

CALLALOO™

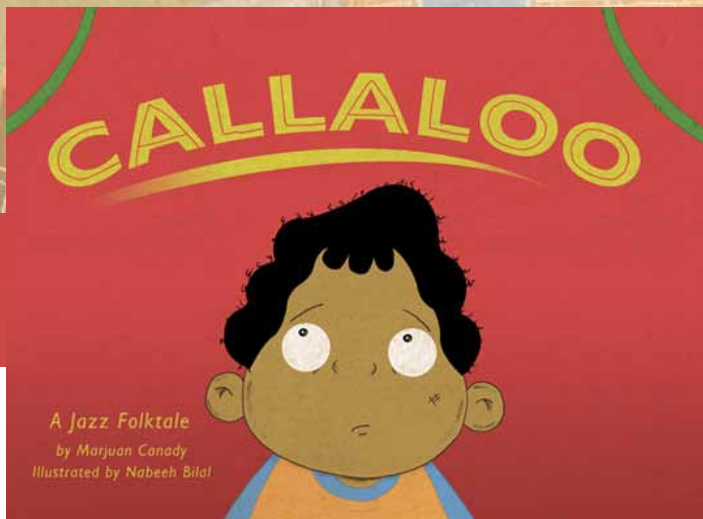
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Callaloo
Official Teacher's Guide

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www.callaloothebook.com
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Teacher's Guide

The following is thematic information for teachers to understand cultural and historical concepts in Callaloo: A Jazz Folktale as well as developmentally appropriate activities intended to promote higher-order thinking skills through fun and hands-on activities for student readers.

Theme: Children celebrate the culture and folklore of their native, Trinidad and Tobago. It's important to encourage the celebration of diverse cultures and customs in

and outside of the classroom.

Activity

Read aloud

Connection: Discuss with children what they know about their home culture and family customs.

Picture walk: Guide children through a picture walk and ask what they think they'll learn from the book. Analyze the forefront and background of certain illustrations

and ask children to predict where they think the characters are on their journey.

Before reading: Create a chart of the elements children recognized during the picture walk and those that sparked their curiosity. Review the chart together and have children predict how they believe these components will come together in the story. Review and compare your predictions to the story once you've finished enjoying the book.

As you read: Make it a point to stop on the **bold vocabulary** words and have pictures ready to demonstrate their meanings.

Display the picture and accompanying vocabulary words in both English and Trinidadian Patois as a reference for children. During repeat readings children can use the pictures, words and sounds where indicated in the story for a fun and interactive reading.

After reading: Use the **bold vocabulary words** throughout the classroom and school day in order to encourage fluency and recognition. You can even create your own Caribbean "sound" to indicate a classroom transition.

Both Trinidad and Tobago were originally settled by Amerindians of South American origin. Pre-agricultural archaic people first settled Trinidad at least 7,000 years ago, making it the earliest-settled part of the Caribbean. Ceramic-using agriculturalists settled Trinidad around 250 BC, and then moved further up the Lesser Antillean chain. At the time of European contact, Trinidad was occupied by various Arawakan-speaking groups including the Nepoya and Suppoya, and Cariban-speaking groups such as the Yao, while Tobago was occupied by the Island Caribs and Galibi. Named for the tobacco cultivated by the original Carib population, Tobago existed separately from Trinidad for centuries. During British rule in the late 1600s, sugar, cotton and indigo plantations were established and thousands of Africans were brought to Tobago as slave labor. In 1889, Britain joined the smaller Tobago to Trinidad as an administrative ward.

***The Capital of Trinidad and Tobago is Port of Spain.

Fun Facts:

Trinidad's Amerindian name was Iere or "Land of the Humming Bird", derived from the Arawak name for hummingbird, ierèt-tê or yerettê.

The Chaconia is the national flower of Trinidad and Tobago.

Interesting Facts:

In the 17th century, English, French, Dutch and even Latvians fought to control the strategic island and it changed hands more than 30 times.

After slavery was abolished by Britain, landowners imported thousands of indentured laborers from India, China and the Middle East to Trinidad.

The islands achieved independence from England in 1962 and became the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago in 1976.

