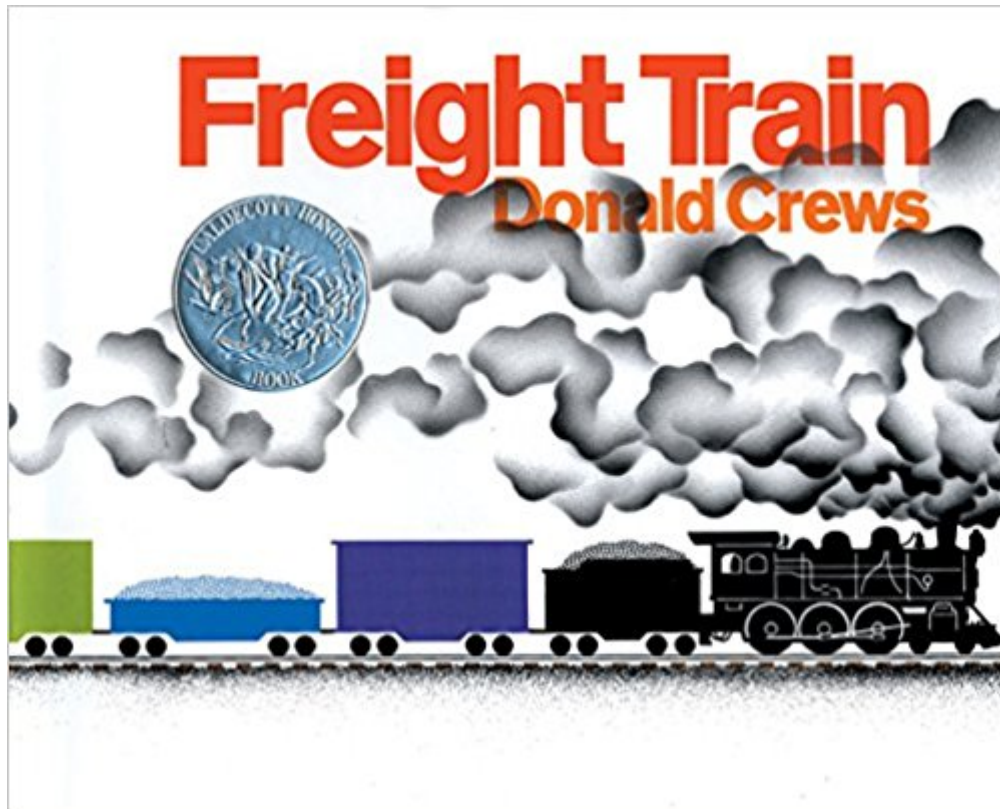




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# Freight Train



## Synopsis

Red caboose at the back, orange tank car, green cattle car, purple box car, black tender and a black steam engine . . . freight train. In simple, powerful words and vibrant illustrations, Donald Crews evokes the rolling wheels of that childhood favorite: a train. This Caldecott Honor Book features bright colors and bold shapes. Even a child not lucky enough to have counted freight cars will feel he or she has watched a freight train passing after reading *Freight Train*. Donald Crews used childhood memories of trains seen during his travels to his grandparents' farm in the American South as the inspiration for this timeless favorite.

## Book Information

Paperback: 24 pages

Publisher: Greenwillow Books; Reissue edition (January 21, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0688117015

ISBN-13: 978-0688117016

Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 8 x 9.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 336 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #130,710 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #133 in [Books > Children's Books > Cars, Trains & Things That Go > Trains](#)

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

Presented in blocks of brilliant colors, the multihued train in this Caldecott Honor book undertakes a dazzling journey before disappearing from the final page. Ages 2-up. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.

REVIEWS - "You don't have to like trains to love this simple and witty book. Trundling down the track goes a typical freight train, made beautiful by its bright colours, from the red guard's van through to the black tender and steam engine. Bold and clear, the colours stand out, until the train gathers speed and they are all whirled together as it hurtles through tunnels, over bridges, through night and day until, as trains do, it disappears. Nothing is said, nothing needs to be said; it's just a very satisfying experience. And a good introduction to colours, too." -- THE GUARDIAN (Best Books

