

As Strong as an Albatross



All illustrations from *When the Camel Sneezed* were drawn by Sam Moodey.

Original Writings
from
“Making Language Kinesthetic,”
a
Summer Youth Program
at the
Martin Luther King Center
Erie, Pennsylvania

The writings and visual art in *As Strong as an Albatross* were created by students enrolled in the 2017 Summer Youth Program, “Making Language Kinesthetic,” at the Martin Luther King Memorial Center in Erie, Pennsylvania.

“Making Language Kinesthetic” engaged students in reading through movement and helped them transform learning into play. When children are having fun, they’re more likely to learn, retain what they have learned, take risks, and challenge themselves to venture beyond what they think they “can do.”

For six weeks, the Martin Luther King Center summer youth immersed themselves in the children’s book *When the Camel Sneezed*. After listening to the story, they chose their favorite animal character; journaled from the animal’s point-of-view; read aloud; recited the story using in Call & Response; and interpreted meaning by noting the rhythmic changes. “When sentences are *whomped*, you know something is going to happen,” one student had said.

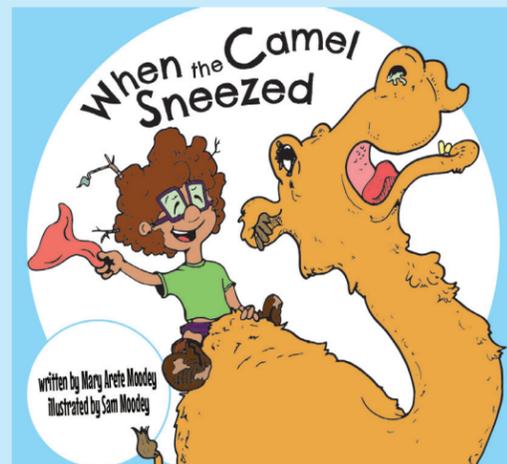
And, that was just the beginning. In “Becoming Another: New Ways of Seeings,” the students participated in theater improv and focusing exercises; demonstrated types of energy through movement; applied energy concepts to language; choreographed how their animal moved; and, as that animal, interacted with the other animals. They studied Aboriginal art and designed their animal-body puppets, using Aboriginal art pattern-making.

The most difficult exercise in “Becoming Another” was transferring the “animal self” back to the “human self,” while retaining the full range of the animal’s characteristics. In her journal, Emily K. wrote: “Being a rabbit is fun because I get to talk to animals but confusing because I’m a girl but have to act like a rabbit. So it is a 50-50.”

As Strong as an Albatross, the students’ book of writing and art, gives testimony to their success in “Making Language Kinesthetic.”

The illustrations from *When the Camel Sneezed* were drawn by Sam Moody.

— Mary Arete Moody



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ENERGY

The Power Allowing Us to Move



WORDS MOVE; WE MOVE.

Bouncing & Swinging

Think of words rising & falling, as if they're riding on a rollercoaster.



Down the crevasse tumble the two head over heels, spinning cartwheels

Vibrating

quick & repetitive



teeth chattered, beaks blabbered



"Help me, please," she cried frantically.

Creating story tension through Dance: the Energy Movement on right is Vibrating: arms and legs kick frantically, while the Word Energy is Bouncing & Swinging.

Active Stillness

resting but ready to move (potential energy)



sleeping sloths

The words convey sustained energy while the movement shows active stillness.



Opening Movement Pose shows Active Stillness; however, the words carry a Bouncing & Swinging rhythm.

"When Zara sat in her rocking chair . . ."

Sustained

continuous & smooth; long vowel sound



He drained the creek.

