

Hey! Get Off Our Train
By John Burningham

Readers: Narrator Seal
 Mom Crane
 Boy Tiger
 Dog Polar Bear
 Elephant

Mom:	You aren't still playing with that train are you? Get into bed immediately. You know you have to be up early for school tomorrow. Here is your pajama-case dog. I found it under a cushion in the sitting room. Now settle down and go to sleep.
Narrator:	The boy climbs into bed and quickly falls asleep.
Boy:	(Snore softly—or breathe loudly to give the impression of sleeping.)
Narrator:	He hears a train chugging down the track. He begins to feel like he's the conductor on the train with his pajama-case dog as his companion.
Boy:	We're ready to go now. Don't make too much noise with that shovel.
Narrator:	The dog begins shoveling coal and the train moves off slowly down the track.
Boy:	If there's time, we can have a picnic.
Narrator:	They move slowly along through the night over bridges and past farms.
Boy:	It looks as if it is going to be foggy ahead. If it is, we can play ghosts.

Narrator:	The boy and his dog stop to play “ghosts” in the foggy moonlight. As they return to the train, they notice an elephant on board.
Boy and Dog:	Hey! Get off our train.
Elephant:	Please let me come with you on your train. Someone is coming to cut off my tusks, and soon there will be none of us left.
Narrator:	The train continues with the boy, his dog, and the elephant as passengers.
Boy:	It’s going to be a very hot day. If it is, we must find somewhere to go for a swim.
Narrator:	The elephant, the boy and the dog stop to play and cool off in the water. As they return to the train they notice a seal on board.
Boy, Dog and Elephant:	Hey! Get off our train.
Seal:	Please let me come with you on your train. If I stay in the sea I won’t have enough to eat because people are making the water very dirty and they are catching too many fish, and soon there will be none of us left.
Narrator:	The train continues with the boy, his dog, the elephant and seal as passengers.
Boy	I think there is going to be a strong wind. If there is, we can all fly kites.
Narrator:	They stop to play in the wind and fly kites. As they return to the train they notice a crane on board.
Boy, Dog and	Hey! Get off our train.

Elephant and Seal:	
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Crane:	Please let me come with you on your train. I live in the marshes, and they are draining the water out of them. I can't live on dry land, and soon there will be none of us left.
Narrator:	The train continues with the boy, dog, elephant, seal, and crane as passengers.
Boy:	It looks as if it is going to rain soon. If it does, we can all march about with umbrellas.
Narrator:	They stop to play in the rain, dancing around with colorful umbrellas. As they return to the train they notice a tiger on board.
Boy, Dog and Elephant, Seal and Crane:	Hey! Get off our train.
Tiger:	Please let me come with you on your train. They are cutting down the forests where I live, and soon there will be none of us left.
Narrator:	The train continues with the boy, dog, elephant, seal, crane, and tiger as passengers.
Boy:	I think there is enough snow now. If there is, we can all throw snowballs.
Narrator:	They stop to play in the snow. As they return to the train they notice a polar bear on board.
Boy, Dog and Elephant, Seal, Crane and Tiger:	Hey! Get off our train.

Polar Bear:	Please let me ride on your train. I live in the frozen North, and somebody wants my fur to make a coat out of, and soon there will be none of us left.
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Boy:	If it does not stop snowing soon, we are going to get stuck.
Narrator:	The train gets stuck in the deep snow and all the animals get out to help clear the tracks.
Boy:	We must go back now. I have to go to school in the morning.
Narrator:	The train continues on through the night with all the animals as passengers.
Boy:	(Snore softly or breathe rhythmically to give the impression of sleeping.)
Mom:	You must get up immediately, or you will be late for school. There are lots of animals in the house. There's an elephant in the hall, a seal in the bathtub, a crane in the laundry, a tiger by the stairs, and a polar bear by the fridge. Does this have anything to do with you?