

## **A Friend of the Indians**

By Joseph Bruchac

A man who was known  
as a friend of the Indians  
spoke to Red Jacket<sup>1</sup> 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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<sup>1</sup> 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."