

Lesson 24: Things that Go

“Do you need a ride? It’s hotter than peppers out there in the sun! Come in, there’s room for everyone!” —Naaz Khan

Social Justice Standard: Diversity 6

Summary

A love of things that GO is a staple of childhood for many children. And who can blame them—wheels are pretty magical! This lesson demonstrates an example of how you can look for positive and diverse representation within your child’s area of interest. Buses, planes, car trips, and box cars are pretty awesome. Consider how these books can help you expand your conversations at home or in your classroom by hooking into an existing interest area.

Booklist

- *The Hallelujah Flight* by Phil Bildner, illustrated by John Holyfield
- *Just Us Women* by Jeannette Caines, illustrated by Pat Cummings
- *Last Stop on Market Street* by Matt de la Peña, illustrated by Christian Robinson
- *Going Places* by Peter H. Reynolds and Paul A. Reynolds
- *Room for Everyone* by Naaz Khan, illustrated by Mercè López

Consider This

- How does your access to transportation affect your day-to-day life? Reflect on the ease or difficulty of available transportation methods in your life.

Talk Together

- What modes of transportation have you experienced? What is your favorite?
- How do different types of vehicles make you feel? Do you feel similar or different than the characters in the books when riding that particular transport?
- Which journey do you like the most from the books? What other ways do you connect with that character or story?
- Can you imagine a world that didn’t have things that go? What would that look like? How would your life be different?

Engage

- Make a ramp, and make things go! Explore different vehicles from the books on the booklist to inspire what vehicles play on the ramp. You can also use other materials and objects around the house to investigate how things move differently.
- Plan a trip and discuss how you will get there. Be as creative as you'd like! Talk about what you may need to get around on your trip—whether that be money for a bus or a suitcase for an airplane.

Explore More

- National Museum of American History's "America on the Move"
- "Transportation Protests: 1841 to 1992" by Julian Hipkins III and David Busch (Civil Rights Teaching)
- "The History of Tying Up Traffic for Civil Rights" by David Greenberg (Politico, February 26, 2022)