Welcome to a Callaloo of Expression!

Jamaica Kincaid came to UVI March 28th. She told all of us gathered that we needed to “fix it” before we can move on. The message for me is that we need to understand the songs, prose and poetry that came before us as well as what is in front of us now. Today we take a little step.

Many of the first poems of the African Americans were cleverly disguised songs of protest and freedom.

1. ENG 100 9 am class: “Go Down Moses” lyrics and music.
2. ENG 100 2 pm class: What is poetry? Thoughts from Nikki Giovanni.
3. Mr. Schrader: haiku: a leaf in the wind.
4. Dekaaz
5. Open Mic: Students and staff
6. Closing Poem: Rennetta Lewis
“Welcome to a callaloo of expression!” was the opening statement to UVI’s 2015 poetry slam. The occasion was to celebrate the art of literary expression in one of its most profound forms—poetry. Over 36 people attended, including staff, students, and visitors, all with the same interest at heart. The event kicked off with an enchanting rendition of the popular Negro spiritual “Go down Moses,” performed by the English 100 morning class, in honor of poetry’s African American roots. Immediately following the English 100 morning class was the afternoon class. After its predecessor, the afternoon class had seemingly impossible big shoes to fill; however, they did not disappoint with their thought-provoking deliverance of “What is poetry?” by Nikki Giovanni. Then the Caribbean author, Mr. Richard Schrader, shared haiku poems from his book “A leaf in the wind” and students followed reading their dekaaz. The event transitioned into a brief open mic session, in which students and staff recited some of their own pieces. “Speak Up” concluded with a closing poem by student, Rennetta Lewis.