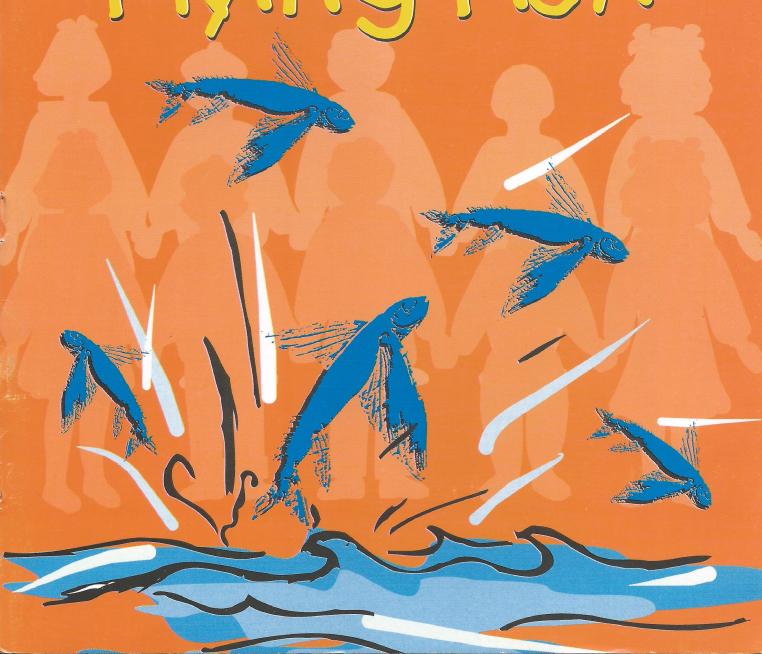
Published by The Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs & Sports

Level 1

Intheland of the Flying Fish



In the land of the Flying Fish

Published by The Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs & Sports

Consultants: Yvonne Forde Kenneth Agard Jean Riviera

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Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs & Sports

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In the land of the Flying Fish

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Acknowledgements

Foreword

This book was compiled in response to a need for indigenous reading materials in our schools. The Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports in cooperation with the Caribbean Developent Bank developed a project to produce these materials to inspire children to read more. The stories and poems in this book were written by children in schools in Barbados. We wish to compliment the children whose work appears in this volume and we hope that other children will enjoy reading them.

In the land of the Flying Fish

Published by
The Ministry of Education,
Youth Affairs & Sports



My Perfect Barbados

My perfect Barbados would be an island with clean surroundings, without violence and drugs. It would be a place where visitors can feel safe and comfortable, knowing that they would have a good time. In turn, they would tell others about Barbados and the wonderful time that they can have.

In my perfect Barbados we would be able to open our windows and doors at our leisure without fear of being shot at or even killed. My friends and I would be able to play in the streets or even go to the park without our parents worrying too much about us.

We would keep our surroundings clean by engaging in various clean-up campaigns around our beaches and especially around our homes. By so doing we would be able to control the spread of dengue fever. We would also have better security along our beaches to stop the harassment of tourists. Law and order would be maintained and drugs would be prevented from entering our country.

I will do my part at all times to help keep Barbados the way that I would like it to be, both at school and at home.

Terese Bourne: Age 11 Deacons Primary School.





My Environment

My environment is all around, no matter where I am. I love my environment. I believe that it should be kept clean all the time. This is the only way that we could have a healthy country. This is very important to us and the tourists who visit our island. Every Barbadian and visitor to our shores, should play his or her part in keeping around us clean.

The Sanitation Department and its workers do a very good job in trying to keep our country clean. They collect our garbage and dispose of it for us. Other departments, like the Ministry of Health, the National Conservation Commission and some Non-Governmental Organisations help in keeping our environment clean.

Other persons like janitors, general workers, gardeners, soil-technicians, all join in doing their part to ensure that we do our part too. Wherever we go let us put away our garbage carefully and safely. Do not litter from vehicles. This can be very dangerous in many ways.

When around us is clean, our bodies will keep healthy longer.

Shanika Husbands: Age 8 Half Moon Fort Primary School



My Picnic

It was a lovely Saturday morning and I was walking **Down Memory Lane.**

I decided to have a picnic Under The Sandbox Tree.

