

Off to the Sweet Shores of Africa

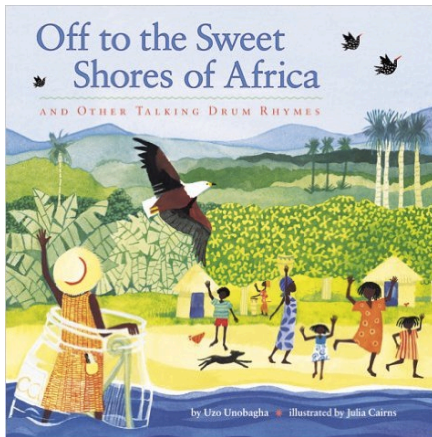
And Other Talking Drum Rhymes

By Uzo Unobagha * Illustrated by Julia Cairns

Book Review submitted by Nicole Chapman

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Off to the Sweet Shores of Africa and Other Talking Drum Rhymes is a wonderful collection of original rhymes inspired by Africa. Author, Uzo Unobagha, sites her rich African cultural heritage as well as her influence of Mother Goose rhymes as her inspiration. Her text jumps off the page through the use of onomatopoeia to imitate the sounds of drums

and shakers. She also uses rich vocabulary to describe movement. Illustrations by Julia Cairns are colorful and display the sound and movement beautifully.

This book has many uses in the music classroom. I have used poems for group sound and/or movement exploration at all grade levels. It also works fantastic with upper elementary in cooperative groups. Divide the class into groups of 4-6 and assign each group a poem to

transform from text on the page into sound and movement. I have also used the poems as transitions in a choir program that

featured music from Africa. Poems can be read or performed with sound and movement. There are so many fantastic ways to use this book!

Enjoy!

