



**James Berry: Windrush songs - Audio**

*Reasons for Leaving Jamaica*

**James Berry:**

Knowing Jamaica, as I know it, I mean, the mode of my generation, of young people, never wanted to stay there. Because they never wanted to be pinned down by poverty and nothing to stir them and to get the best of themselves. So you have this piece here, 'Reasons for Leaving Jamaica'.

Mi one milkin' cow did jus' die!  
Gone, gone – an' leave me worthless  
like hurricane disaster.  
Then, mi neighbour stoned, stoned  
and killed mi dog, and I did know  
I would move – move well away.  
Man, when I did come happy, happy to reap  
mi first four bunch of bananas  
from mi new half acre of land  
and, man, find every one newly cut and gone –  
I did move about shattered,  
dazed in a crazy spin of a dream.  
That half acre did take me ten year to buy –  
mi little land-piece of bananas was  
mi pride an' hope an' sense of achievement.  
Now, a man did come and reap mi first crop.  
I did know there and then that if I did kill him,  
him couldn't come back and come back!  
Then, man, I did go tired, tired.  
Like miself, mi piece of land  
Did sit there tired – tired.  
*Windrush* did jus' come an' save me an' him.