THE WHEELS ON THE BUS

THE WHEELS ON THE BUS
Adapted and Illustrated by Paul O. Zelinsky
Grade Level: Pre-K to K
Themes: Music, transportation, life in the city
Running Time: 6 minutes

SUMMARY
With unique and colorful animation, this video brings to life one of the most well-known and classic children's songs. *The Wheels on the Bus* will make children and adults want to dance and sing along with the rollicking music. The cheerful action lends visual reinforcement to this popular song. Students who live in the city will be able to relate to the hustle and bustle depicted in the video, while those who live in more rural areas will be introduced to some of the aspects of city life.

OBJECTIVES
- Students will make text-to-self connections with the video.
- Students will learn the popular children's song "The Wheels on the Bus."

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES
Teach the song, "The Wheels on the Bus," to students and practice singing it. Introduce the actions that correspond to the different lines of the song. Discuss the meaning of the song with the students. Guiding questions:
- Has anyone ridden a bus before? If so, have you seen or heard any of the things that happen in this song? Which things?
- If you live in a rural area where there are no or few buses:
  - Why do people ride buses?
  - Where do they go on buses?
  - What is an example of a time when you have had to take a bus?
  - If you haven't taken one, when might you have to?

Give students simple instruments to play while singing the song. Some suggestions are: drums, kazoos, wood blocks, whistles, bells, and cymbals. Orchestrate the song so that students learn to keep a beat and play their instruments in time with the song. Practice together and arrange for a performance for parents or other classes.

Have students draw pictures of how they think it would be to ride a bus like the one in the song. After viewing the video, ask students to compare their pictures to what the video showed. Use a Venn diagram to record similarities and differences.

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES
Work with the children to make up new lines to the traditional song. Some examples are: "Daddies on the bus go read, read, read..." or "The radio on the bus goes rock-and-roll..." Encourage students to think of examples that they have seen while riding on a bus.

If possible, take a bus ride around your town or city. Look out the windows and discuss the scenery with the children. How is their city the same or different from the city in the video? Some suggested destinations are:
- a park
- the bus station
- an outdoor mall
- children's neighborhoods

Have students put on a dramatic production of the song, "The Wheels on the Bus." Using ideas from the video, help students design props and assign them to be different characters, such as, the driver, the mommies, the riders, etc. All of the children can participate in the chorus.

Other videos based on songs available from Weston Woods are:
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Alligators All Around by Maurice Sendak
Chicken Soup with Rice by Maurice Sendak
Pierre by Maurice Sendak
There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly by Simms Taback
This Land is Your Land by Woody Guthrie, ill. by Kathy Jakobsen
The Foolish Frog by Pete and Charles Seeger, ill. by Miloslav Jagr
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