History Timeline:

- (1498) Christopher Columbus arrives in T/T
- (1532) Trinidad colonized by Spain
- (1630s) Dutch settled on Tobago
- (1781) French seized Tobago from Spanish
- (1797) Trinidad captured from Spain by British
- (1814) France ceded Tobago to Britain
- (1834) Slavery abolished
- (1889) Trinidad and Tobago becomes single British colony
- (1945) Universal suffrage instituted
- (1956) People's National Movement (PNM) founded
- (1962) Trinidad and Tobago gain independence
- (1975) Economy crippled by workers' strike in oil
- (1976) Trinidad and Tobago be-



comes a republic
 (1987) Noor Hassanali became president
 (1991) Patrick Manning (PNM) became prime minister
 (2003) President Maxwell Richards elected
 (2010) Kamla Persad-Bissessar elected as prime minister

Caribbean Diaspora: Trinbagonians in the U.S.

The Caribbean Diaspora is defined as the dispersal of people with origins from the Caribbean islands throughout the world including the United States, South America, Europe, Asia and Africa.

From 1961-1970, roughly 23,000 Trinidadian and Tobagonian immigrants migrated to the United States. From 1971 to 1975, the figure climbed to 33,278. It dropped to 28,498 from 1976 to 1980. In New York, most Trinbagonian Americans live in Brooklyn, NY in the Crown Heights, East Flatbush, Flatbush and Prospect Park neighborhoods.

***The largest proportion of Trinidadians in the U.S. live in New York City, Maryland, Florida, New Jersey, and Massachusetts.

Fun Fact:

There are over 400,000 Trinidadian Americans living in the U.S.

Interesting Fact:

Trinbagonians are now the second largest group of English-speaking West Indian immigrants in the United States.

Activity

Connection: Have children discuss how their own homes and neighborhoods look. Reiterate the variety among the classroom home environments.

Neighborhood Cartographers:

Go on a neighborhood walk, take pictures and draw a map of your neighborhood. Encourage children to do the same with their home neighborhoods. Be creative and developmentally appropriate when deciding which map type to make: topographic map, a physical map, a climate map, etc.

Vocabulary: urban, suburban, rural, transportation, highways, roads, rivers, mountains, etc.

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Section 2: Geography

Trinidad is 1,841 sq. mi in area and Tobago has an area of about 120 sq. miles. Trinidad and Tobago are part of the Lesser Antilles.

Trinidad and Tobago lie on the continental shelf of South America, and is thus geologically considered to lie entirely in South America. Because Trinidad and Tobago lie on the continental shelf of South America, their biological diversity is unlike that of most other Caribbean islands, and has much in common with that of Venezuela.

***The Greater Antilles is a grouping of the larger in the Caribbean Sea; consisting of Cuba, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Jamaica and the Cayman Islands.

***The Lesser Antilles is a chain of islands to the east and south in the Caribbean Sea; consisting of Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Grenada, Antigua, Barbuda, St. Vincent and St. Lucia.

The climate is tropical. There are two seasons annually: the dry season for the first five months of the year, and the rainy season in the remaining seven of the year.

The main ecosystems are: coastal and marine (coral reefs, mangrove swamps, open ocean and sea grass beds); forest; freshwater (rivers and streams); karst; man-made ecosystems (agricultural land, freshwater dams, secondary forest); and savannah.

Fun Facts:

At the closest point, Trinidad is just 11 kilometers off the Venezuelan coast.

Nearly 200 species of marine algae have been recorded in Trinidad and Tobago.

Plant diversity in Trinidad and Tobago is well documented with about 3,300 species (59 native) recorded.

Activity

Connection: Have children view a map of the Caribbean and identify the islands and if they are in the Greater Antilles or the Lesser Antilles.



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Section 3: Science

A total of 470 species of birds have been recorded on the islands of Trinidad and Tobago. There are few places in the world where so many bird species can be seen in such a small area, many of them unique, very rare, or of particular interest. They range from the many species of the hummingbird to the cave-dwelling oilbird and the spectacular scarlet ibis.

T&T are within a few miles of Venezuela, and the species are therefore typical of tropical South America. However, the number of species is relatively low compared to the mainland, as would be expected on small islands.

Tobago has only about half the number of bird species of Trinidad, but 22 birds have occurred only on the smaller island, including 12 breeding species.

