

# Language Files

*Materials for An Introduction to Language*

*Compilers of the Second Edition:*

CAROL JEAN GODBY

REX WALLACE

CATHERINE JOLLEY

*Editors of Previous Versions:*

DEBORAH B. SCHAFFER

JOHN W. PERKINS

F. CHRISTIAN LATTA

SHEILA GRAVES GEOGHEGAN

**Advocate Publishing Group**

Box 351, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068

→ error

# BLACK ENGLISH: GULLAH: THE TAR BABY

# FILE 102

One big dry drought bin puntop (on) de lan, en all de watuh hole en cow track dem dry up en de creeter ain had no watuh fur dem drink.

Buh Rabbit en Buh Fox lib kine uh close turgedder en Buh Rabbit tell Buh Fox say, "Les we dig one well turgedder twix we house, den all two uh we kin nuse (use) um bidout haffuh walk too fur."

Buh Fox gree tuh dit, en Buh Rabbit tell um say, "Buh Fox, e's berry hot middle day now, les we meet dey fus day (daybreak) een de mawnin, en time day clean we kin sta-a-t wuk, en mebbu puhaps we kin git um done befo e git too hot." En Buh Fox gree tuh dat, too.

Fo day een de mawnin Buh Fox bin tuh de place. E ain see Buh Rabbit. Time e could uh see fuh wuk e sta-a-t fuh dig. Sun done up, e yet ain see Buh Rabbit.

Buh Fox git tuh good watuh, en e come out de well duh lebble (to level) de groun roun de well, yuh come Buh Rabbit.

"Oh, Buh Fox, us so sorry yo didn' wait fuh me fo yo sta-a-t. Muh ole ooman bin ha de feeber en de head ache all de Gawd sen night. Fo day uh baig um fuh do lemme run out yuh tell yo say don't does dig de well, but e keep duh tell me e duh gwine dead, en do fuh don' le'm stay fuh dead by e self. E did now drop sleep, en uh run hope yo bin uh wait for me."

Buh Rabbit den ax Buh Fox is e got watuh. Buh Fox tell um say yeh e got good watuh.

Buh Rabbit den say, "Buh Fox, us so sorry yo had uh dig de well by yo self, but at uh diddy (since I'm here) en yo got watuh, uh tek some back een dis yuh can tuh muh ole ooman fuh cool um een e feeber."

Buh Fox tell Buh Rabbit say, "Buh Rabbit, yo wouldn' hep me dig dis yuh well, yo ain fuh tek no watuh out um. Ef yo wa' watuh, go dig yo own well."

Buh Rabbit say, "Do, Buh Fox, yo ain duh gwine hinduh me fuh tek leetle uh dis yuh watuh tuh muh ole ooman wuh bin ha de feeber all inight."

Buh Fox tell um gen say e ain fuh tetch de watuh een de well. En e tell um mo'ober gen, ef e ketch um duh teef (thief) de watuh e duh gwine kill um.

Ebby mawnin fo day Buh Rabbit does go tuh Buh Fox well en e tek all de watuh, en when Buh Fox come dey soon duh mawnin fuh git watuh e ain meet no watuh een de well. But e see Buh Rabbit track dey roun bout de well.

Buh Fox git some ta (tar), en e mek uh gal out de p'yo (pure) ta en set um up tuh de well.

Buh Rabbit come dey fo day een de mawnin fuh teef watuh en e see de gal duh set by de well. E tell um say, "Good mawnin, gal." De gal ain gie um no ansuh. Buh Rabbit ax de gal mek (why) e (she) don' talk tuh people when dey tell um good mawnin. De gal ain yet gie um no ansuh.

Buh Rabbit say, "Gal, ef yo don' tell me good mawnin uh duh gwine slap yo head off." De gal ain yet say nuttin. Buh Rabbit haul off en slap um, POW. E han fasen. E say, "Gal, yo bes tun me loose fo uh slap yo wid de yedder han." De gal ain tun um loose en e slap um wid de — POW. De yedder han fasen.

Buh Rabbit say, "Gal, uh done play wid yo now fuh de las, ef uh ebber butt yo uh bus yo brains wide open." E haul back e head en butt um, BIM. E head fasen.

E dey (is) dey (there) now all fasen up to de gal. When Buh Fox come tuh de well, time Buh Rabbit shum (see him) duh e

pl. marker

z

tease

5

16

15

20

poss of plural 25

30

missar

34

35 holler say, "Buh Fox, uhyeddy (heard) say yo had cuse (accused) me fuh come yuh teef yo watuh, en uh come yuh fo day een de mawnin en meet dis yuh gal duh teef yo watuh. See de bucket wuh e bring fuh teef de watuh een, en uh run yuh ketch um en duh hole um tell (until) yo come."

Buh Fox come dey en loose Buh Rabbit en tek um duh gwine (along). Buh Rabbit say, "Buh Fox, fuh whuffuh yo duh hole me, mek yo don' tun me loose so we kin walk turgedder?"

40 Buh Fox tell Buh Rabbit say, e had uh tell um say ef e teef e watuh e duh gwine kill um, en e say e duh gwine kill um. Den duh gwine on en Buh Rabbit say, "Buh Fox?" Buh Fox anser um e say, "Eh?" Buh Rabbit say, "Buh Fox, how yo duh gwine kill me, yo gwine hang me wid rope?" Buh Fox tell um say e dunno how e duh gwine kill um, nummer (except, only) e duh gwine kill um.

Buh Rabbit ax Buh Fox is e duh gwine cut um wid knife? Buh Fox tell um e ain know wuh e duh gwine do.

45 Buh Rabbit say, "Buh Fox, yo <sup>fu. gwine</sup> gone tide (tie) me wid chain en bun (burn) me duh fiah?" Buh Fox tell um say, "Fuh Gawd sake, Buh Rabbit, uh done tell yo say uh dunno how uh duh gwine kill yo, uh dis duh gwine kill yo."

Den duh gwine on en turrecly dem come tuh one ole briar patch. Time Buh Rabbit see de briar patch e holler, "Oh Lardy, Buh Fox, duh dat yo duh gwine do wid me? Do Buh Fox, do don' trow me een da briar patch fuh dem sperrit fuh tarrify (terrify) me tuh dat. Tek me home, Buh Fox, en hang me wid rope, eeder cut me wid knife, eeder tide me wid chain en bun me by fiah. But do, Buh Fox, do don' trow me een da briar patch fuh dem sperrit fuh tarrify me tuh dat."

50 When Buh Fox yeddy Buh Rabbit duh baig so ha-a-d fuh e don' trowed um een de briar patch e say da's de berry ting e duh gwine do tur um.

E tek Buh Rabbit en e swing um, en e swing um. E turn um loose. Buh Rabbit gone way yonder out een de briar patch.

55 E light, BIM. E jump up on e foots en run off. Quing, quing, quing, quing. "Dis de berry place uh bawn, Buh Fox. Dis de berry place uh bawn."