

Slow Down, Jack!

“All aboard!” for a fun creative dramatics piece appropriate for the youngest children, with lines that are easy to say and remember and action that’s easy to perform. . . .

By Jack Vaughan

You’ll need at least six children for this program: a boy or girl to play Jack, and 5 or more boys and girls to play the Passengers. A child who reads well, or an adult, can read the lines not spoken by Jack and the Passengers. Typically the children will learn all the lines after a few readings and recite the whole story on their own.

There are a couple of different ways to play “Slow Down, Jack,” as follows:

Version 1:

1. Make a train of chairs—1 engine, 5 cars.
2. JACK sits in the engine.
3. One or more PASSENGERS sit in each car. The more the merrier!
4. JACK recites the line, “If you go fast, you can’t go wrong.”
5. PASSENGERS aboard the train loudly recite the refrain, “Slow down, Jack! You’re goin’ too fast!”
6. Each time the last car jumps the track, the PASSENGERS in that car leave the train, taking their car with them.
7. Play on until only JACK is left.

Version 2

1. All stand in a line behind JACK.
2. Hold on to the waist of PASSENGER in front of you.
3. To make train go, walk (ride) along the track together. . .fast!
4. Last PASSENGER, let go and fall off the train when you hear, “Oh-oh!”
5. Play on until only JACK is left.

Turn the page for the story/poem.

Jack runs a train; he loves to go fast.
He has passenger cars, from the first
to the last.
At the head of the line,
The train starts slow.
Jack looks back.
He says. . .
“Ready to go.”

Jack runs a train, just 5 cars long.
He says. . .
“If you go fast, you can’t go wrong.”
Passengers say. . .
“Slow down, Jack! You’re goin’ too
fast!”
Oh-oh!
Off goes the car that used to be last.

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