The Scarlet Ibis (*Eudocimus ruber*), locally known as “flamingo,”



makes its home in the Caroni Bird Sanctuary in the Caroni Swamp--an area set aside by the government for the protection of these colorful birds. The Caroni Swamp includes fifteen thousand acres of marshland, tidal lagoons, and mangrove trees. Several thousand Scarlet Ibises nest and roost in the sanctuary and are often seen in large numbers during the last two hours of daylight.



The Cocrico (*Ortalis ruficauda*), also known as the “Chachalaca,” is a tropical pheasant indigenous to Tobago. They tend to inhabit the higher areas of the island amidst the forest and sometimes the dry scrubby lands bordering cultivated areas. Cocricos are known for sounding a loud, grating chorus at dawn and dusk. The sound is a raucous cocricó repeated several times, hence the name of the bird.

Fun Fact:

The national birds of Trinidad and Tobago are the Scarlet Ibis and Cocrico. The Oilbird uses echolocation to fly in the dark

ACTIVITY

Connection: Discuss the vast variety of life found in Trinidad and Tobago. Prompt children to think about how these life forms all work together.

The Cocrico Comparison Chart: Using the cocrico as a reference, compare and contrast other bird types that may interest children. Perhaps you can compare different island birds or compare birds that live in various environments. Here’s a chart that you can modify to serve your needs:

My name is:	I live in:	I am:	My color is:	My eyes are:	The sound I make is:	I like to:
<i>Cocrico</i>	<i>The forest</i>	<i>Small</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Coc-ri-co</i>	<i>Climb trees</i>

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Section 3: Science



Swamp Terrarium: Children can better understand the environment of a swamp if they help create their own swamp terrarium, which they can monitor. This is a great opportunity to learn some vocabulary words: condensation, evaporation, precipitation, etc.

Materials: a large clear container (i.e. fish tank), some small gravel, some charcoal (similar to charcoal used for orchids), plenty of very rich potting soil or compost, a few tropical plants, tap water, a large piece of glass to cover the top of the aquarium completely

Steps:

1. Put the gravel and charcoal in the bottom of the aquarium
2. Now put the potting soil (or compost) in a layer of at least 1 inch on top of the gravel and charcoal
3. Dampen the soil
4. Plant the plants around the aquarium
5. Spray water from spritzer bottle into the aquarium
6. Put the glass over the top, seal with clear tape
6. Put your new terrarium in a warm, well-lit spot
7. Watch what happens—keep a notebook.

Vocabulary: As children observe their swamp terrarium use these vocabulary words to discuss the project: condensation, evaporation, precipitation, water vapor, ground water, emergent, canopy, understory, forest floor

Consider: Have children consider where the Scarlet Ibis and other animals live, sleep and eat in the swamp.

Trinidad and Tobago cuisine is indicative of the blends of Indian, African, Creole, Amerindian, European, Chinese and Lebanese cultures.

African Influences:

When Africans came to Trinidad, they brought their robust stews. Over generations, these have been refined to create signature dishes like pelau, macaroni pie, curry and stew chicken and callaloo.

Indian Influences:

Curry was brought from East India to T&T. It is a staple spice found in T&T. Two dishes that are popular in T&T with roots from India are roti (a soft flatbread served with meat or vegetables) and doubles (palm size flour patties filled with chickpeas).

National dishes:

Callaloo, Bake & Shark, Doubles, Pelau, Curried crab & dumplings, Oil Down, Pastelles, Black Cake, Dhal Puri Roti, Buss-up-shot Roti (Paratha) and Souse.

Callaloo:

A very popular and nationally well known dish with distinctly African roots is callaloo, a creamy and spicy side dish made of da-

sheen or Taro leaves, okra known locally as Okro, crab or pig-tails, thyme, pumpkin, pimento, onions, coconut milk and shado beni (from “Chardon Béni,” a French thistle) or cilantro (culantro). Callaloo is often served with cornmeal coo coo, plantain, cassava, sweet, dumplings and curried crab.

Fun Fact:

The national breakfast food of Trinidad and Tobago are doubles.

Interesting Fact:

Trinidad and Tobago has more national dishes than any other country.

