

## About Jimmy James

Jimmy James when he was three  
Tried to run away to sea,  
Got his feet wet in the foam,  
Had to turn and go back home.



He tried to run away once more  
To join the army when he was four.  
Alas, the General made him pack  
His bubble-gum and go right back.



At five he tried to catch a train  
But gave it up because of rain.  
(At six and seven he tried again  
But got a cinder in his eye  
And had to run back home to cry.)



At eight he kicked up such a fuss  
His parents put him on a bus  
With eighteen cents, a ball of twine,  
And transfers to another line.  
They went home feeling rather fine.



But Jimmy came back home at nine.  
His father groaned, his mother sighed.  
His sister just sat down and cried.  
Still Jimmy wasn't satisfied.



At ten, to everyone's delight,  
He stole out of the house one night  
And, this time, ran away for good,  
Taking the short cut through the wood.



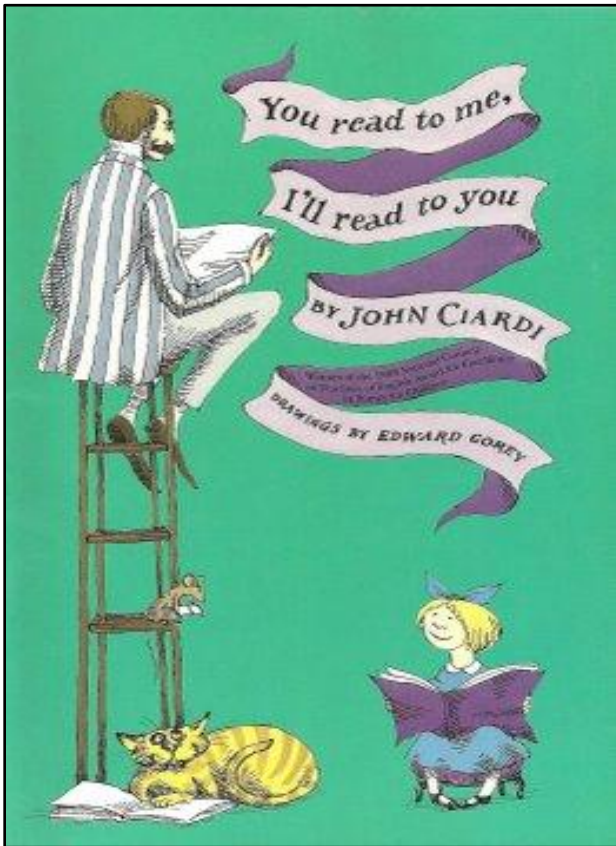
That's what he did. But sad to say  
He met a tiger on the way.  
Though in justice I must add  
The tiger acted rather glad.

What Jimmy felt is not quite clear:

It was a little hard to hear  
Just what he had to say, because  
When talking past a tiger's jaws  
One's best remarks may be cut off  
By a yawn or sneeze or cough.



And the whole conversation stops  
When the tiger licks his chops.



Ciardi, J. (1962) *You read to me, I'll read to you*. Hong Kong: The Curtis Publishing Company