The **Market Vendor** had all his fruits and vegetables set out neatly on display.

I was eating my sandwich when my friend Katrina came over and asked me a very strange question. It was, "Do you know **How To Manage Your Money?"**

When I told her I didn't, she advised me to tune in to Faith F.M. As she turned to leave. I suddenly heard a rustling in the tree. As I looked up I was surprised to see two birds **Getting Down To Brass Tacks.**

I took my **Gutterperk**, put in a pebble and Dropped The Bomb on them.

As the afternoon approached, I realised the shaded area under the tree was becoming a real **Hot Seat**,

so I changed my location and turned my radio on to find out what was happening in **The World At One**.

After listening to all the bad news in the world, I spent the remainder of the day with Sharon on **Afternoon Delight.**

Karla Worrell Class 2



God's Beauty

We see God's beauty all around
In shrubs and trees and flowers,
In animals out in the fields,
In sunshine and in showers.

We hear God's beauty in the song
Of happy birds and bees,
Of children playing in the street,
or swinging in the trees.

We feel God's beauty in the touch
Of someone loved and dear.
The furry touch of cat or dog
Will make it very clear.

We know God's beauty in our lives,
In happiness or sorrow
And in the certain knowledge
That there'll be a glad tomorrow.

Nakita John St. Martins Four Roads

Bajan Lights

My favourite Bajan experience
Would be the Independence lights.

Dancing and sparkling with awesome beauty
They truly light up the night.

From roundabout to roundabout I would go.

These lights truly give a show.

Stilt-walkers dressed in yellow and blue,

Hibiscus, flags and everything new!

Fountains of light everywhere I go.

Each fountain giving off a special glow.

Yellow stars and blue streaks, what a haven!

It makes me feel "very Bajan".

Jamilah Forde: Age 12 Harrison College



On Monday, 28th October, 2002, fifty-seven pupils of the Roland Edwards Primary School were due to tour Harrison's Cave, Welchman Hall Gully and later to frolic in Barclays Park.

After morning assembly, the children rushed back to the classroom to grab their bags and wait for the bus. Disappointed because the bus hadn't arrived, we sat and spoke of what we would learn that day.

When the bus arrived, one of the Class 4 teachers, instructed the two classes to queue quietly in two lines at the entrance of both doors. The presence of the second teacher ensured silence from everyone. Later, the girls of both classes slowly walked to the front of the principal's office and waited until they were told to board the bus. The boys followed behind. Parents who accompanied us on the tour helped to keep us in order. When given permission to board the bus, we were so overjoyed, we were nearly running. The majority of the boys ran for the back seats.

On the road, we passed lots of vehicles. We also passed canefields with tall canes and plots which were freshly ploughed. It took us approximately half an hour to reach Harrison's Cave. When we arrived, we were led quietly into the Reception area. Some of the children sat in the chairs provided, while the remainder stood and watched a film about the Cave. After viewing the film, we all boarded the waiting tram. Since there were so many children, everyone couldn't hold in one tram, so there had to be two trips into the cave.

The first thing we saw was a formation called the Church or Cathedral. This got its name because the stalagmites grow to look like people singing in a church. The next attraction was the Mirror Lake. It is called Mirror Lake because the water is crystal clear. The

Village is another interesting part of the Cave where Stalagmites grow in the shape of people around a village.

After admiring the beauty of the Cave it was time to leave and make our way to Welchman Hall Gully. When we arrived there, we saw lots of beautiful trees. Some of the main ones were coconut, banana and different kinds of palm. Another interesting part of the gully was where there was an old tree with a very long beard. Our teacher told us it was called the Bearded Fig Tree.

We soon came to the end of our sight seeing trip. As we were about to leave we saw a flight of stairs as long as life. With our partners, we slowly climbed the stairs at the top of which there was a magnificent view of the countryside. There were some benches with a roof shielding anyone sitting in them. We descended the stairs, boarded the bus and were on our way to East Coast Road.

We passed a few schools, churches and a police station. When we arrived, we grabbed our bags, crossed the road and entered Barclays Park. We sat in the Park and ate our lunch. After eating, the boys played a short game of cricket, while the girls played catcher.