*****ACTIVITY*****

T & T Farmers: Learning about different foods is great, but eating them is even better! Create a small garden (indoor or outdoor) where children can learn to grow some T&T staple foods. Chart the germination of the different seeds using pictures and checklists. Make a tropical salad from your Trinbago farm!



Type	Location	Temperature	Germination Period
Pigeon peas			
Culantro			

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Section 5: Art & Folklore

Trinbagonian folklore is predominantly of African origin, flavored with French and to a lesser degree, Spanish, Indian and English influences.

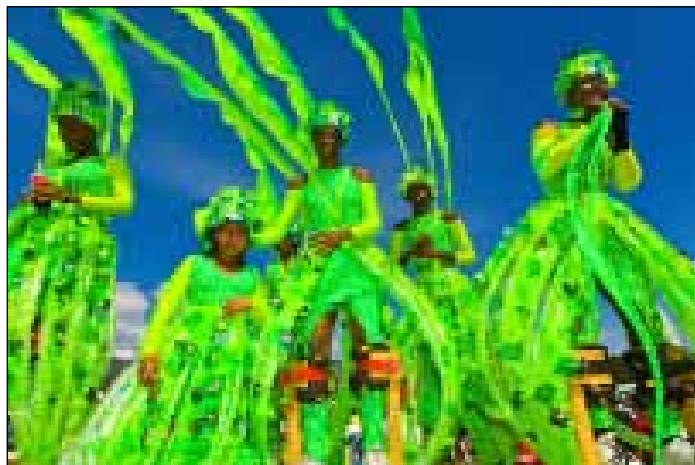
Folklore

“Papa Bois” is the most widely known of all our folklore characters. He is the old man of the forest and is known by many names, including “Maître Bois” (master of the woods).

“La Diablesse”, the devil woman of Trinidad and Tobago folklore, is sometimes personified as an old crone, who steps forth with her cloven hoof from behind a tree on a lonely road.

“Mama Dlo” or “Mama Dglo” whose name means “mother of the water”. A hideous creature, her lower half takes the form of an anaconda.

“The Soucouyant”
She is the old woman who lives alone at the end of the village road.



As evening draws near, she stirs and sheds her old and wrinkled skin becoming a glowing ball of flame, she flies through the night in search of a victim to suck their blood.

“The Duennes” are spirits of children who died before they were baptized and as such, they are fated to roam the forests of Trinidad, practicing their wide repertoire of pranks, mostly on living children who are enticed away into the forest. Their feet are turned backwards and they have no faces. On their rather large heads they wear huge mushroom-shaped straw hats.

The “Lagahoo” or “Loup Garou” is the shape changer of Trinidad’s folklore. This phenomenon is usually associated with an old magic-dealing man of a district who is both feared and respected.

FUN FACT:

Trinidad is the birthplace of Carnival.

Carnival

The Mas tradition started in the late 18th century with French plantation owners organizing masquerades (mas) and balls before enduring the fasting of Lent. The slaves, who could not take part in Carnival, formed their own, parallel celebration called “Canboulay”. Canboulay is a precursor to Trinidad and Tobago Carnival. Calypso and Soca music are the two popular music styles heard during Carnival celebrations.

The Trinidad and Tobago Carnival is an annual event held on the Monday and Tuesday before Ash Wednesday in Trinidad and Tobago. The event is well known for participants’ colorful costumes and



exuberant celebrations. Carnival as it is celebrated in Trinidad and Tobago is also celebrated in cities worldwide.

