

1. What did you learn about about the poet that you thought was interesting?

Answers will vary. It's important to point out that Myers loved reading, although he wasn't a great student, and that he grew up in Harlem in the 1930s and 40s so he was exposed to jazz, and to the music at church

2. List words or ideas you don't know or understand. Then find out what they mean and explain them.

Jiving            dancing, especially to jazz music

Grooving        setting a beat with different, changing rhythms

Rhythm         the beat of a song or poem

Swinging        lively dancing

3. List the "happy" and "sad" words from this poem

"jiving," "really moving," "pride," "grooving," "glide to the ride," "singing in my heart,"

"jump in my feet," "can't get no higher," "this band's on fire"

4. What parts of the poem remind you of a song? Do you see anything we learned about jazz music in the poem?

Groove: the two-word lines change the rhythm of the longer rhyming lines

Call and response: the two-word lines might be shouted by the audience

Riff: We got... I hear...I got...

5. Why do you think the poet wrote this poem? What did he want you to "see," learn or remember?

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