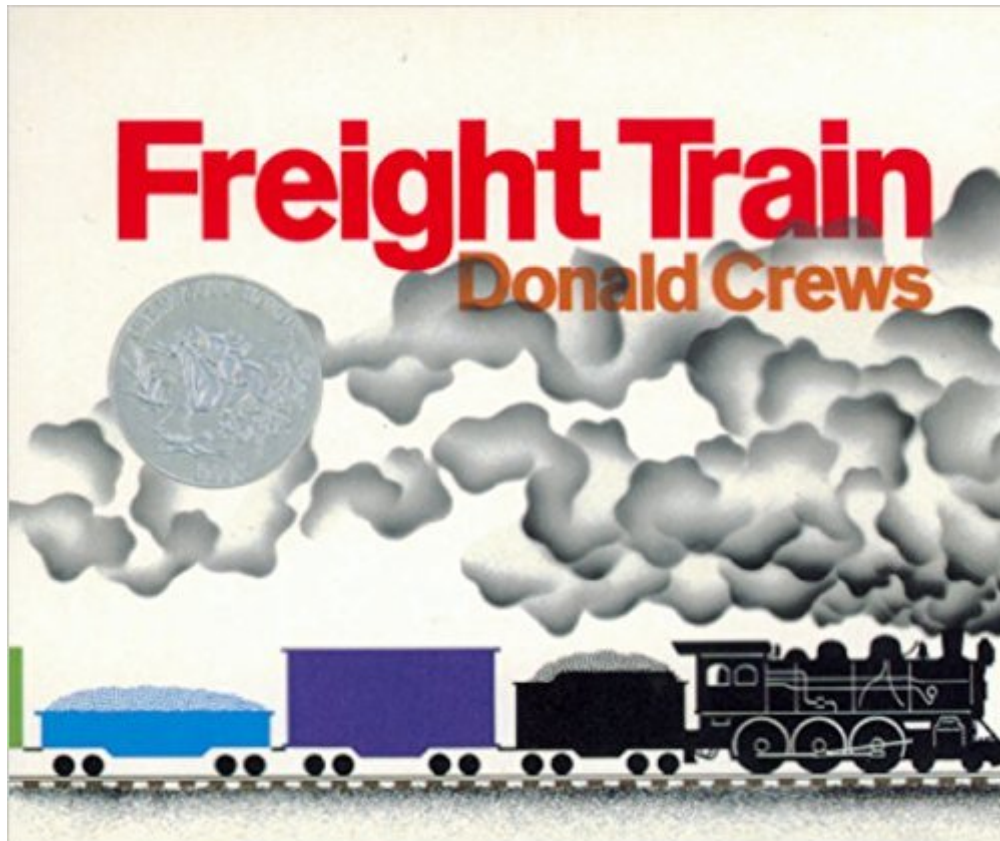


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# Freight Train Board Book (Caldecott Collection)



## Synopsis

Chugga, chugga. Chugga, chugga. Whoo, whooooo!!

## Book Information

Series: Caldecott Collection

Board book: 26 pages

Publisher: Greenwillow Books (September 20, 1996)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0688149006

ISBN-13: 978-0688149000

Product Dimensions: 6 x 5 inches

Shipping Weight: 5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (282 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #4,482 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #10 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Short Story Collections](#) #14 in [Books > Children's Books > Cars, Trains & Things That Go > Trains](#) #154 in [Books > Children's Books > Early Learning > Basic Concepts](#)  
Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

With a few words and the most marvellous illustrations, Freight Train will take your child on a magical journey. Each page features a different part of the freight train in a bright color. Then the whole train moves through the countryside, faster and faster until the colors start to blur from the speed. Several things make this simple book so effective. First, the bright colors are identified to help preschoolers learn them. Next, the different cars on the train are given names, so young engineers will recognize them when they see a real freight train. They are introduced to the engine and tender (in hard-working black), a hopper car, a tanker car, a flat car, and so on all the way to the red caboose in back. Best of all, these are not simplistic little kid pictures. What I think makes this book so appealing is how detailed the train cars are. Every little rivet and brake hose is visible in these pictures despite the bright colors. I think our little engineers recognize that this is a REAL TRAIN BOOK even if the words are large and the sentences brief. I saw my son studying each car so intently, looking at all those little parts. Crews' drawings are absolutely remarkable, and our kids recognize QUALITY. I can honestly tell you to buy this one sight unseen for your young train-lovers (ages 2-5).

My 16-month-old son loves trains, and we have read many train books. Freight Train is his favorite (and has been his favorite book for the last two months). The illustrations are spare and clear, use primary colors, and have enough detail that my son finds some new train hardware to point at each time we read the book. As the train moves, its different-colored cars blur together for a nice visual effect.

This book has short phrases on each page, and the entire story reads like a non-rhyming poem. I believe that the rhythm of the verses, along with the clear bright illustrations, is what drew my son to this book, even at 10 months old. For his 3rd birthday recently, I made train decorations based on the illustrations in Freight Train. He still enjoys the book and now "reads" it to himself. Preschoolers can easily memorize this wonderful book.

Simple text describes 4 different types of freight cars, the caboose, the tender and the steam engine. The six basic colors plus black are used for each car and therefore this is an ideal way to teach colors to the little train-lover. Very fast read and my son pleads me to read it again. I don't mind, as this is not aggravating in any way (as some of the board books are). Sturdy board book construction. Great book!

My son got this book for Christmas, because I was so tired of hauling it back and forth to and from the library. There's something about the structure of the book that just mesmerizes him--I think it might be the transition from knowledge and understanding of colors and the names of the cars, to movement of the train through the countryside. It may be a boy thing--he's never cared for the highly verbal books his sister enjoyed so much, but wants this book over and over and over and over. One bonus is that it's relatively short, and appealing enough that I don't mind how often I've had to read it. I highly recommend this book, particularly for parents of preschool boys.

When this book first arrived, I had a WTF moment of "what is this? how am I supposed to read this to my kid and make it meaningful?" As a result of my lack of imagination, I didn't read it to my son very often, but eventually he started requesting it, and I was forced to reimagine what reading a book out loud means. The illustrations are simple, so we can't spend a lot of time pointing out small details. There are very few words on each page--truly just a handful throughout, so it's not about the text. Instead, I read the book with sound effects--mimicking the sound of the train slowly chugging on the tracks and speeding up. The tunnel, bridge and city portions have a different sound too,

especially the city where the train must blow its horn over and over again to warn city dwellers that the train is passing through, and as the train speeds through the night and to its destination, I modulate my tone and my sound effects become softer and softer until we work up to the "Gone" which I say in a whisper. My son loves the overall effect of the pictures with my sound effects, and he gets very excited about reading the book. I have come to love it as well because I can be imaginative in my delivery and build an overall emotional/tonal experience for my son. This book isn't for everyone, but we like it a lot at our house.

I am very disappointed. I purchased a Good quality book and received what I would consider a poor quality. Many pages are torn at the seam or taped and the book is WATER damaged. I wasn't expecting new I figured some pages would be bent corners scuffed but this book looks like it's at the end of its life.

This is a simple presentation of the different cars on a freight train, with rhythmic text describing each car. It's a better board book than picture book, because for toddlers the bright colors and simple lines are very pleasing, but it might not hold the interest of older readers. This is good for the transition from looking at pictures to understanding stories, especially if the young reader can have exposure to a real train.

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