ACTIVITY

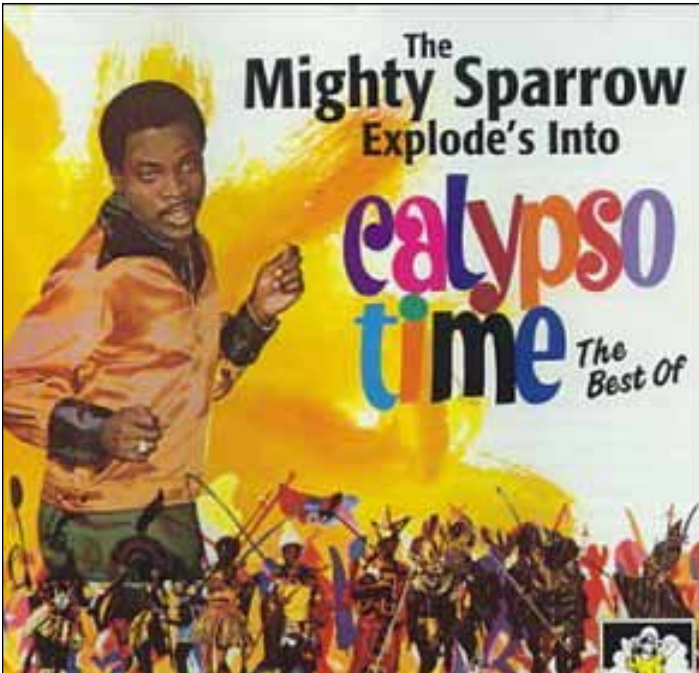
Connection: Prompt children to discuss the book’s illustrations of the folklore characters

Storytelling: Using the visualizations of the folklore characters, have the children pantomime the folklore characters in the book as a group. Once they are comfortable in a group, have a few act them out individually saying some lines from the book. Be sure they pay attention to each character’s unique body design (ex. half human / snake body of Mama D’lo, hairy werewolf body of the Lagahoo).



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Section 6: Music



ACTIVITY

Connection: Have children demonstrate sounds, movements, instruments, music and other items from their own culture and folklore.

T & T Steel Pan Ensemble: Use household items to create your own Steel Pan. Students can use a soup can, a hollow steel bowl and two spoons to make similar sounds of the steel pan.

Dance: You can't go wrong with a Soca dance party! Play some calypso or soca music and allow children to volunteer to showcase their dance moves.

Trinidad and Tobago is the birthplace of Calypso Music, Soca, Parang, Chutney music and the steelpan.

Calypso

Calypso was developed in Trinidad in the 17th century from the West African Kaiso and canboulay music brought by African slaves. The Africans were brought to work the sugar plantations and were stripped of their traditions and forced not to communicate with each other. They used Calypso to mock the slave masters and to communicate with each other.

Soca

Is a fast-paced, high-energy offspring of calypso, pioneered by Ras Shorty I in the 70s, fusing African and Indian sounds. Trinidad's pop music, it has absorbed R&B,

dancehall, hip-hop, reggaeton, house music and other influences.

Steel pan (instrument)

Developed in Laventille communities in the 1930s, the steel pan is the only non-electrical instrument invented in the 20th century. The steel pan began as single "ping pongs" hung around the neck playing just a few notes, now it covers a full western scale. Some bands top 100 players.

INTERESTING FACT:

The steel pan, which is widely claimed in Trinidad and Tobago to be the only acoustic musical instrument invented during the 20th century.

Many early calypsos were sung in French creole by an individual called a griot, or storyteller.



Section 7: Vocabulary

Review all the vocabulary from the book. Some key vocab words in the book:

Callaloo (Cal-a-loo): a Caribbean spinach dish originating from West Africa.

Dasheen (Da-sheen): A main ingredient in callaloo. Another name for the taro plant leaves originating from South India and Southeast Asia.

Roti (Ro-tee): A flat bread eaten in the Caribbean originating from India.

ACTIVITY

Practice the pronunciation of the Patois (the dialect of the common people of a region) of the T&T folklore character names.

Folklore Character	Pronunciation	Description
Papa Bois	Papa-bwah	A French patois word meaning, “father wood”: Protector of the Forest
Mama D’lo	Mama-glo	A French patois word meaning mother of the water: Protector of the Water
Lagahoo	La-ga-who	A French patois word meaning werewolf.
La Diabliesse	La-ja-bless	A French patois word meaning half woman/ half snake.

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Additional Resources



Here are additional resources that complement these activities and *Callaloo: A Jazz Folktale*:

The National Museum and Art Gallery of Trinidad and Tobago: <http://www.nmag.gov.tt/>

Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute: <http://ccadi.org/>

Carnaval! Exhibit: <http://www.carnavalexhibit.org/tobago.php>

Caribbean Crossroads Exhibit: <http://www.studiomuseum.org/exhibition/caribbean-crossroads-the-world>