of the Year, best children's books for giving), Julia Eccleshare. "Bold and modern illustrations reflect a simple poetic narrative that will captivate little train lovers. Each rail wagon is a bright colour (green cattle truck, purple fruit van), which start to blur as the engine speeds through tunnels and into the night. Very stylish." -- JUNIOR MAGAZINE. "A richly rewarding first picture book, this is a most welcome reissue."-- Rosemary Stones, BOOKS FOR KEEPS, Best Children's Books of the Year"A simple seeming book which is a wonderful way of introducing colour and colour mixing to children. The brightly coloured trucks steam along and as they gather speed, travelling through tunnels, past cities and over bridges, the colours blend until finally the train disappears. Few words are needed as the pictures speak for themselves. Encourage your child to use his imagination to tell stories based on the book. Simple and amazingly effective." -- PARENTS IN TOUCH"At first sight this seems like a very simple picture book with just the depiction of a steam engine pulling freight trucks carrying petrol, grain, cattle, coal and fruit. It is the striking colours of each carriage that creates a sense of excitement and movement as the train picks up speed and passes through tunnels, past cities, across bridges, into darkness and back into daylight, finally disappearing from view leaving only a thin trail of steam. Originally published in the United States in 1978, it remains a great way of introducing young readers to colours, but especially the way that they merge like a film fast-forwarding. Lacking any narrative, it displays the excitement of a high speed locomotive rushing past our eyes, as we ponder where such a dazzling machine is heading." -- CAROUSEL MAGAZINE"In this brilliantly simple picture book graphics have been inventively used to bring the toddler the excitement of seeing a freight train rush past...A barrier breaker, this."CHILDREN'S BOOKS OF THE YEAR, 1979"Donald Crews', Freight Train, completely embodies the ideal young children's picture book. The book combines simplicity with wonder, boldness with soft edges, and tranquility with excitement. It was due to all of these characteristics and many others that this children's book received the Caldecott Medal in 1979. [...] Donald Crews artwork is both simple and intricate all at the same time, just like his text. The colors are infectious and the range of textures used is very appealing. Some of the illustrations are clean and straight lined, while others show action and movement through blurred and smudged edges. I really think that this makes the reader feel as if they are moving along with the train and seeing what the train is seeing. I like that the different cars represent different colors, which allows the children to connect colors to the matching words. [...] I would highly recommend this book to any preschool teacher, new parent, or anyone else dealing with young children. I think that the book's features are most appropriate for very young readers and will definitely spark an interest in books. The book is available in hardcover, paperback, and more recently, board book format. It would be a great addition to any young child's book

collection!" -- Abby Lester, review on Neely's News, 2011 "The illustrations are wonderful. The colors of the train are clear, but it is the motion of the train that dazzled me." -- GOODREADS. "This has been my youngest son's favorite book for 5 years. The illustrations get you so close-up to a freight train - you can see the rivets! -- and once the train starts rolling, we make chugga-chugga noises as we turn the pages. The illustration of the train in motion is a thing of beauty. This book is so much fun." -- .com --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

My 2.5 year old toddler is nutso for trains right now and is also super into books before bedtime. I was looking for something with simplistic language and sentence structure but interesting enough for him to reread a thousand times. This book fit the bill. It's not a storybook in the traditional sense of the word; it's more of a word identification book. It names many of the kinds of cars attached to a locomotive in rainbow colors and then covers some nice vocabulary about where trains go. My toddler knows what a tender and trestles are thanks to this book. It's a fast read for an adult putting a child down for bed, and short enough for a child to memorize and proudly "read back" to you. Wonderful book, a family favorite.

Board Book Classic - Great for children who love trains and also those children who have other interests. Easy and fun to read and a wonderful way to learn about colors and the different types of train cars.

My two year old son loves trains. Of course this is one of his favorite books. It's been only two weeks since I started reading this book to him, he has already memorized the words. He even reads the name of the author immediately after he reads the title. This book enforces learning color and introduced him to new words he didn't know before. Now he recognizes some train words, and when he reads other train books, he can read those words. Very simple book, but highly recommended.

My son (21 months) has several hundred books. We're a family that loves to read. This is easily his all-time favorite book!!! He has it memorized and constantly exclaims "this book again". The illustrations are vibrant and fun. The story is simple. At first I thought it was too simple, but he absolutely adores it. Yes, I would recommend this book to other moms (and dads, grandparents, etc.)!

This is the first book my son ever read all the way through by himself. He's a HUGE train fanatic (we own pretty much every Thomas train known to man), so this book was right up his alley. The sentences were simple and broken up on each page in a way that wasn't overwhelming for him. Watching him read the phrase "gondola car" was just wonderful! The drawings were very detailed, which excited my son -- he loved being able to point out the couplers and various other train components. He also really loved how the colors blurred to show the train in motion. The book itself is pretty sturdy, too. It gets a lot of use at our house, and it's still in one piece!

I like the book a lot. Colors and shapes draw my sons attention but I think they are a bit too basic. I am a designer and there are a few things I would do differently but overall my son likes the book.

My 3yr old son loves this book. He reads it over and over and over! Not sure if he knows how to read or just memorized the book. Get this book for your child. They'll love it!

This is very very simplistic and the translation in Spanish does not feel as robust for each of the different train cars but my 2 yr old loves it anyway.

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