When the Beat Was Born
Reader’s Guide
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Grade Levels: 3-5 Grades

Objective: Students will discover the roots of Hip Hop music.

EBR Core Action Support - Text, Task, Talk
● 1 - High Quality Text & Supports Foundational Skills
● 2 - Employ questions and tasks that are text dependent and text specific.
● 3 - Provide all students with the opportunity to engage in the work of the lesson.

Before Reading:
● Preview the front cover of the book.
● Ask students what they think this book will be about, explain that is called making predictions.
● Student Spark: What is Hip Hop? Do you have a favorite Hip Hop song?

After Reading:
1. Reactions
   ○ What did you think about the book, do you have a favorite part?
   ○ How do you think the art was made?
   ○ Go back through the book and discuss what happened at the beginning, middle, and end.

2. Question/Discussion
   ○ How did DJ Kool Herc get the name Kool Herc?
   ○ How did DJ Kool Herc’s childhood in Jamaica inspire him to DJ in New York?
   ○ What is break dancing and why is it called “break dancing”?
   ○ How did DJ Kool Herc alter the music to extend the breaks?
   ○ How are hip hop and rap related?
   ○ How did his parties affect the people in the streets in the Bronx?
   ○ What kind of music do you like? Do you think DJ Kool Herc had an influence on the music you like?

3. Draw or Write:
   ○ At the end of the book there is a rap, “There’s no story that can’t be told, there’s no horse that can’t be rode.” Raps and poems often feature rhythm (a pattern of syllables) and rhyme (words that sounds the same in the end like told and rode.)
   ○ Write a rap about something you love to do.

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