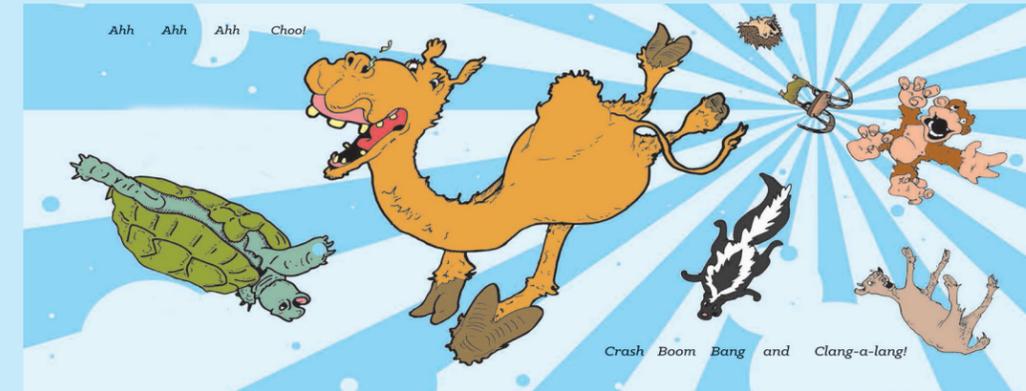


illustration by Sam Moodey

Onomatopoeia

I mean what I sound;
I sound what I mean.

Crash Boom Bang and Clang-a-lang!



Percussive

short, fast, sharp

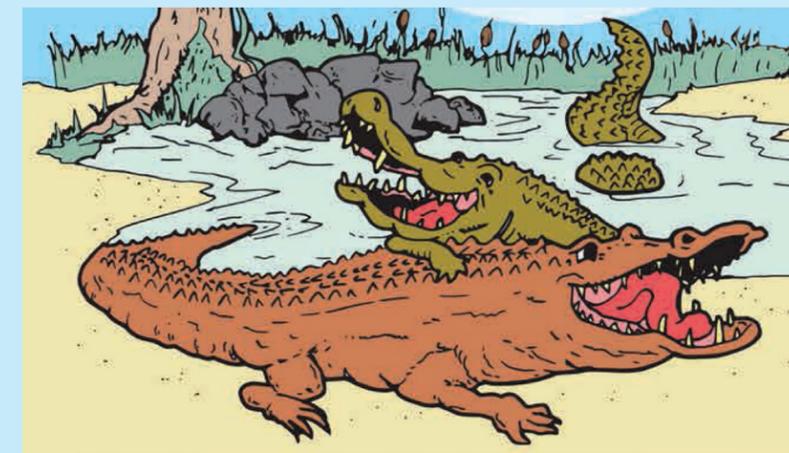


Onomatopoeia

I mean what I sound;
I sound what I mean!

— Mary Arete Moodey

Crocodiles Crooned and Clicked their Claws



Words with percussive energy are often onomatopoeic.

Alliteration



Rhino Roar!

An Alliteration is a repetition of the Same Sound like a word rebound.

Rhino Roar
Gorilla Grunt
Grizzly Groan
and
Caterpillar Crunch



Gorilla Grunt!

An Alliteration is a repetition of the Same Sound like a word rebound.
-- Mary Arete Moodey



Caterpillar Crunch



caterpillar mural painting
by Nyeenah



Their voices soft like *buzzing bees* . . .

Simile

A Simile Compares Two Things

Not at all Alike
Using As or Like —
Like a Ring and a Bike
Going Round and Round
or a
Cloud and a Kite
Riding in the Sky.

A Simile Compares Two Things

Not at all Alike
Using As or Like.

— Mary Arete Moodey



I'm as colorful as a butterfly.
— Jade Adams

I run like a rhino
and sleep like a rhino
and play like a rhino.

— Bryonna Barnett



stretch my neck like a giraffe.
'll be as tall as a giraffe.

-- Victor Collier





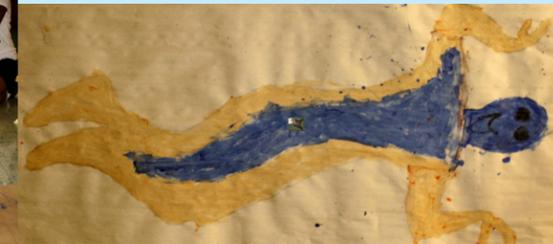
I'm as stylish as a cheetah
I run like a cheetah.
-- Serenity Crosby