After our teachers and parents had eaten, we were all ready to leave the East Coast. We reassembled, said prayers and boarded the bus to return to the school. We had spent a most enjoyable day and hoped that the teachers would plan another one like that soon again.

Janine Taitt: Age 10 Roland Edwards Primary

My Life as a Flying Fish

I am a flying fish. I like to swim in calm water. I like to go different places but I spend most of my time around Brandon's Beach.

There are six other fish in my family. Once while I was swimming, a fisherman almost caught me but I swam very fast and got away. It was a very scary moment. I had never experienced anything like it in all my life. When I was swimming home I could not stop looking around me because I did not want to go through that experience again.

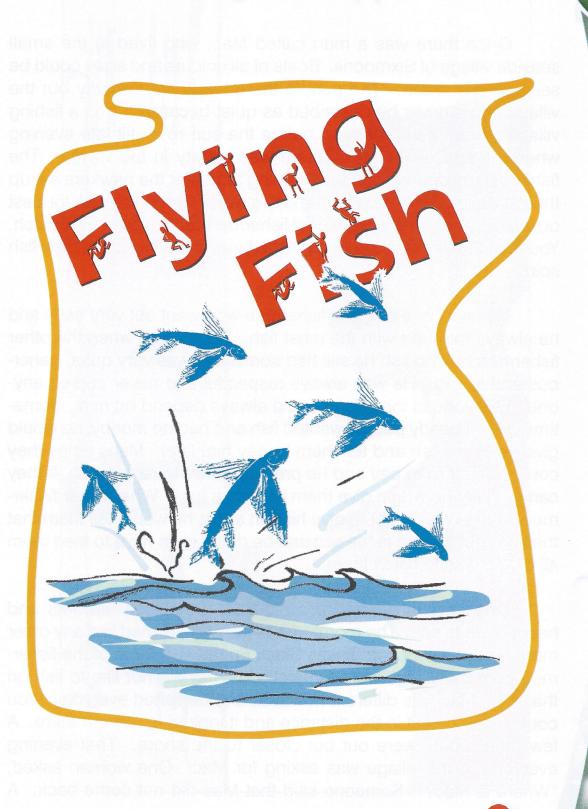
When I finally reached home, I told my mother everything that had happened. She advised me to be careful for if I were caught that would be the end of me as a fish. So frightened was I that I did not go anywhere for quite a few days. A week passed but still I did not go very far from home.

After a while, I forgot all about the fisherman and went to play with my friends. We tried to see who could jump the highest. My friend Bubbles did so.

On the way home I saw a shark. It looked as though it was coming towards me, so I hid myself. The shark thought that I was no longer there. When I was sure that it had gone I went home. I did not tell my mother about the incident because I knew that she would not let me go far from home any more.

The next day I went swimming again. My friend wanted me to go far but I did not go. He called me a coward but when I told him what had happened to me the day before, he apologised. Up to this day I still live in Brandon's Beach and I am enjoying life.

Danielle Forde Christ Church Girls'



The Disappearing Fisherman

Once there was a man called Mac, who lived in the small seaside village of Sixmoons. Boats of all colours and sizes could be seen on the shore. The people there were very friendly but the village could never be described as quiet because it was a fishing village. From early morning before the sun rose, till late evening when the sun went down, there was activity in the village. The fishermen moved early in the morning and later the hawkers set up their stalls in preparation for the day's work. The noise was loudest on evenings when the majority of fishermen came in with their catch. You could hear the loud voices of the hawkers trying to get their fish sold.

Mac was one of these fishermen who went out very early and he always returned with the most fish. Some days when the other fishermen had no fish he still had some. He was very quiet, generous and loving. He was always respectful and never cursed anyone. Everyone in the village could always depend on him. Sometimes when needy people wanted fish and had no money, he would give them the fish and tell them to pay him later. Many times they could not afford to pay and he pretended not to remember. If they came again, he would give them without a fuss. When other fishermen said he was a fool to give his fish away, he would tell them that the Lord put the fish in the sea and he didn't even have to feed them all he did was to catch them.

