

Our East London Home

Written by pupils from Drew Primary, Star Primary,
Britannia Village Primary, and St Michael's Primary

Part 1

(whispered)
In the mess and the sludge
Where we toil for our lunch
But my family never get enough

(rap)
The coke comes in along the sea

(rap)
From Newcastle to Tilbury

(rap)
Left, right, left, right,
Then onto barges on the Lea

(rap)
Left, right, left, right,
For Cody Dock and the factories

By 12 o'clock we're bent with pain,
From swinging those picks in the wind and rain,
Not even a break to have our tea,
At The Gas Light and Coke Company.

There's more to the river than meets the eye,
It brought us here for a better life,
It turns the wheels of industry,
It holds up my community.

The war has taken the men away
And we work so hard, day after day
Dangerous work for so little pay
There must be a better, a better way

Part 2

(whispered)
All our sweat and our blood
In the alleys, in the mud
And my family never get enough

(sung)
All our sweat and our blood
In the alleys, in the mud
And my family never get enough

(sung)
In the mess and the sludge
Where we toil for our lunch
But my family never get enough

Welcome to the Royal Do-o-ocks-s-s . . .

Welcome to the Royal Docks.....

By 12 o'clock we're bent with pain,
From swinging those picks in the wind and rain,
Not even a break to have our tea,
At The Gas Light and Coke Company.

There's more to the river than meets the eye,
It brought us here for a better life,
It turns the wheels of industry,
It holds up my community.

(Part 1 cont.)

Left, right, left, right..

I can see the stadium from my window
The Copper Box and the Velodrome
I can hear the people cheering
When the Hammers play at home

They came from all around the globe
Spain Ukraine and Mexico
China Ghana Greece Botswana, Canada Peru
to Newham, my East London home

All the sparks in the dark light a fire in our hearts
We are Londoners
All the sparks in the dark light a fire in our hearts
We are Londoners

There's more to Newham than meets the eye,
We work and hope for a better life,
We turn the wheels of industry,
We hold up our community.

*I circle around the Orbit
and pretend I'm on the helter skelter
And I buy my clothes in Westfield now
Though Nan prefers the Stratford Centre*

They came from all around the globe
Spain Ukraine and Mexico
Albania, Romania, India, Australia
to Newham, my East London home
Newham....our East London Home

(Part 2 cont.)

On these towers we are free,
To talk about our poverty,
And how we want equality,
To change our children's destinies.

They came from all around the globe
Spain Ukraine and Mexico
China Ghana Greece Botswana, Canada Peru
to Newham, my East London home

And now when when I walk by the River Lea
Past the old docks and the factories
I hear their ghosts calling up to me
With strength and courage and dignity

Welcome...

(sung)
All the sparks in the dark
Light a fire in our hearts
We are Newham...

They're still building flats along the river
I watch them from my balcony
I wonder who's gonna live there?
I wonder if there'll be one for me?

They came from all around the globe
Spain Ukraine and Mexico
Albania, Romania, India, Australia
to Newham, my East London home
Newham....our East London Home