When I'm hungry
I hunt like a cheetah.
When I run
I run as fast as a cheetah.
When people are far away
I can't see like a cheetah.
When I smell food
I smell like a cheetah.
-- Deanise Hall



I hop a lot like a hopping rabbit.
I like carrots like a hungry rabbit.
I go to sleep like a sleepy rabbit.
— London Lewis



I'm as strong
as albatross wings.
— James Miller

I swing in a tree.
I can climb like a monkey.
I eat bananas like a monkey.
I sleep like a monkey.
I hang like a monkey.
— James Miller



Bonobo by Victor Collier



I pound my chest like a gorilla.
I am funny like a gorilla.
I am black like a gorilla.
I am strong like a gorilla.
— Julian Rodriguez



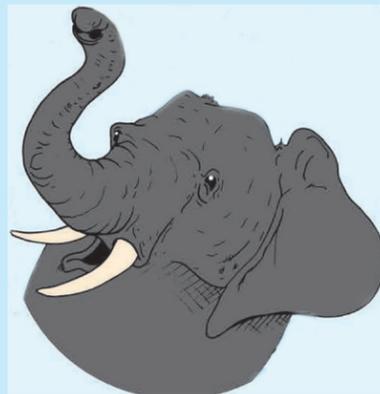
I'm like a raccoon because I wear patterns.
— Indiara Townes

My freckles are like
the spots on a cheetah.
-- Ella Smith



I swim as fast as a crocodile.
— Ty'Jaun Thomas

We trumpet like elephants.



I am a butterfly
I am orange and black like the night.
I am a whisper passing on secrets.
I am a tree.
I am joy.
I am a cloud watching people from the sky
I am Jade.

— Jade Adams



Metaphor

A Metaphor

Compares Two Things
Not at all Alike
It doesn't use as; it doesn't use like.

I am a curtain.
I am a cat.

A Metaphor

Compares Two Things
Not at all Alike
It doesn't use as; it doesn't use like.

It says what it is,
and that's a fact.

— Mary Arete Moodey

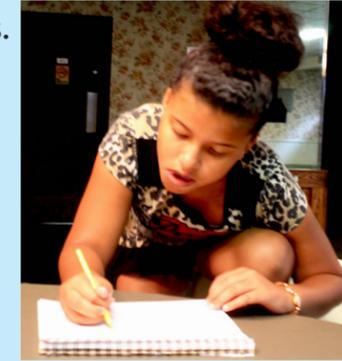


I am a rhino walking around all day long.
 I am dark gray, as gray as a crayon.
 I am a tuba moaning.
 I am the ground hurt from the rhino.
 I am boredom; there's nothing to do.
 I am a tree standing and growing leaves
 I am Bryonna.

– Bryonna Barnett

I am a camel playing with my friends.
 I am orange and brown.
 I am a smacking sound.
 I am the desert.
 I am joy playing with my friends.
 I am grass blowing in the wind.
 I am Arianna Gamble.

– Arianna Gamble



I am a giraffe feeling tall.
 I am the color brown like
 my shoes.
 I am the wind blowing
 across the sand.
 I am grass.
 I am joy.
 I am a bird flying around a
 giraffe.
 I am Victor
 and I like basketball.

– Victor Collier



I am a cheetah.
 I am a rainbow cheetah.
 I am a violin.
 I am a bold red rose.
 I am joy.
 I am a blue sea.

– Deanise Hall



I am a cheetah running in the forest.
 I am a rainbow cheetah.
 I am land.
 I am joy.
 I am a fish.
 I am Serenity.

– Serenity Crosby



I am a rabbit
 hopping in a talent show.
 I am brown like wood.

