

Poetry in Motion

By Sylvia Vardell and Janet Wong

Take 5!

1. Read this poem aloud and act it out with a snap of your fingers at the end.
2. Then read the poem aloud again, and invite students to chime in on their favorite example

of friction, saying those lines only (*speed bumps, gravel, brakes, zombie, eraser, beard, finger snapping*) while you read the rest of the poem aloud.

3. Work together to conduct

quick on-the-spot demonstrations of friction with erasers and school supplies or hands and feet.

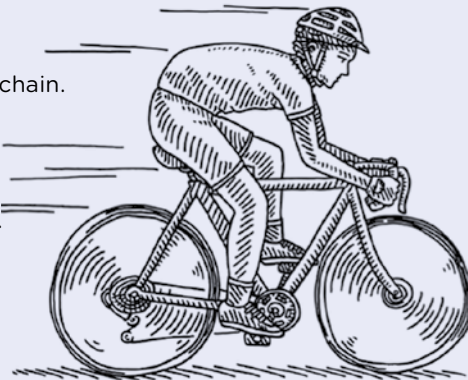
4. Use this poem to discuss the effect of friction on objects. Friction can create drag, noise, erosion, speed reduction, damage, and so on. Challenge students to cite examples of each. Talk about ways to reduce friction, too, like using oil in automobiles, etc.

5. Compare this poem with another about force and energy, “After I Made a Huge Mess With My Chemistry Set” by Mary Lee Hahn (Internet Resources), and look for the *Time for Kids* reader, *Drag! Friction and Resistance* by Stephanie Paris (see Resource).

Friction

By Sara Holbrook

Speed bumps in the parking lot.
Gravel under my wheel.
Brakes on a subway train
screeching out a squeal.
A zombie dragging a ball and chain.
My eraser tearing at paper.
My father’s weekend beard
on Monday pulling at his razor.
A thumb against a finger
when it
makes a snapping sound.
Whatever takes off in a hurry,
friction slows it down.



REFERENCE

Holbrook, S. 2014. “Friction.” In *The Poetry Friday Anthology for Science*, eds. S. Vardell and J. Wong, 200. Princeton, NJ: Pomelo Books.

RESOURCE

Paris, S. 2013. *Time for kids: Drag! Friction and resistance*. Huntington Beach, CA: Teacher Created Materials.

INTERNET RESOURCES

“After I Made a Huge Mess With My Chemistry Set” by Mary Lee Hahn www.pinterest.com/pin/361625045073821139
Sara Holbrook, Website of author www.saraholbrook.com

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