



Jump! Jump! Jump! Stacey

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Reading Tips by Candelaria Norma Silva*

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There's a lot going on in ***Jump! Jump! Jump! Stacey***. It was written to be read aloud joyfully to young children. This is the second book I've written featuring the character, Stacey Huggins.

The book shows:

- An active Black girl who is playing before her nap
- Eight different movements
- A loving relationship between mother and daughter
- Conversations between mother and daughter that are playful and sometimes serious (i.e., mother gives firm instructions to her daughter to go to her room)
- A mother who is working from home
- A mother who is pregnant
- Naptime – Stacey is allowed to play outside in backyard before she takes her nap. Stacey resists naptime.
- Father's presence – through boots on porch and picture on living room wall
- Dog and cat from first book about Stacey, ***Stacey Became a Frog One Day***

Before even reading the title, you can ask the child to look at the cover and guess what the book is going to be about.

Sometimes a parent, older child, or teacher will read the book straight through from start to finish without being interrupted. At other times, a child will have questions from the cover or first page. I encourage you to read the story straight through the first few times. As the child becomes familiar with the story, I encourage you to play with it. Stop and start while reading it. You might ask the child a series of questions:

- What do you think this book is about?
- What movement do you think Stacey will do next?
- What is your favorite part of the story?
- How do you like to move?
- When do you take a nap?
- Where do you take naps?



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You might skip a page or make up a movement that Stacey doesn't do as the story becomes familiar to the child. They will show you that they've paid attention by correcting you.

You and the child might notice that:

The book encourages:

- Active movements
- Anticipation as Stacey at first plays and then does movements trying to avoid naptime

The book shows:

- Joyous Black girl who is an only child
- Loving family – mother is pregnant (family photo and father's boots are shown in this book)
- Resistance as Stacey avoids and tries to negotiate not taking a nap

The book teaches:

- Various movements – Eight in all (jumping, hopping, skipping, dancing, twirling, shaking sitting, and crawling)
- Importance and fun of play and importance of rest
- Positive relationship and banter between mother and daughter

The book shows a range of Stacey's feelings:

- Child's joy at being able to play outside, anxiousness that playtime is ending, stubbornness in not wanting to take a nap, avoidance of taking nap, disobedience, pouting, and finally succumbing because she is getting sleepy
- Mother's humor, checking in on daughter, and firmness in getting daughter to bed for a nap

Bonus:

- Doing movements in book are fun for children to do and may just wear them out and make them tired
- African-American cultural reference in child's cornrows and beads

I hope you have found these reading tips useful. I welcome your feedback about them. Please remember, that you don't have to do any of these things. You should read the story in your own way.

By the way, I have written several stories about Stacey and her family. The first book in the series, **Stacey Became a Frog One Day**, was published in October 2020.

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