

Force, Motion, and Energy

By Sylvia Vardell and Janet Wong

Take 5!

1. Use **pantomime to bring this poem to life**, acting out the pulling of the wagon with your hands, then digging in with your feet and pulling again, then with fists cheering, then with hands gesturing *wait*, then running after the runaway wagon.
2. In a repeated reading of this poem, **coach students to say or even shout the word *wait* when it occurs in the poem**. You read the rest of the poem aloud, pausing after the word *but* and signaling students with both palms out, motioning *wait*, as their cue to chime in.
3. Invite students to **share experiences pulling or riding in a wagon or learning to ride a tricycle or bicycle**. What gives these vehicles their power? We do!
4. Talk with students about **how the wagon in this poem shows us everyday uses of energy, force, and motion**—using our hands and legs to pull the wagon (force) and then sending the wagon to roll away on its own (energy and motion). Students can push a crayon on their desks or a table and watch it roll over the edge (and then pick it up!).
5. Link this poem with another about moving a wagon, “**After I Made a Huge Mess With My Chemistry Set**” by **Mary Lee Hahn** (Internet Resources), or follow up with the fun, classic story, *Go, Dog. Go!* by P.D. Eastman (see Resource).

Reference

Hahn, M.L. 2014. “After I Made a Huge Mess with My Chemistry Set,” in *The Poetry Friday Anthology for Science*, eds. S. Vardell and J. Wong, p. 159. Princeton, NJ: Pomelo Books.

Resource

Eastman, P.D. 1961. *Go, dog. Go!* New York: Random House.

Internet Resources

Wong, Janet. Website of author.

www.janetwong.com

“After I Made a Huge Mess with My Chemistry Set” by Mary Lee Hahn

www.pinterest.com/pin/361625045073821139

Push Power

by Janet Wong



I pull with my hands.
My wagon is stuck.
I push harder with legs.
This time I'm in luck.
My wagon gets out
of the mud
but—
wait!

It zooms
down the hill
straight into the lake!

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