

For the Classroom

Bridge of Gold

— Freya Jaffke

Two older children stand opposite one another and form a gate with their hands and arms. Quietly, so the others do not hear, you agree which one will be the “Sun” and which one will be the “Moon.”

The other children form a line in single file and, led by an adult, walk through the gate and continue walking around the bridge and through the gate in a figure eight while singing the above song. At the end of the song, with the words “sticks and spears and laughter,” the bridge children lower their arms and capture the child standing on the bridge.

The captured child is asked: “Do you want Sun or Moon?”

If he says “Sun” then he must stand behind the bridge-child who is the “Sun” and the game begins again.

After all the children are captured, it has to be decided which row of children are going to be “devils” and which are going to be “angels.” A counting verse could be helpful.

Or, the adult could present both hands to one of the bridge-children. In one fist is hidden a small rock, for instance, and the child must choose. If she chooses the fist with the rock then all the children standing behind her are “devils” and the other row are the “angels.”

Now, first the row of “angels” are cradled (best by two adults) by the child lying across the adult’s outstretched, clasped arms. The following verse is spoken very rhythmically:

*Angel, angel, heavy laden,
With so much silver and gold;*



*High in Heaven, High in Heaven,
And back to the Earth below.*

The child is set back on the ground with the last line of the verse.

Next, one of the “devils” stands between the adults’ locked arms and is carefully and rhythmically pushed forward and back with the following verse:

*A devil is rolled,
rattled and shaken,
Right out of the house
he’s [or she’s] taken!*

If this game is played with a mixed-age group that includes three-year-olds, they may leave the waiting line because often they are not yet able to stand in line and wait until everyone is captured. We should just let them do as they please in this regard. It does not bother the older children if a younger one leaves for a while to go play something else. If you have a large group of children, you may decide to have two children captured at once.

Experience has shown that the shaking and rattling of the “devil” is so popular that the children will often get in line again to be “shaken,” even the ones who were “angels.”

Bridge of Gold

Melody: Ch. Jahr



Bridge of gold, oh gold - en bridge, now who has bro - ken you? The



gold - smith, the gold - smith, and his young daught - er too.



Go a - cross; Go a - cross; the last one we will



cap - ture with sticks and spears and laugh - ter.



Illustrations by Christiane Lesch

Excerpted from the book *Play with Us!* by Freya Jaffke, translated by Nina Kuettel (WECAN, 2016).

Freya Jaffke is a master Steiner/Waldorf kindergarten teacher and teacher trainer from Germany who has lectured and offered workshops for educators and parents in many countries. Her books on early childhood have sold over a quarter of a million copies worldwide.