



**James Berry: Windrush songs - Audio**

*Empire Day*

**James Berry:**

Empire Day is what me rememba, singin  
praises to Modder Country, Englan.

At home, me put on mi church shoes  
an mi new likkle khaki trousers an shirt  
an meet other spruced-up distric  
children-them. Stiffly, happily on we go.  
At school, we have prayers. We recite  
poems about Englan and Empire. Each  
one of us get a likkle Union Jack  
and sweets with flags printed  
all over the tin.

Other schools join we. And, drilled,  
marchin around the schoolyard, aroun  
our wide and high, high poinciana tree  
covered wid red flowers, our likkle  
Union Jack them a-wave and a-flutta.

We sing we heart out, singing 'Rule  
Britannia', glowin with all we loyal  
virtue to King, Country and Empire.

In jollification, we play games.

We eat jerk pork, fresh bread, candy  
an spicy cake. We eat snowball an drink  
cool drinks. Mi Union Jack sweets-tin  
turn mi treasure, keeping  
mi slate pencil an mi marble-them.