

Study Guide for Teachers



BOMANI
BabaGotB.A.R.S.
presented by
Young Audiences New Jersey &
Eastern Pennsylvania
(866) 500-9265
www.yanjep.org



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

This dynamic program is a solo interactive performance, featuring music videos, multi-media presentations, call and response, and rhythmic movement with the audience. Students are taken on a fun, multimedia trip through the world of creative writing where they discuss the writing process (pre-writing, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing) as well as being able to recognize main ideas and supporting details. Students will rap along to original music created by Bomani, as well as songs highlighting his tips on how to be a better creative writer. Students will also learn historical facts about the birth and development of hip-hop culture and its elements. There will be dancing, and fun had by all!

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Bomani Armah is “not a rapper, he’s a poet with a hip-hop style.” A poet, songwriter, performer, and educator, he uses his life experiences, mixed with his musical and poetic skills, to paint lyrical pictures of life as he sees it and the future as he envisions it. Bomani has had videos featured on BET and MTV2 and has performed everywhere from the Washington National Cathedral to the Fillmore in New York City. Bomani has been performing his brand of thought provoking, head-nodding music on stages big and small for over 15 years for thousands of people of all ages. He is former Director of Poetry Events for Busboys and Poets and a Kennedy Center CETA facilitator.

THE WRITING PROCESS

Pre-writing
This is the planning phase of the writing process, when students brainstorm, research, gather, and outline ideas, often using diagrams for mapping out their thoughts. Audience and purpose should be considered at this point, and for older students, a working thesis statement needs to be started.

Drafting
Students create their initial composition by writing down all their ideas in an organized way to convey an idea or present an argument. Audience and purpose need to be finalized.

Revising
Students review, modify, and reorganize their work by rearranging, adding, or deleting content, and by making the tone, style, and content appropriate for the intended audience. The goal of this phase of the writing process is to improve the draft.

Editing
Students proofread and correct errors in grammar and mechanics and edit to improve style and clarity. Having another writer’s feedback in this stage is helpful.

Publishing
The final writing is shared with the group. Sharing can be accomplished in a variety of ways, and it can even be printed or published online.

BEFORE THE PROGRAM

1. Review the writing process (prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, evaluating, and publishing) as well main and supporting idea.

2. Share some introductory information from these books:

- *Hip Hop Speaks to Children: A Celebration of Poetry with a Beat*, by Nikki Giovanni.
- *When the Beat Was Born: DJ Kool Herc and the Creation of Hip Hop*, by Laban Carrick Hill and Theodore Taylor.

AFTER THE PROGRAM

1. Break Freeze Dance:

<https://babagotbars.bandcamp.com/track/break-freeze-dance>

Using a projector, have students watch and listen to the instrumental for Boman's song "The Hustle" as it is counted out on the screen. The teacher models how you can count 1 bar, then 2 bars, then 3 bars. The teacher models (or has a student model) different "b-boy stances" (that is, when you pose in a cool position after finishing a dance move). The students are then instructed to dance for 1 bar, then b-boy stance for 1 bar, alternatively for 8 bars. Then they move up to 2 bars with 2 b-boy stances (one on each count of one). This moves up to 4, 8, and possibly 16 if you're feeling adventurous. This is a great way for students to learn the basic music count that encompasses all popular music.

2. Classroom Discussion Questions:

- What are the elements of hip-hop?
- How is a song chorus/refrain/hook like an introductory paragraph?
- How is a song's verse like a supporting paragraph?
- What are different ways you can rhyme?
- What were some of the topics Baba Boman wrote songs about?
- What kind of songs dealing with your life, experiences, and desires would you write a song about?
- Can you name one thing you learned, one thing you already knew, and one thing you could use more help with?

VOCABULARY WORDS

Bar: A measure of music that repeats. In most music this measure consists of four counts.

Beat-Boxing: To simulate the sounds and rhythms of percussion instruments or a drum machine by using the mouth and voice.

Break Dancing: An acrobatic dancing style characterized by intricate footwork, pantomime, spinning headstands, tumbling, and elaborate improvised movements.

Call and Response: Style of singing or rapping in which a line that is performed by a leader is responded to or echoed by one or more singers.

Couplet: Two lines of poetry in a row, especially a pair that rhymes and are of the same length.

DJ'ing: The act of selecting, playing, and announcing records at a hip-hop party. Can include skills like mixing, cutting, and scratching.

Hip-Hop: 1970s Bronx New York cultural and art renaissance, which includes the elements of break dancing, emceeing, graffiti, and DJ'ing.

Hook (also called **chorus** or **refrain**): A part of a song that recurs at intervals, usually following each verse, that contains the Main Idea of the song.

Main Idea: The most important or central thought of a section of text, which tells the reader what the text is about.

MC (originally meaning Master of Ceremony, in hip-hop it also means Move the Crowd or Microphone Controller): A person who directs the entertainment at events like a party, radio, or television broadcast. This includes the person on the microphone rhyming.

Near Rhyme: Rhyme in which the of the words sound somewhat identical, as in eyes, light or years, yours.

Rhyme: Words or lines of poetry that sound the same at the end.

Supporting Detail: Part of the text that helps to support the Main Idea.

Syllable: An uninterrupted segment of speech with a vowel sound.

Verse: The part of a song between the choruses that supports the Main Idea of the chorus.

RESOURCES

Flocabulary is an online library of educational hip-hop songs and videos for grades K-12. Over 35,000 schools use Flocabulary to engage and inspire students. www.flocabulary.com

Secret Agent 23 Skidoo (hip-hop music and videos for kids 12 and under). More Fraggles than Wiggles, more Soul Train than Thomas the Tank Engine, 23 Skidoo is equal parts Dr. Seuss and Dr. Dre! His albums and shows are a cornucopia of creativity, mixing a wide spectrum of genres into multi-instrumental, musically sophisticated, and lyrically intelligent house party classics. With an authentic feel that resonates from packed park jams in the South Bronx to sold out shows at the Smithsonian, 23 Skidoo is the pioneer of positive family Hip Hop music, spreading the word and the wordplay far and wide. www.secretagent23skidoo.com