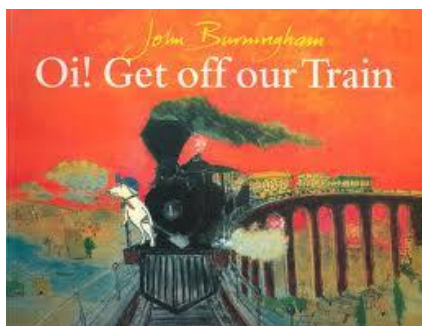


Oi! Get off our Train

John Burningham



Oi! Get off our train! tells the story of a boy who, in his dreams, becomes the engine driver of his toy train. On his travels he encounters several animals who want to join the train, and have very strong reasons for doing so.

The repeating pattern of this story makes it easy for developing readers to join in with the reading.

Although a simple story, the book explores the important environmental theme of endangered animals, giving readers lots to think about and discuss.

Reading the story

Read the story more than once and when you reread it encourage your child to join in with the repeated refrain 'Oi! Get off our train!' Allow time to talk about the story and what is happening in the pictures. Look out for more books by John Burningham (see the list below).

Talking about the book

Talk about the different places the train goes to and what the boy and the animals do when they get there. Ask your child where they would you like to go if they were on the train. Choose a favourite page and what they can see happening in it.

Talk about the different animals in the story and why they want to join the train. Do you think they have good reasons?

Story play

Act out the story – put some boxes or chairs in a row to be a train. With your child as engine driver choose some toy animals to be the would-be passengers.

Perhaps some of the animals will be the same as in the story and some will be different. Will you let them on the train? How will they persuade you?

Things to make and do

Collect some small cardboard boxes and tubes and make a toy train.

Choose one of the animals in the story to find out about together using the internet or information books. Encourage your child to make a poster about them with a drawing and one or two facts you have found together. Your child might be just beginning to learn about writing. If so encourage them to have a go at writing the name of the animal or a fact they have found; you might also join in and do some of the writing for them with something they want to say.

Steam trains are not seen very often nowadays. **Find film clips** of steam trains to watch on YouTube and talk about what's different about trains today.

Have an outing! Has your child been on a train? If not you might be able to plan a journey by train or find somewhere to safely watch trains for example from a nearby railway bridge or at a station.

Look out for more books by John Burningham at the library or bookshop, here are a few of them:

Aldo
Granpa,
Avocado Baby
The Shopping Basket
Would You Rather...,
Time to Get Out of the Bath, Shirley
Come Away from the Water, Shirley
Mr Gumpy's Motor Car
Mr Gumpy's Outing
The Picnic