



BIG THEMES

- Friendship
- Folktales
- Superstitions
- Fear
- Cultural Traditions

ABOUT THE PLAY

Morning in Cattawood Springs

The people of Jamaica are waking up to the sounds of steel drums, the smiling shining sun, and island music. (ONE LOVE) Cedella, Ziggy's mom, wants him to go outside, but he prefers staying home and watching TV. Cedella starts singing and dancing the Jonkonnu. She encourages Ziggy to join, but he is not interested. (JAMMING)

While everyone continues to dance, Ziggy sits alone. Nansi, Ziggy's trickster friend (who also likes him) comes to visit and tells him she likes his hair. While Nansi is visiting Ziggy, Duppy, an evil spirit with long hair stolen from people, appears in hiding. Ziggy decides to leave and just as he exits, Duppy almost touches Ziggy's dreadlocks. Without Ziggy's hair, Duppy's spirit body will fly into the sky. (NATURAL MYSTIC)

Ziggy and Doctor Bird

Doctor Bird, Ziggy's mystical bird pet and best friend, teases Ziggy about Nansi. Ziggy wishes Nansi lived on the other side of the Blue Mountains. Doctor Bird tells him that the Blue Mountains are more beautiful than anything on TV and tries to persuade him to go outside and explore beyond Cattawood Springs. Ziggy prefers his TV and the safety of home. Ziggy has never visited Doctor Bird's family because he is afraid! There are rabid pests and evil spirits, such as the mongoose and duppy, everywhere. (SO MUCH TROUBLE IN THE WORLD)

Cedella Senses Duppy is Near

While Ziggy is still in his room, Cedella walks in and starts counting slowly. Some say the number seven is lucky. She thinks maybe the number eight is unlucky for Duppy. Duppy are very smart spirits and she worries about Ziggy's beautiful hair. Doctor Bird teases Ziggy by saying that Nansi wants to marry his hair. Cedella shoos him away and tells Ziggy to cage him, but Ziggy replies that Doctor Bird is his best friend. Cedella tells him that real friends and real adventures are outside, but Ziggy is afraid.

Nansi arrives and asks Ziggy if he wants to play, Cedella encourages them to go out and enjoy the day, but Ziggy refuses. Cedella and Nansi persuade him to go. (LIVELY UP YOURSELF) Cedella gets ready to go to the ocean port to sell her jerk chicken to tourists. She asks the kids to get some water from the community well for supper before they play and stop by the ports to meet people from all over the world.

Nansi gives Ziggy a Special Gift

Nansi tells Ziggy she has a very special gift for him and hands him a small satchel. As Ziggy opens the bag he sees a spider and starts screaming and running. He tells Nansi it is disgusting, but Nansi thinks the spider is beautiful. Spiders are very special; they can build their homes from silk and have eight legs. She even named her spider, "Baby Ziggy" because his webs are all ziggy and zaggy.

Ziggy needs to go to the well, but is nervous about Duppy. Nansi tells him to count to eight. She also asks if he is wearing red underwear because her yaya told her it is a way to scare off Duppy. Nansi wants to go and meet the people that Cedella spoke of, but Ziggy is worried about mongooses. Nansi assures him that mongooses are pleasant and teases him by calling him one. Nansi kisses him on the cheek. (IS THIS LOVE?) Duppy appears, concerned the other spirits will want his hair too.

Adventuring the Island

Ziggy is nervous and thinks they are lost, but Nansi is confident because she can smell the ocean. (RIDING HIGH) As they start arguing with one another, Duppy appears and takes advantage of the conflict. He begins to chant and tries to drop several mangoes from the trees, barely missing Ziggy and Nansi. They take off in opposite directions. Nansi returns to apologize, but Ziggy is gone. He regrets not staying home in the first place.

Ziggy and Doctor Bird Explore Jamaica's History

Ziggy runs into Doctor Bird. (I KNOW) He complains about Nansi, but Doctor Bird reminds him he was not nice either. Nansi just wants Ziggy to embrace the spirit of Jamaica. Ziggy regrets leaving Cattawood because now he is in danger. Doctor Bird tries to cheer up Ziggy and tell him all about the mixture of cultures that form the island of Jamaica. (ONE LOVE) From Spanish Conquistadores to British Colonizers to African Slaves forced from the motherland, Jamaica is steeped in history. All of these people and cultures appear and speak to Ziggy, but why should he listen to an island? Doctor Bird is better off being Nansi's friend since she is not afraid to leave Cattawood. As Ziggy leaves, Montego and Tacoomah arrive. (THREE LITTLE BIRDS)

Ziggy and Nansi Run into Duppy

Nansi is looking for Ziggy, but runs into Duppy instead. Duppy asks if she wants to play, but Nansi realizes he wants to trick her. Nobody can trick Nansi because she is the best trickster in Jamaica! She runs off and hides. Ziggy arrives looking for Nansi and Doctor Bird and runs into Duppy instead. Duppy asks Ziggy if he can touch his hair. He thinks Duppy is Nansi trying to play a trick on him. Ziggy distracts him and ends up hiding in the same place as Nansi. Scaring each other, they scream and a chase ensues. Soon after, Doctor Bird, Montego, and Tacoomah arrive. (RUNNING AWAY)

Ziggy and Nansi try to protect themselves from Duppy. They start thinking of all the ways they have been taught to keep Duppy away. Finally, Ziggy starts counting and they notice Duppy weakening. Duppy chants so mangoes will fall and keep them from counting. Nansi is afraid that Duppy is too smart, but Ziggy reminds her about the spider trick. Nansi tells Duppy she has a very special gift. When Duppy opens it, Ziggy says he is disgusted by the little bug. Duppy tells him it is not a bug, but a spider because it has many legs and starts counting them all. When he counts to the number eight, Duppy twitches in agony. Ziggy and Nansi count to eight very fast. Duppy's hair starts falling out and he scoops it up and runs off crying. (DUPPY CONQUEROR)

Ziggy and Nansi find Cedella at the Port

Ziggy and Nansi rush to the ports and find Cedella selling her chicken. When they arrive, they are out of breath and Cedella is worried. Ziggy tries to explain, but is completely breathless and asks for a cold glass of water. (THREE LITTLE BIRDS) Ziggy is eventually able to explain everything to his mother and Cedella is so happy to see him smiling and having a good time out of the house and away from the TV. Ziggy asks if he can go and visit Doctor Bird's family on the north side. Cedella says he can only go if Nansi goes along with him. (SMILE JAMAICA)