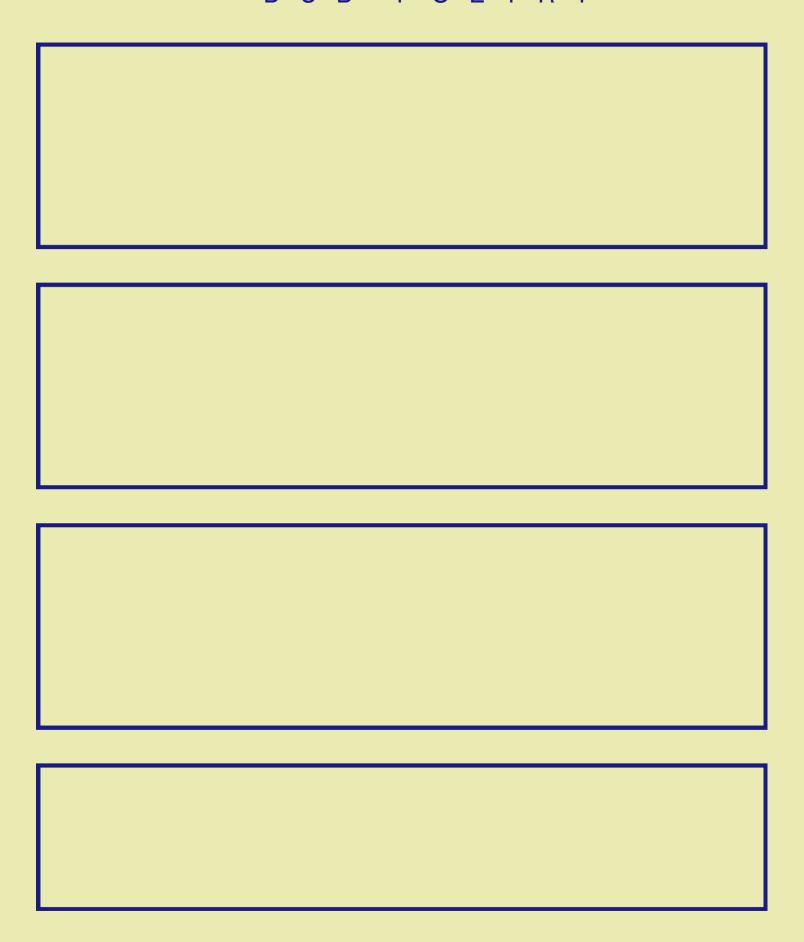
O - Diaphram - "Ohh"

U - Belly - "Eww"

CREATIVE WRITING



D U B P O E T R Y



D U B P O E T R Y

TRANSLATION

Jamaican Patties

These delightful savouries may be bought at many locations in Toronto, even in vending machines. It's nice to make your tiny ones for a party.

THE PASTRY

2 cups All Purpose Flour
¼ teaspoon Salt
2 oz. Margarine
2 oz. shortening
one third cup (approx) cold water

Sift flour and salt into a bowl. Rub in fat which should be cold and fairly hard. Add cold water gradually to make a stiff dough. Roll out thinly, about ½ inch, on a floured board and cut into rounds of desired size. Put on filling, moisten edges with cold water, press together and prick the tops with a fork. Brush with a mixture of beaten egg and water and bake at 400 degrees for about ½ hour or until brown.

THE FILLING

½ lb. lean minced beef
1 medium sized onion
½ teaspoon Salt
½ teaspoon curry powder (optional)
½ teaspoon black pepper
Minced hot pepper to taste
2 tablespoons or more breadcrumbs
1 oz. Margarine
1 teaspoon tomato ketchup

Melt margarine, add onion and hot pepper and fry, but do not brown. Add mince and other seasonings and brown lightly. Add breadcrumbs and ¼ cup stock or hot water.

Cover and cook slowly until mince is tender, adding more liquid if necessary. The mixture should be soft, but not watery. Cool and drop by spoonfuls on rounds of pastry.

Yields: Sixteen 4-inch patties.

Saltfish Fritters

1/4 lb. salt fish

2 cups All Purpose Flour

1 cup milk or water

1 small onion chopped

1 stalk escallion finely cut

1 egg (optional)

salt and black pepper to taste cooking oil for shallow frying

Soak cod fish in cold water for 3 hours or longer. Debone and flake finely. Combine flour and milk or water and beat to a smooth paste. Beat in egg if used. Add other ingredients and mix well. Season to taste with salt and pepper. At this stage mixture should be a thick batter which falls easily off a spoon. Pour enough oil to cover the bottom of a fry pan and heat well. Drop batter by spoonfuls into hot oil. Fry until brown on one side, then turn and fry on the other.

Makes about 16 fritters.

Mango Ice Cream

1 cup mango puree or canned mango nectar

1¼ cup sugar

4 eggs

2 cups milk

1 cup double cream

½ cup chopped mango ½ tsp. vanilla

Beat eggs lightly with the sugar. Scald milk and stir into eggs slowly. Cook egg mixture in the top of a double boiler over hot water, stirring constantly until mixture coats the spoon. Cool.

Add vanilla. double cream and chopped mango along with the mango puree or mango nectar. Freeze in an ice cream freezer.