A Friend of the Indians
By Joseph Bruchac

A man who was known as a friend of the Indians spoke to Red Jacket\(^1\) one day about the good treatment the Senecas enjoyed from their white neighbors.

Red Jacket walked with him beside the river, then suggested they should sit together on a log next to the stream.

They both sat down. Then Red Jacket slid closer to the man and said, “Move Over.”

The man moved over, but when he did Red Jacket again slid closer. “Move Over,” he said.

Three times this happened until the man had reached the end of the log near the water then, once more, he was told, “Move Over.”

“But if I move further

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\(^1\) Red Jacket was an Iroquois leader of the late 1700s.
I shall fall in the water,”
the man pleaded,
teetering on the edge.

Red Jacket replied,
“And even so you whites
tell us to move on when
no place is left to go.”