– Emily Knight



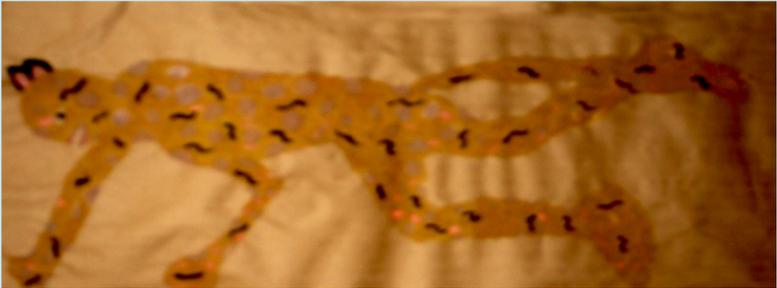
rabbit mural painting
 by Emily Knight





I am an albatross.
 I am white like a cloud in the sky.
 I am loud like a drum.
 I am tall like a tree.
 I am excitement,
 excited to see my friends.
 I am a leaf floating through the sky.
 I am James,
 as cool as a cucumber.

— James Miller



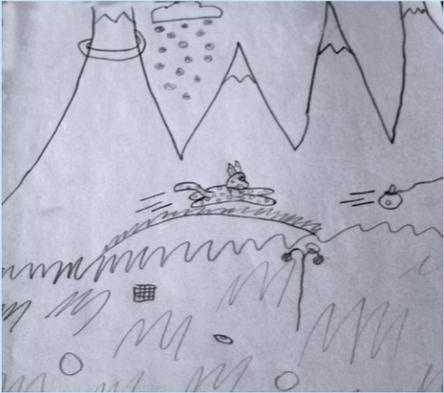
mural painting by Dominick Smith

I am a cheetah.
 I am brown, yellow, pink.
 I am the wind.
 I am a river flowing fast.
 I am anger taking down animals.
 I am the Future Technology.
 I am Dominick running fast.

— Dominick Smith



I am a baby cheetah.
 I am the color tan.
 I am a whistling trumpet.
 I am a cloud.
 I am happiness.
 I am a blue sky.
 I am Ella as smart as a cheetah.
 — Ella Smith



cheetah sketch by Dominick Smith



The cheetah (L) talks to the albatross (R).



cheetah by Ella Smith



I am a raccoon wearing a mask.
 — Indira Townes



I am a crocodile swimming alone.
 I am brown like me.
 I am a growl.
 I a tree fallen down.
 I am loneliness.
 I am a swamp
 repeating the sounds
 of the the night.
 – Ty'jaun Thomas



Creating



Character

A Way of Seeing
 A Way of Being
 A Way of Imagining

On Becoming

To look at any thing,
 If you would know that thing,
 You must look at it long . . .
 Be the thing you see . . .
 You must enter in
 To the small silences . . .
 You must take your time
 And touch the very peace
 They issue from.

– James Muffin

(Parts of this poem "To Look at Anything"
 are taken from The Earth is Painted Green,
 New York: Scholastic Publishing, 1994)



illustration by Sam Moodey



I am a wallaby jumping towards my mom.
 I am brown, brown as dirt.
 I am a voice singing to my mom.
 I am a lake reflecting the sinking sun.
 I am excitement, excited for school.
 I am the blue sky reflecting the water.
 I am Jayla bouncing like a wallaby
 and having fun.

– Jayla Williams



wallaby mural painting
 by Indira



Jayla, the Wallaby, and Dominick, the Chetah,
 sing and jump at the Great Divide.



As part of a focsing exercise, Emily
 & Ella mirror each other's movements



Victor, the Giraffe, keeps his eye on the ball,
 after tossing it to the Whale.



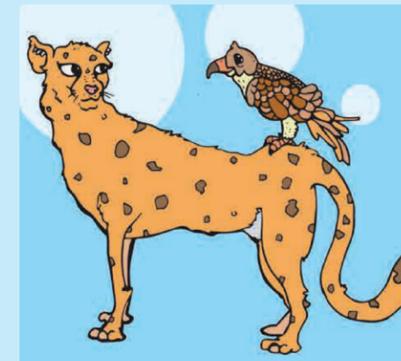
Arianna wonders what she would do if she were the camel.



I felt mad because
 meant my friends were
 talking about what
 where going to do
 for the day. Then
 he sneezed, it was
 horrible. everything
 was not good
 to plan another day. we had
 all mad, we decided to
 punish the camel we
 were going to send
 him to the king to
 go to jail.

