

Highly Sprung in Year 2 – Africa

During Summer 2, we worked with AJ from Highly Sprung to begin our English unit of work on poetry.

During these days, we had the opportunity to enrich and deepen our understanding of how to write poetry and how to perform poetry to an audience.

"I enjoyed learning about poetry with AJ because we made up silly words and actions!"

James Carter

"I enjoyed learning the African song! I was singing it to my Mum every night! They use lots of rhythm!"

Riley Harper



On the first day, we shared the poem/song 'head, shoulders, knees and toes'. We discussed how so many of us know the song.

"We know the song because we have listened to it over and over again!" said Destiny. We then went on to explore our senses. We went on a senses hunt around the playground to explore the environment to find things we could see, hear, smell and touch. We came back into the classroom, where we thought about what we had found out. AJ recorded on the board "the playground smell likes..., feels like... and looks like..."

We then shared our thoughts to create our own class playground poem. We thought very literal and there we decided to be creative! We tried mixing literal and nonsensical ideas together. We worked with our talk partners to create our own poems about the playground. We practised performing our poems to the class, trying to use tone and intonation. We decided to put movement into our poems and use actions to make them more exciting.

The next day, we moved our learning on to a new adventure. We travelled all the way to Africa. We walked around the circle exploring the different animals we may encounter. We were monkeys, elephants, giraffes and lions.

To finish our learning with AJ we ran through our performance to Year 1 to ensure our actions were big, our voices were clear and our journey from the playground to Africa was told clearly through poetry. What a wonderful afternoon we had performing to our parents!



"I loved going outside to see what we could hear, smell, see and touch! I could see white, fluffy clouds!"

Laycie