One Friday morning around 6:00, Mac took his nets and headed out to sea. The morning was fair and seemed like any other morning but it was not. It was Black Friday and most of the fishermen from the village were superstitious and did not like to fish on that day. Mac was different however, and he fished everyday. You could see his boat in the distance and it looked lonely out there. A few other boats were out but closer to the shore. That evening everyone in the village was asking for Mac. One woman asked, "Where is Mac?" Someone said that Mac did not come back. A

while later another man asked, "Weh tha fellow Mac?" No one saw Mac since that day. Not even his small moses was found.

People said that the Lord must have taken him. Others said that his boat must have sunk. One fisherman even said that he believed Mac used to get all his fish from a mermaid and he had probably gone to marry her. This tale still goes on but the people in the village claim that anyone who goes out fishing on any Black Friday catches a lot of fish. Some of the fishermen still do not go out and if they do, they go in groups and do not go very far from shore. To remember Mac, all the boats are now named after him. On the beach you can see boats called "Mac", for example, "The Blue Mac", "Mermaid Mac", "Generous Mac".

Shakira Husbands: Age 11 Half Moon Fort





Things Of Nature

I passed by the sea just yesterday

The big tall waves had so much to say,

I saw the water spout up high,

Far, far up to the sky.

The soft, fluffy clouds were drifting high,

While the wind went whistling by.

The sun sparkled across the land,

Like a diamond in my hand.

I thank God for my lovely eyes,

So I can see these beautiful sights,

I felt so happy just to see,

That God made all those things for me.

Terrico Cadogan: Age 10 Roland Edwards Primary.

An Accident in the Supermarket

I went to the shop and while my father ticked off items, I grabbed them off the shelves and shoved them into the cart. I am a rather inquisitive boy, so I decided to check out the bookstore.

Being only six years old, I went straight to the kids' section. I found an interesting book I really liked and asked my father to buy it for me. He reluctantly bought it just to make me happy.

Next we went to the aisle where I could choose my school snacks. I wanted to buy only sweets, but he refused to buy what he called junk. I was so mad I ran off, red in the face and with tears streaming from my eyes.

I didn't care where I was going, I just ran away from him. I soon found myself on the opposite side of the shop, engulfed in feet and carts. I was scared. I tried to find my dad, but just could not find him.

In my panic, I accidentally ran into a shelf on which were jars of jam. Three jars fell and I screamed as broken glass pierced my soft flesh. Blood oozed from my leg and two minutes later my dad found me rolling in the bright red pool.

At the end of the day, I was wearing a cast from the hospital and feeling very sad although my favourite cartoon was on the television.

Christopher Laurie Erdiston Primary School

The Stolen Scooter

Kelly Ann's aunt returned from Alabama with a colourful scooter for her. It was red, green and silver. It was Christmas time and Aunt Lucy had come to spend time with her family.

When Kelly Ann received the gift she could not wait to open it. It was the first present she opened. She jumped for joy and took it outside. She rode up and down the village and showed it to all her friends. She was boasting so much that she did not notice where she was going and rode into a fence. Luckily for her she did not hurt herself seriously, but she cried a little.

Afterwards she and Aunt Lucy went to put the scooter behind the house. Kelly Ann remembered that a man used to come behind the house at night. She was so scared, she did not sleep. She got up to look at the scooter and saw a little boy from her neighbourhood go behind the house. She looked at him but she did not know his name.

