A JOURNAL OF CARIBBEAN ARTS AND LETTERS

Stephen Narain

TEACHER GIRL

Teacher girl, pretty m an all the l'il pickney say
When she walk through the yard
With she white blouse and she press black skirt
She gat one voice like sugar, ya know
And hand like brick
Cause when she clap you, yeah you,
'C ause ya m ou th too hot and ya brain too du ll
Watch out, boy
Stick leg boy
Tuck in ya shirt
A nd if you ain't gat shoe
G rease up the leg w ith coc'nut oil quick quick
quick
Yeah, boy, she fine hand does sting

Yeah, boy, she fine hand does sting
Like bee, wasp
Hummingbird tongue
Daddy who quiet today
And like he clich é
When he belly good and full
Say ya never judge one
Book by the cover

That's what daddy say He say open the damn book, ya hear

And teacher gyurl With the brown skin that God must be kiss

And the black hair And the Indian eye

She say open the book too

'C ause she know w hat book dem have

All a Milton and all a dem

Yeatskeats

Beats

Far away

She say write book fuh yaself

And speak ya tongue

'C ause she say the water bucket dem is hard burden on she back still

When she carry it down the village

To cook rice and watch the water boil

For four

When they have seven

Sellin' fruit at Stabroek hard

When the whole village kiss the soil done

And she say it hard to sew

Sweat does messup the seam at two in the mornin'

So she close the shutter window

W hen pickney sleepin'

And she listen to the quiet like choir

And all she want is to open up Milton

And tell him the Paradise really, truly ain't Lost

Calabash

A JOURNAL OF CARIBBEAN ARTS AND LETTERS

Volume 4, Number 1 / Spring-Summer 2006

Information about this work:

TEACHER GIRL

By: Stephen Narain

Start Page: 138

URL: http://www.nyu.edu/calabash/vol4no1/0401138.pdf

Calabash: A Journal of Caribbean Arts and Letters is an international literary journal dedicated to publishing works encompassing, but not limited to, the Anglophone, Francophone, Hispanophone and Dutch-speaking Caribbean. The Journal is especially dedicated to presenting the arts and letters of those communities that have long been under-represented within the creative discourse of the region, among them: Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles, Maroon societies, and the Asian and Amerindian societies of the region. Calabash has a strong visual arts component.

Calabash is published by New York University. Please contact the publisher for further permissions regarding the use of this work. Publisher information may be obtained at: http://www.nyu.edu/calabash/about.html

Calabash: A Journal of Caribbean Arts and Letters © 2006 New York University