

Carmen Loves the Bus



Parents,
get the buzz
about
the bus!





Hi! My name is Scooley bee. I help children and parents just like you get the buzz about the big yellow school bus. Look for my school bus facts and safety tips poster at the back of this book, or download my coloring book at www.AmericanSchoolBusCouncil.org



Hi. My name is Carmen Hernandez. I'm six and I'm in first grade. Now that I am a big kid, I get to ride the yellow bus to school. The school bus picks me up at the bus stop on the corner every morning at 8:00. Would you like to ride the bus with me today?

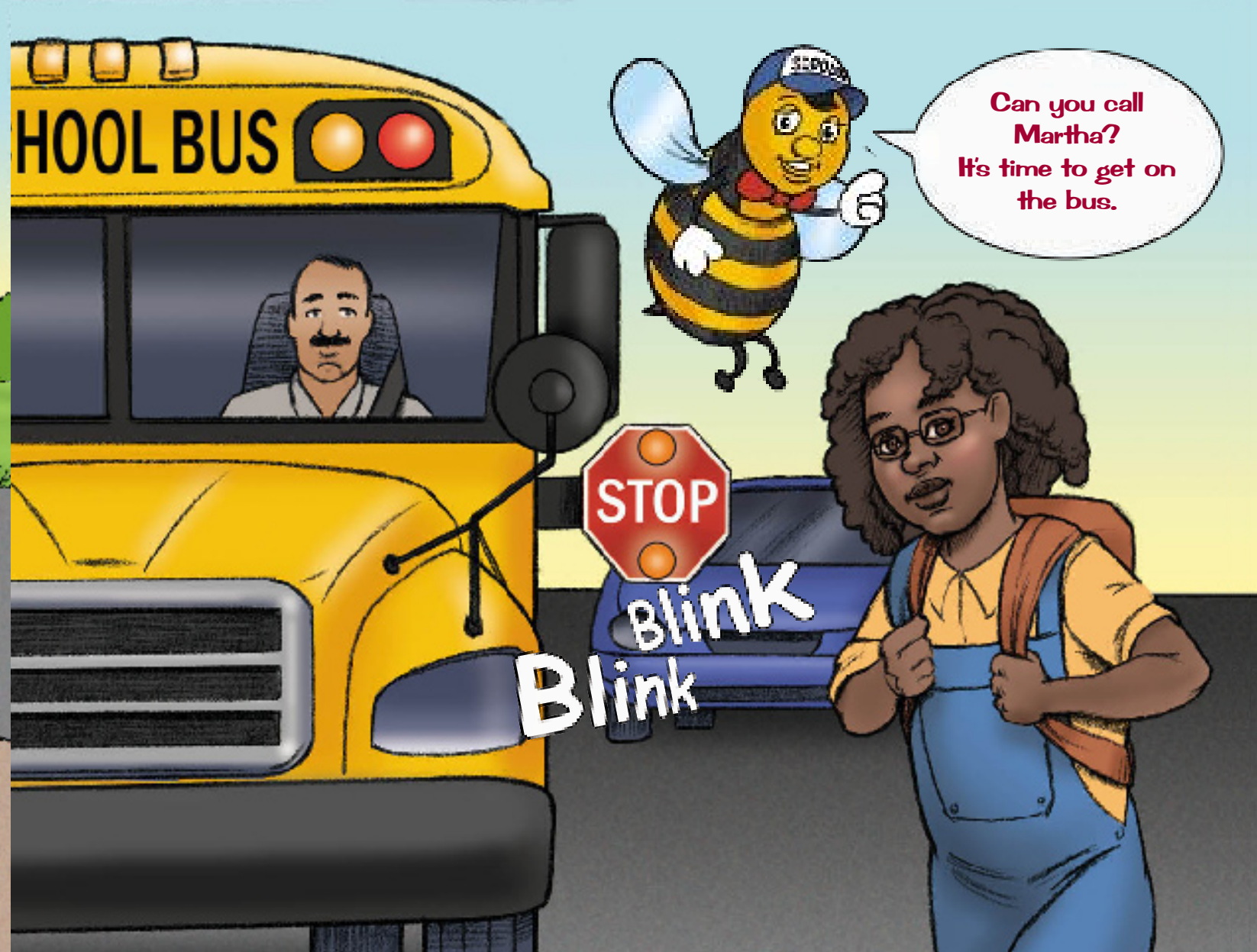


Jimmy and Emily are already waiting at the bus stop. Emily is younger so I help her on the school bus. Jimmy is in seventh grade. Mr. Ashton is our crossing guard and wears a bright orange belt with a badge on it. He helps us cross the street and get on the bus safely.