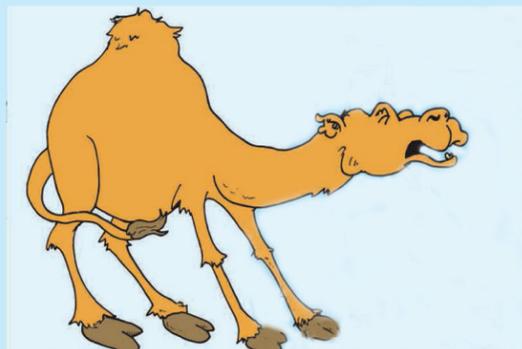
The day Zara
 asked me to be her
 King I felt glad
 Because I will
 help them be happy
 But not scared
 because
 they will run
 away because
 I sneeze a lot.

7-19 I will make
 some dinners
 for anails
 how did i feel when
 a girl ask me to be
 her king?
 I felt like I will
 enjoy being a king.
 I will be happy
 because I will be
 the boss of anails.



The camel sneezed and then
 a falcon landed on my back. I
 feel hungry. I haven't eaten all
 day. I'll eat that falcon or any
 other small animal.

— The Cheetah



the camel sneezed
 I was so scared.
 I was flying to
 a cliff.



Two cheetahs grab an albatross.



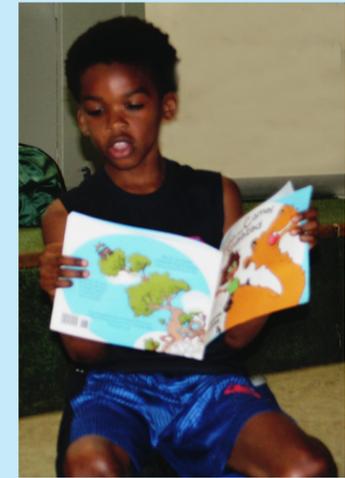
The raccoon (L) tells the cheetah,
 "I'm not your lunch!"



Mariah the Macaroni Penguin

Rhino
I Like the rhino
because it has sheep horns
and one hump on its back
it has extra skin
it's has small eyes
and Big teeth, and
tine nose has small
eyes, big legs
and Big bucks

journal entry by Bryonna Barnett



Macaroni by Mariah

I am penguin
I am a penguin
beca use I like play
and to slid and
slipet off my foot
and in the seal.
I am a penguin.

Serenity Crosby



"I'm Jack-the-Rabbit!"

I am Jack the rabbit.
I hop alot and like rhyth
like one clack to wacks
three clacks 4. I just
ignore and change
the rhythm just
for fun! I'm braw
and fury and I am
good friend. I stood
on a tall rock it was
so fun!
7-19-17 London Lewis

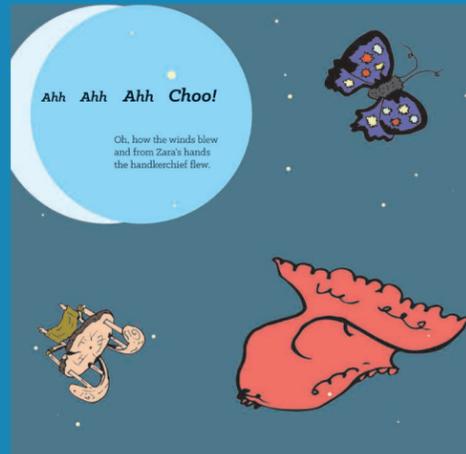


Dr. Dale-the-Whale tells the crocodile to stay out of her waters.

Being an animal is fun because
I get talk to animals but
confusing because I'm a girl
but I have to act like
a rabbit. So it is a 50
50.



One thump, two thumps, three, four, five



And from Zara's hand, the handkerchief flew.



Animal Kingdom

Animalia	Zara
Phylum	Chordata
Class	Mammalia
Order	Primate
Family	Homonids
Genus	Homo
Species	Homo sapiens

Mr. Dromedary
Chordata
Mammalia
Artiodactyla
Camelida
Camilini
Camelus
Camelus dromedariis