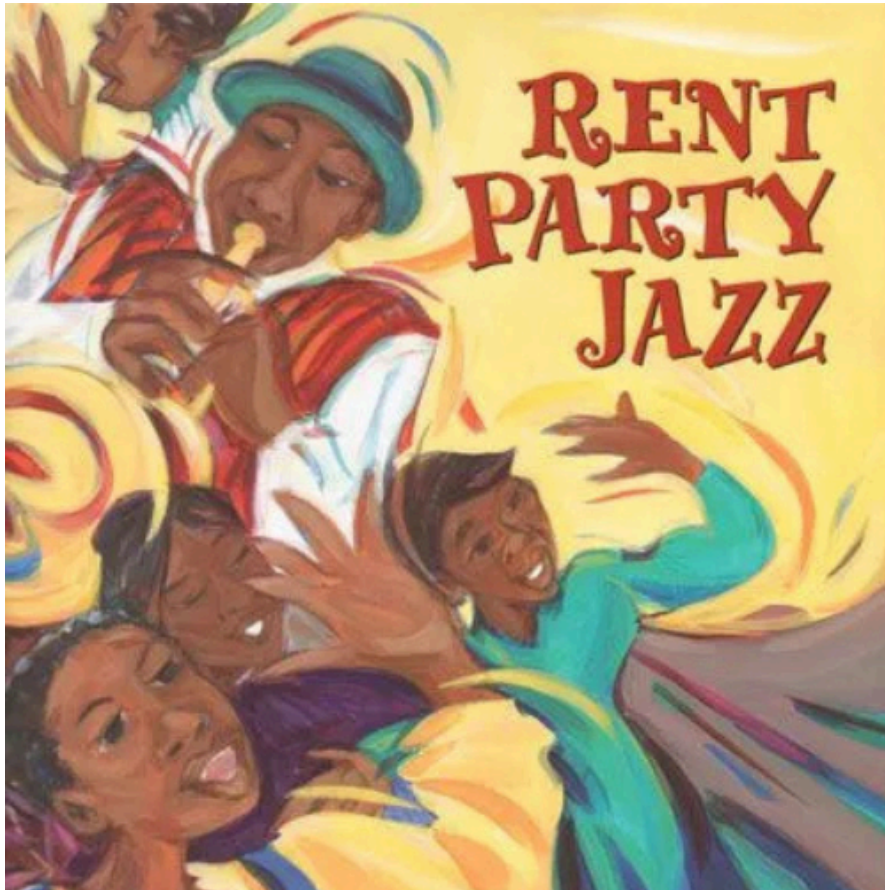


ZAMASAMA PRESENTS

A Guide for Teachers and Parents



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THEMES

Community

Family & Friends

Health & Wellbeing

Generosity

Community Support

Economic Hardship

Single Mothers

LEARNING OUTCOME

Children will:

- Understand the value of community and support during tough times.
- Appreciate how music and cultural traditions can uplift people.
- Recognize the challenges faced by single-parent families.
- Reflect on empathy and generosity as tools for change.
- Explore the universal language of music and its cultural expressions around the world.
- Understand that helping others is a shared human value found in every country.

LESSON PLAN

This story helps students explore poverty, resilience, and the power of music. It also creates space to discuss homelessness and community action with compassion and creativity. It introduces the global nature of music—how different cultures use sound and rhythm to express joy, struggle, and unity—and shows that acts of kindness transcend borders.

Discussion Questions

Before Reading:

- What do you think life was like during the Great Depression?
- What is jazz? How do you feel when you listen to music?
- Do you know any styles of music from other countries?

During Reading:

- How did Sonny and his mom cope with their situation?
- Why was Smilin’ Jack’s music important?
- How did the neighbors respond?

After Reading:

- Have you ever seen your community come together to help someone?
- What part of the story stood out to you the most?
- Why is kindness powerful—even when we don’t have much?
- Can you think of ways people help one another in other parts of the world?

Activities:

- **Jazz Collage:** Create a collage with drawings or magazine clippings featuring words like **music**, **hope**, and **community**. Play jazz while students work.
- **Rent Party Roleplay:** Host a mini classroom “Rent Party” with student-made posters, music, and creative fundraising ideas for a local cause.
- **What Is a Home?** Discuss what “home” means. Talk about homelessness and how it can happen for many reasons—not always in someone’s control.
- **Global Music Day:** Explore musical styles from around the world (samba, reggae, k-pop, taarab, etc.) and how they reflect each culture’s spirit and values.

RELEVANT ZAMASAMA STORIES

- [The Strong Woman is My Mother](#) – Celebrating maternal resilience.
- [A Different Beat](#) – Exploring poverty, housing insecurity, and empathy through story.

RELEVANT SDGS

Applicable SDGs:

- SDG 1 – No Poverty
- SDG 5 – Gender Equality
- SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities
- SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities

SDG Explanation

- **SDG1:** Highlights economic insecurity and creative survival strategies.
- **SDG5:** Portrays the strength and leadership of a single mother.
- **SDG10:** Emphasizes the value of inclusive and supportive communities.
- **SDG11:** Community-led solutions in urban settings promote sustainable living.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Children will develop empathy and a deeper understanding of economic hardship. They'll recognize the emotional power of music and community support in overcoming life's challenges. They will also gain a broader worldview by exploring how kindness and music connect us all.

ABOUT ZAMASAMA

Zamasama is a nonprofit platform that brings together stories from around the world to help children discover that beneath our differences—of culture, language, or belief—we share the same hopes, joys, and dreams.

Today's children are tomorrow's citizens, and the responsibility of building a more peaceful, tolerant, and empathetic world lies with them.

That's why it's vital to instill these values early—through stories that help them rise above the biases they inherit, and see diversity as a strength that unites us all.