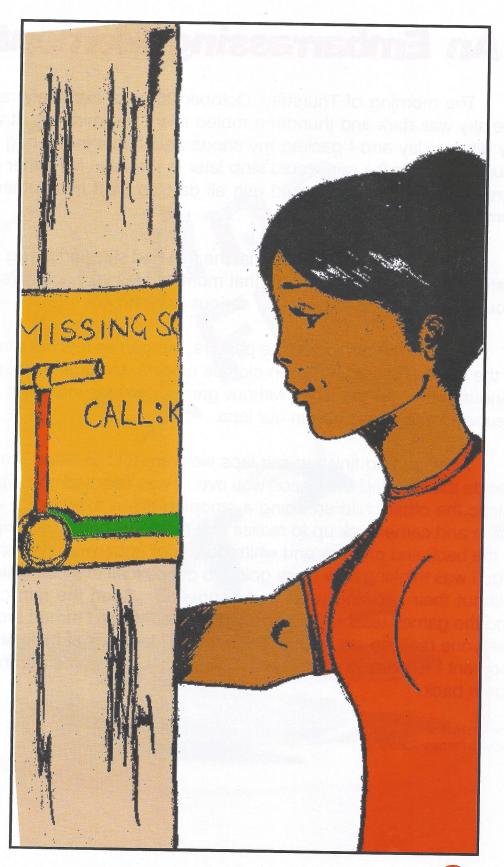
The next morning Kelly Ann and her aunt went behind the house. She muttered to her aunt, "I saw someone last night." Her aunt didn't hear her but found that the scooter was missing. She told Kelly Ann to draw a picture of the scooter and to scan it. Kelly Ann was nervous and suspicious. She went through the neighbourhood sticking up pictures of the stolen scooter.

Kelly Ann's aunt was annoyed because she was thinking that she had bought the scooter for Kelly Ann and now someone else had it. The scooter was still useful but the thief might have to go to the Government Industrial School in Padmore Village, because she was sure it was a young person who had stolen it.

The boy's family finally gave up the scooter. Kelly's aunt let him go free, because he was so scared. That was the mystery about the scooter.

Tradaine Ifill: Age 11 St. Martin's Four Roads Primary.





An Embarrassing Moment

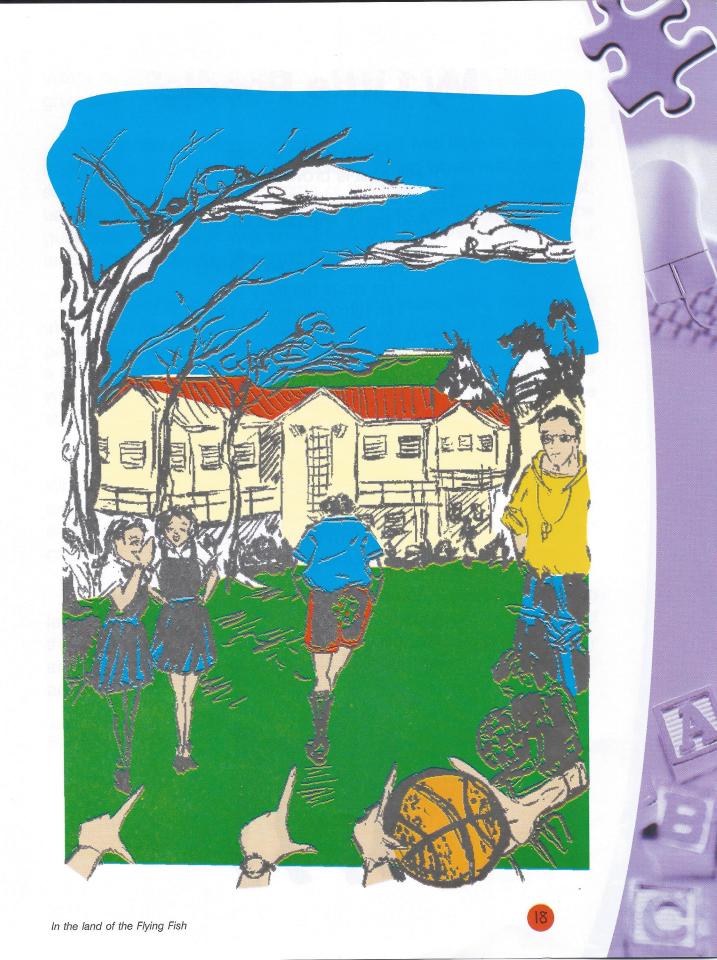
The morning of Thursday, October 25, was extremely rainy. The sky was dark and thunder rumbled every two minutes. It was my games day and I packed my shorts and T-shirt in my bag because I thought the rain would stop later in the day. My father disagreed and said that it would rain all day, so I left my clothes at home.

Later in the day I realised that the rain had stopped falling and that we were having games. At that moment I felt very scared and I thought I was going to be under serious punishment.