Here comes the bus now. The bus is easy to spot because it is so big and yellow. I can even see it when it's dark and rainy like today because it has a flashing white light on top. It's also very shiny. Our bus driver, Mr. Willis, gives the bus a bath once a week. He must have a big bathtub.



Mr. Willis stops the bus before reaching us and opens the door to let us on. A big yellow bar sticks out from the bus' front bumper so you have to walk around it. That way Mr. Willis can see us when we walk. When I board the bus, Mr. Willis greets me with a big smile and says "Good morning little lady."



Martha is late today. She hasn't crossed the street to get to our bus stop, but Mr. Willis will wait for her. When Mr. Willis opens the bus door, red and yellow lights flash and a red stop sign swings out. All of the cars have to stop so that Martha can cross the street safely. But she still has to look both ways!



I saved the seat next to me for Martha. We ride the bus together every day. We quietly tell each other stories and have lots of fun. She is my best friend.



Sometimes my older sister, Rosa, wants to drive me to school. She is seventeen and goes to the high school next door. But I would rather ride the school bus with Martha. It's more fun, and Mama says that the school bus is the safest way to get to school.



Mr. Willis makes sure we are safe. Sometimes Emily forgets that we are supposed to stay seated. When she tries to stand up, Mr. Willis will stop the bus and have her sit back down.



One day, a boy named David pushed Jimmy and hurt his arm. Mr. Willis told David pushing and fighting are not allowed on the bus. David had to change seats and sit near Mr. Willis. Mr. Willis says the bus has to be safe for everyone. "No bullies on the bus," Mr. Willis says.



When we get to school, my teacher, Mrs. Lee, is waiting for us. She's nice and her hair is very curly. We all line up, and Mrs. Lee takes us into our classroom.



In the afternoon when school is over, it's time to get on the bus to go home. Mrs. Lee takes us out to the bus to make sure we get on the right one. But it's easy. The bus has a big number on its side that tells you which bus it is. My bus is number 4.



My abuela or grandmother is waiting for me at the bus stop. When Mr. Willis opens the door, he says “Hola Señora Hernandez.” My abuela does not speak English very well, so she is always happy to greet Mr. Willis. “Hola Señor Willis” She takes my hand and we walk back to my house. It’s time for me to have milk and cookies. Will you ride the bus with me again tomorrow?



Hey Parents,
Get the buzz with these safety tips!

- 1 Have your child ride the school bus to and from school instead of driving or riding with teenage passengers.
- 2 Get to know your school’s transportation coordinator and your child’s bus driver. He or she is a trained professional who sees your child every day.
- 3 Attend “back to school” nights and tour your child’s school bus.
- 4 Get to know the parents of other riders. You will learn about the other children who are riding along with your child.
- 5 Team with other parents to get involved and monitor bus stops and bus routes. Voice concerns immediately to your school district.
- 6 Review the safety tips with your child regularly.
- 7 Keep phone numbers handy in case the bus is delayed or in the event of an emergency.

For more school bus tips visit, www.AmericanSchoolBusCouncil.org.

About the American School Bus Council

The American School Bus Council represents a unified voice of the school transportation industry — including public and private transportation providers, school bus manufacturers and state officials responsible for pupil transportation. The Council is committed to providing safe, effective, efficient and healthy transportation for the more than 25 million schoolchildren who ride more than 475,000 school buses each day.

The Council's members include NAPT (National Association for Pupil Transportation), NASDPTS (National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services), NSTA (National School Transportation Association), Blue Bird Corp. of Fort Valley, Ga., IC Corporation of Warrenville, Ill., and Thomas Built Buses of High Point, N.C.

For more information, visit [**www.AmericanSchoolBusCouncil.org**](http://www.AmericanSchoolBusCouncil.org).



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