

The Distant Talking Drum

by Isaac Olaleye

From deep in the rain forest
The sound of a distant talking drum I hear—
Far away, far away.
For me it calls.
Clearly it calls
For me to dance,
For men to dance,
For women to dance,
For children to dance.

And the sound of the distant drum
Echoes through the rain forest.
The distant talking drum
Is calling across the mighty rain forest
For me to come,
For me to dance.
Now the sound of sweet songs
I hear.
Beautifully they flow!

And the distant talking drum
Is still calling
Far away, far away.
Clearly it calls
For me to come,
For me to dance.
So across the rain forest,
The wide, wild, and wonderful rain forest,
I go!



“The Distant Talking Drum” from *The Distant Talking Drum: Poems from Nigeria* by Isaac Olaleye. (Wordsong, an imprint of Boyds Mills Press, 1995). Reprinted with the permission of Boyds Mills Press, Inc. Text copyright © 1995 by Issac Olaleye.

1. Which feeling does “The Distant Talking Drum” create?
 - A excitement
 - B fear
 - C surprise
 - D sadness

2. How is the drum *most like* a person?
 - A It echoes through the forest.
 - B It makes the sound of sweet songs.
 - C It communicates with people.
 - D It makes people dance.

3. Why is the drum *most likely* being beaten?
 - A to warn people that rain is coming
 - B to welcome people to a celebration
 - C to scare animals away from the people near the drum
 - D to help people find their way out of the forest

4. Who is the “I” in the poem?
 - A a drum
 - B the rain forest
 - C the speaker
 - D a forest animal

5. Based on information in the poem, what will *most likely* happen?
 - A The rain forest will soon become quiet again.
 - B The drums will no longer echo.
 - C Animals will scatter and run away.
 - D Men, women, and children will dance.

6. How does the author demonstrate the echoes of the drum in this poem?
- A The location of the drum is clearly described.
 - B Someone calls out just like the drum does.
 - C The exact sound of the drum is explained.
 - D Some words are repeated throughout the poem.

End of Set

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EOG Grade 4 Reading Sample Items

Selection Title	Question Number	Correct Answer	Thinking Skill	Objective Number
The Distant Talking Drum	1	A	Analyzing	3.01
The Distant Talking Drum	2	C	Analyzing	3.01
The Distant Talking Drum	3	B	Integrating	3.01
The Distant Talking Drum	4	C	Analyzing	2.02
The Distant Talking Drum	5	D	Generating	2.02
The Distant Talking Drum	6	D	Generating	3.01