

on the trestle.

As the Narrator talks, we realize that a NEW NOISE has entered our consciousness. it's a DISTANT, LOW RUMBLE. Gordie's. head swivels, as if testing the wind, then he forces himself to bend and make a fist around the rail on his left. It vibrates and THRUMS in his hand. His mouth opens but no sound comes out.

In SUPER SLOW MOTION, Gordie tries to rise. It seems to take him forever, straining and straining upward.

Finally, he breaks into a BARE FRAME.

START HERE

GORDIE
(screams)
Train!!!

The other boys' heads snap around, checking Gordie to see if it's a joke. That question is answered immediately by the engine of a freight that hurtles INTO VIEW around a corner on the Castle Rock side of the trestle.

VERN
Aww, shoot!!!

Chris and Teddy take off. Behind Vern, Gordie breaks into a clumsy, shambling run. Vern increases the speed of his monkey walk. But it's not fast enough. He looks over his shoulder. The train is getting closer to the trestle.

VERN
(continuing)
Awwww, shoot!!!

He straightens up and begins his own shuffling run.

GORDIE
Go, Vern! Go!

Vern is holding his own when his left foot almost slips into the yaw beneath him. He flails his arms, stumbles again, and falls full length on the tracks.

GORDIE
(screams)
Vern!!!

Vern curls himself into a ball and begins to shake in terror.

GORDIE
(continuing)
Come on, Vern!!! Let's go!!!

Vern just looks at him. Gordie checks on the train; it's getting bigger.

GORDIE
(continuing)
Dangit, let's go!!!

He pulls Vern up and pushes him forward.

GORDIE
(continuing)
Dangit, let's go!!!

VERN
I can't!!! I'll fall!!!

Gordie pushes him forward. Instinctively, Vern swings out a foot, it finds a tie, his other follows, it finds a tie, again and again until he's running.

GORDIE
(thumping Vern on the
back)
Run, you wimp. Run!

VERN
Awwwww, shoot!!!

Gordie looks ahead to check on how far he has to go and sees Chris and Teddy step off the ties onto the embankment.

GORDIE
Go faster, Vern!! Faaaster!!

VERN
I can't!!!

Hanging onto their bedrolls, Vern and Gordie run.

Their muscles clench and loosen, clench and loosen.

The SOUND OF THE TRAIN GETS LOUDER.

VERN
Awwwww, shoot!!!

GORDIE
Run faster, you jerk.

Vern almost misses a crosstie, lunges forward, his arms out. Gordie whacks him on the back to keep him going.

GORDIE
Faster!! Faster!!

VERN
I can't!!!

But he does. The SOUND OF THE TRAIN IS VERY LOUD now. The boys look back. It's coming onto the trestle.

VERN
(continuing)
Oh Gawd, Gordie, oh Gawd, Gordie,
oh Gawd, Awwwww, shooooooooot!!!

The freight's ELECTRIC HORN spans the air into a hundred pieces with ONE, LONG, LOUD BLAST - WHHHHHHHONNNNNNK!

GORDIE
Go, Vern!!! Go!!!

The trestle begins to shake under their feet --WHHHHHHHHHONNNNNNK! WHHHHHHHHHONNNNNNK! Gordie looks over his shoulder. He and Vern are about to die.

With a superhuman effort, Gordie grabs Vern and throws both of them off the tracks toward the embankment.

METAL SQUALLING AGAINST METAL, the freight strobes by. Vern and Gordie land in the dust and cinders and bury their faces in the hot earth. The train passes, its SOUND FADES. Gordie rolls over and looks at the sky. He and Vern are still shaking. After a moment, Chris' face appears in their view.

CHRIS
Hey, either you guys in the mood
for a Coke?

STOP HERE

CUT TO:

CLOSE ON A HAND

putting a hamburger ball on the end of a forked stick.

As the stick is extended over a CRACKLING FIRE, we WIDEN TO:

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To see that all four boys are holding hamburger balls on the end of forked sticks out over the fire. Vern's is hanging precariously over the fire.

TEDDY