

Rhythmic Reading Gives Learning a Beat

By Todd Abraham

JACKSONVILLE, FL—Rap music provides more than just a good beat for Vincent Taylor and his students. It helps improve reading skills.

Taylor is a teacher in Jacksonville, Florida. He created a program called Rhythmic Reading. It joins an activity workbook with an audio CD.

"I enjoy the raps because it puts me in a good mood for learning," said Ronaldo Jones, 10.

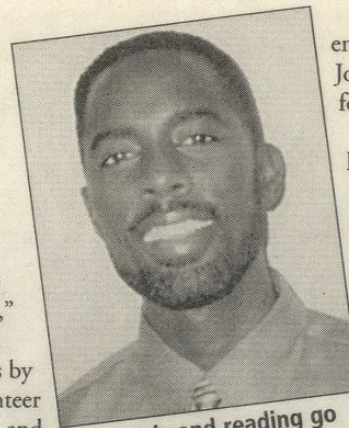
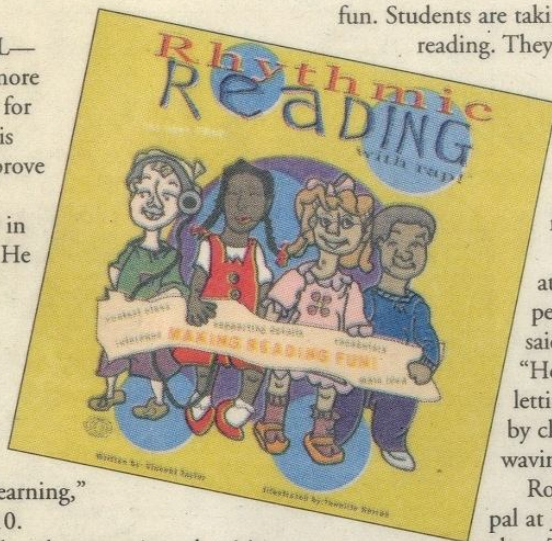
Taylor has always loved rap music and writing poetry. He put the two together to make learning

fun. Students are taking an interest in reading. They are having a blast at the same time.

The exercises focus on skills such as learning topics and main ideas.

"Mr. Taylor creates songs that make people want to listen," said Shanae Perry, 10. "He acts out the songs by letting the crowd volunteer by clapping their hands and waving their arms."

Rosa Thomas is the principal at John Love Elementary where Taylor teaches. She said there has been a huge gain in test scores.



Rap music and reading go together in teacher Vincent Taylor's program. He uses it in his classes.

"I enjoy it because it broadens my vocabulary," said Joshalen Stewartson. She's a fourth-grader in Taylor's class.

"When my students first heard the program, they loved the music, the beat. Wow!" said Antonette Pittman. She teaches third grade and uses Taylor's idea.

Taylor holds seminars to show his products to parents and teachers. His favorite part is seeing people get excited.

"I see smiles on kids' and their parents' faces," said Taylor.

"It's learning they are both experiencing together." ▲