Now when I arrived on the pasture, our games teacher looked at the class and said "All plain-clothes officers, ten laps!" in a very serious tone. All the boys without games clothes, including me, stepped forward and began our laps.

After we had finished our laps we were told to stand smartly beside the wall until the lesson was over. I was very sad and tried to mimic the other children doing a stooping down exercise. I went down and came back up to realise that my pants had a very big rip in the back and my pink and white polka-dot underwear was showing. I was thinking how I was going to get past all of those children without their knowing what had happened. Soon the rain came and the games teacher told us to go inside. When I turned around everyone realised my problem and they all laughed at me. At that moment I felt very embarrassed. I wanted to run home and never come back.

Dominic Hutson Erdiston Primary School





My Little Poodle

I have a little poodle,
His coat is brown and white.
He runs and runs around the house
And barks and barks all night.

When he sees me coming
He wags his fluffy tail.
I lift him up onto my lap
And gently pat him on the back.

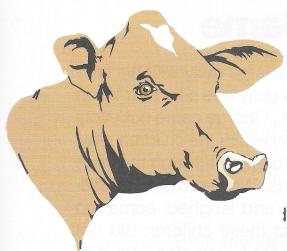
Bones and rice he likes to eat, These he thinks are such a treat, And when he wants an extra taste He always looks me in the face.

I love my little poodle,
I shall never part with him.
I'll keep him very close to me
And best of friends we'll always be.

Justin Broomes: Age 10 St. Lucy's Primary School



The Cow



A cow is a four legged, even toed, hoofed mammal and is of great importance to humans because of the meat, milk, leather and other items of commerce it yields.

A cow has four stomachs. The baby calf has an esophagus groove to lirect the milk into the proper stomach. The stomachs do not start functioning until a

little later.

Baby calves are born with pads on their sharp little hooves to protect their mother's birth canal. These pads wear off easily as the little calf struggles to stand up.

The adult cow encircles grass with her tongue and then cuts it off with her bottom teeth, she has no top teeth in front. She then swallows without chewing. Later, at her leisure, she will "burp" up her cud and chew it with teeth set back in her jaw. This cud will then be swallowed passing into another stomach.

Kathryn Yearwood: Age 9 St. Lucy Primary School



How The Green Monkey Got Its Name



George lived in a large gully with his family of monkeys. This gully was near Half Moon Fort Primary School. George came out every day with his family to watch the children play. Sometimes he would swing through the trees in search of mangoes. While some of the children looked at him and laughed, some ran away in fear. What these children did not know was that George was also afraid of them.

Although George liked mangoes, he liked bananas most of all. He enjoyed skipping across the school yard and going to the banana field which belonged to Mr. Gilkes.

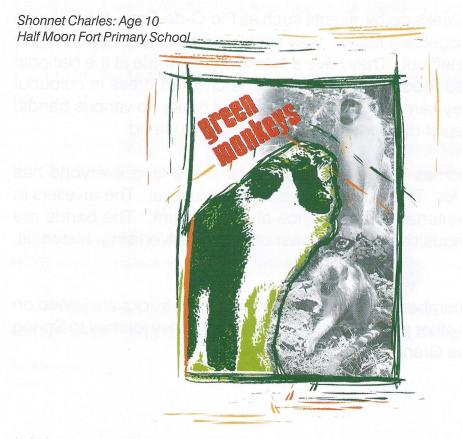
One day, George was swinging through the trees in the gully looking for ripe bananas. He searched and searched, but found none. In fact, he could not find anything to eat. His wife was complaining and his children were crying. He could not give up because he did not want his children to starve. He decided to go into Mr. Gilkes field. There, he searched and searched but could not find a ripe banana.

He noticed that the trees were filled with green bananas. He decided to pick some to take home for his family. His wife would not eat any. She said they were too green. His children would not eat any either. They said the bananas were too hard. He put them in a corner and went to bed hungry. A few days later he realised the bananas were getting ripe. He waited until they felt soft and ate one. He enjoyed it. He gave some to his wife and children. They enjoyed the meal. They were happy again and he was happy too.

