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The Boy on the Bus: A Sing-Along Storybook

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Dale, Penny. *The Boy on the Bus: A Sing-Along Storybook*. Illustrated by Penny Dale. Candlewick Press, 2007. ISBN 9780763633813. \$15.99. 32 p.

Reviewer: Sandra L. Tidwell

Reading Level: Toddler, preschool

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Poetry; Sing Along Storybooks;

Subject: Children's songs--United States--Texts--Juvenile fiction; Buses--Songs and music--Juvenile fiction; Domestic animals--Songs and music--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

"All aboard! Ready, steady, go!" The driver in this red bus is a little boy, and he is off for an adventure! Instead of transporting people, this special bus has animals on board. Seven ducks are waiting at the first stop, next are three pigs, and at the next are two cows, a horse, eight chickens, and two goats! The bus is now full, but there are 29 sheep animals who want to be the next passengers! Readers may wonder how so many sheep could possibly fit inside. The answer: some will ride on top! "The boy on the bus says, 'What a crowd! Climb up here! Careful now!' The boy on the bus says, 'Hold on tight! Ready, steady, go!'"

The words are a creative adaptation of the "The Wheels on the Bus" finger play and song. The verses reflect the animals which have just come on board: "The pigs on the bus go oink oink oink..." This could also be used as a "find it" book, as the illustrations accurately show the correct number of each animal (except for the 29 sheep). Preschoolers will enjoy the fun illustrations of smiling animals holding on for the noisy ride. After repeated readings, children would enjoy singing the verse, and perhaps making simple puppets or dressing up as animals for a simple play.