



MOVE LIKE JOSEPH AND WOOSH

JOSEPH'S BIG RIDE

By Terry Farish, illustrated by Ken Daley, and published by Annick Press

THE FESTIVAL

Welcome to the Beautiful Blackbird Children's Book Festival! Where is the festival happening? Right here in your space! What do you need? Only your body and a love of stories! Like the books we are celebrating in the festival, our bodies can tell stories. The movement of our faces, arms, hips, legs and feet help us say something about ourselves or tell a story like *Joseph's Big Ride*. In theater and dance, actors and dancers practice using their bodies to tell tales with different emotions, moods, and energies. Let's practice telling stories with our bodies!

THE BOOK

As the book opens, we see Joseph running through Kakuma Refugee Camp towards Daau riding a bicycle. Joseph wants to balance on that bike and push the pedals forward, but the bike is too big for him! After Joseph and his mother fly in an airplane from Kenya to America, Joseph discovers a whole new bike to admire—this one *is* his size! He and his new friend Whoosh will go on many big rides on her small red bicycle. *Have you ever imagined riding a bicycle? How would you need to move your body to go on a big ride?*

THE MOVEMENT ACTIVITY

Look for the read aloud of *Joseph's Big Ride* on BeautifulBlackbird.com. As you watch, listen for the action words or verbs that show how Joseph and Woosh move or act. You may find the words *walk, pedal, fly, push, ride, blast, balance, or laugh*. With those verbs in your mind, it is time to tell a story with your body!

1. Grab some siblings, friends, adults and gather in a space where you have some room to move around. You can be outside or inside.

2. Decide who will be the leader to start.
3. Pick your first action (verb) to show with your body.
4. For example, call out, "Everybody pedal!"
5. All the others can reply with, "Yes, everybody pedal!" and then they show pedaling using their body.
6. Remember there is not a right or wrong way to show the actions. It might be challenging to figure out how to show an action without an object, but use your imagination! Encourage everyone to show the action however they want.
7. Keep moving through different actions (verbs) – each time having the leader call out "Everybody ...!" and the others reply with "Yes, everybody ...!"
8. Feel free to switch up who the leader is whenever you want.
9. Once you've used up all the actions (verbs) from *Joseph's Big Ride*, add whatever else you can think of. You can add more details to your sentences as well. "Everybody pedal super-fast!" or "Everybody walk through very deep snow."
10. When you are done playing, take a minute to reflect on the activity. How did it feel to move your body in all those different ways? And with others? What did you like? What was challenging? How did it help you understand the story in a different way?

Share your Experience! If your family, guardian, or teacher agrees and if you can protect your privacy, tell us in words, pictures, or video what you thought of the book or activity with the hashtag #BeautifulBlackbirdFestival.

Look for the next book about Joseph and Whoosh! Ask for *A Feast for Joseph* at your library.

Thank you to Sarah Coleman at Portland Ovations for creating this activity as part of Portland Ovations' support of the Beautiful Blackbird Children's Book Festival!