George started to pick green bananas to bring home. All the other monkeys laughed at him and called him "Green Monkey". He did not tell them about his discovery. The monkeys continued to laugh at him but they noticed that while they were becoming thinner and thinner by the day, George and his family were looking well and becoming bigger and bigger.

One afternoon, the oldest and wisest monkey decided to find out why George was looking so well. From a distance, he followed George home. He saw where George hid the bananas. When George left, he crept to the hiding place and saw many bananas. Some were green, some were half green and some were ripe. He told all the other monkeys of his experience and even took them to the hiding place. From that day they too picked green bananas and put them down to ripen.

That explained why they were called "Green Monkeys" although they were not green.



Festivals in Barbados

Barbados has several different festivals. Among them are Oistins Fish Festival, Congaline, Holetown Festival, Barbados Jazz Festival and Crop Over Festival. These fun-filled celebrations are held to commemorate different seasons and events in the history of the island.

Crop Over is the most popular festival in Barbados. It is usually held during the summer and lasts for five weeks to celebrate the end of the sugar cane season.

This festival begins with an opening Gala during which the last pieces of sugar cane are blessed. After the blessing there is a lot of entertainment. There is singing by calypsonians and other local groups. There is also dancing by various cultural groups. The King and Queen of the Crop are honoured at this time. These are the persons who cut and loaded the highest tonnage of canes during the crop season.

As the weeks go by, events such as Pic-O-de-Crop, the Calypso Tents and Bridgetown Market take centre stage. The children of the island are not left out. They have a spectacular parade at the National Stadium called Kiddies Kadooment. The children dress in colourful costumes, they carry flags and banners and make up various bands. The bands depict different features of life on the island.

Then comes Grand Kadooment. It is the time everyone has been waiting for. This is the high point of the festival. The revellers in local bands entertain the audience at the stadium. The bands are judged in various categories - most colourful, advertising, historical, largest band.

Band members accompanied by music on trucks are joined on the streets by other people who dance along, as they journey to Spring Garden for the Grand Finale of the festival.

Jalisa Hall: Age 10 Deacons Primary

Shadows

Where ever I look I see Shadows.

Where ever I go I see Shadows.

Shadows, Shadows are everywhere:

Behind buildings, in front, around,

Shadows that can cause pain and fear.

Shadows don't stay, they just disappear.

Shadows stretch across the ground

When the sun goes down.

Shadows must say goodbye when the sun goes away.

I think they are happy to go away.

Adron Moore Workmans Primary



Fish; I love flying fish,
For that's my dish.
O how I wish
I could have some lovely flying fish!
I love them with rice
And also with cou-cou
I'll have some now!
What about you?

Danelle Bryan: Age 9 Roland Edwards Primary





The Bearded Fig Tree

Before there were parishes, town, or cities
Barbados was covered with bearded fig trees.
The Portuguese saw them when they came.
Their long beards gave Barbados its name.

The early settlers next came along,
And began to cut the fig trees down.
They cleared the forests all away
and built their farms and homes to stay.

Today not many fig trees are found,

Some are in the country, a few in the town

But one's on our Coat of Arms

For the whole world to see,

A symbol of our national identity!

Akeshia Alleyne

A Healthy Lifestyle -A Natural Lifestyle

George awoke at 6 o'clock to the sweet aroma of the flowers outside his bedroom window. He got out of bed and looked inside his closet for clean and appropriate clothes. He then had a bath and brushed his teeth. George went into the kitchen and made himself a simple breakfast consisting of porridge, a banana and milk. He then went outside in the yard and fed his puppy and pigeons. He helped his father wash the car and water the plants.

As George was about to leave his house he stopped in the doorway to admire the beautiful garden and enjoy the fresh breeze that was blowing. He told his parents goodbye, got on his bike and rode slowly to school.

When he arrived at school he read his favourite book until the bell rang. At morning assembly the headmaster informed the school that the pupils would be conducting their ritual garbage inspection. Surprisingly no one found any trash.

When break came George bought a ripe fruit to eat. Afterwards, he had a physical education class. He did the warm-up exercises diligently and then played a friendly football game. He was exhausted when the games teacher blew the whistle signalling that the P.E. session was finished.

All the exercise had given George a huge appetite and he was thankful to sit down to a wholesome meal of rice, fish and vegetables. During the remainder of the lunch period he ran about and played various games such as marble, cricket, dodge ball and road tennis.

After lunch, George did a math test in which he scored 97%.

After school he went to his cub scouts meeting where he earned three badges and made two new friends. After scouts, he went to swimming practice at the Aquatic Centre and then rode his bike home.

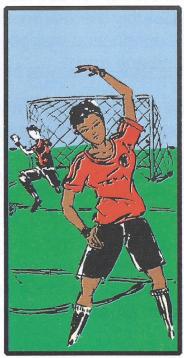
At home he did his homework, had soup and biscuits along with a salad of tomatoes and lettuce for dinner and then watched his favourite programme on TV.

At 9 o'clock George had a glass of milk, brushed his teeth, went to bed and slept like a log until morning.

George's day is a perfect example of a natural and healthy life style for all of us to follow.

Christopher Laurie.







Tourism

Tourism is the main industry in Barbados. Many tourists visit this small island. Its beauty, history and peace attract people from all over the world.

The government of Barbados and its Ministry of Tourism have many concerns about the tourist industry. Some of their fears are that they would not be able to make tourists comfortable; that they will not be able to transport tourists; that tourists are not safe on the roads of our island and that locals will not be courteous to tourists. However, all citizens of Barbados should try to prevent these things from happening.

Making a large number of persons comfortable at any time is not easy. So, many hotels and guest houses send packages to the Barbadian Embassy for persons who plan to visit Barbados. This gives a person a choice of hotels or guest houses so that he can

choose the one in which he feels most comfortable.

Many means of transportation are available in Barbados. Some of the vehicles used are owned by government and some are privately owned. Government owns the Transport Board. They provide buses that go all over Barbados on a schedule. Privately owned vehicles are mini buses, ZR vans, ZM vans and taxis. Tourists should be able to reach their destinations with ease.

The west coast of Barbados has many beautiful beaches. Most tourists visit these beaches. The bright sun, sparkling sand and blue sea are like magnet to tourists. However, problems are surfacing. Some young men are going to the beaches offering drugs to tourists. Some companies drop toxic waste into the sea. This is killing the marine life. If the marine life is wiped out, the beaches will not be beautiful. Tourists will stop coming to Barbados.

Some hotels hire buses to take tourists on tours. There are many places of interest on our island. There are organisations which own vans that drive people around Barbados and show them the places of interest on the island.

Tourism does lots of good things for Barbados. It brings foreign trade into the island. It also provides jobs for lots of citizens. All Barbadians should try to assist tourists in any way possible. Our island's economy, future and reputation depend on tourism.

Tourism is our business. Let us play our part.

Khar Akilah Collymore Age 11 Roland Edwards Primary

ACTIVITIES

My Life as a Flying Fish

- 1. Who or what is telling the story?
- 2. Name one of the Storyteller's friends
- 3. Describe two occasions when the Storyteller was almost caught?

My Picnic

- 1. Explain what is being illustrated in the story.
- 2. Describe a gutterperk
- 3. Name three kinds of foods mentioned in the passage
- 4. Who is Sharon?

Scenic Tour

- 1. "Scenic" has a silent letter. Write five words with a silent letter at the beginning.
- 2. Write a paragraph on a tour you have made.
- 3. Which places did the children visit? How many teach ers were with them?

How The Green Monkey Got Its Name

- 1. What kinds of food do monkeys like?
- 2. What would you use to describe George?
- 3. Write a paragraph explaining why the monkeys were called Green Monkeys?

My Environment

1. Prepare a poster for your class advising the students not to litter.

Acknowledgement

The Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports wishes to acknowledge the contribution of the schools of Barbados as well as that of the Basic Reading Consultants to the production of this volume in the series of readers.

The Ministry is also grateful to the Caribbean Development Bank for its assistance with the financing of this publication.

The schools from which material was taken:

Erdiston Primary School
St. Martins Four Roads Primary
Half Moon Fort Primary School
Christ Church Girl's
Deacons Primary School
Roland Edwards Primary
St. Lucy Primary School
Workmans Primary

