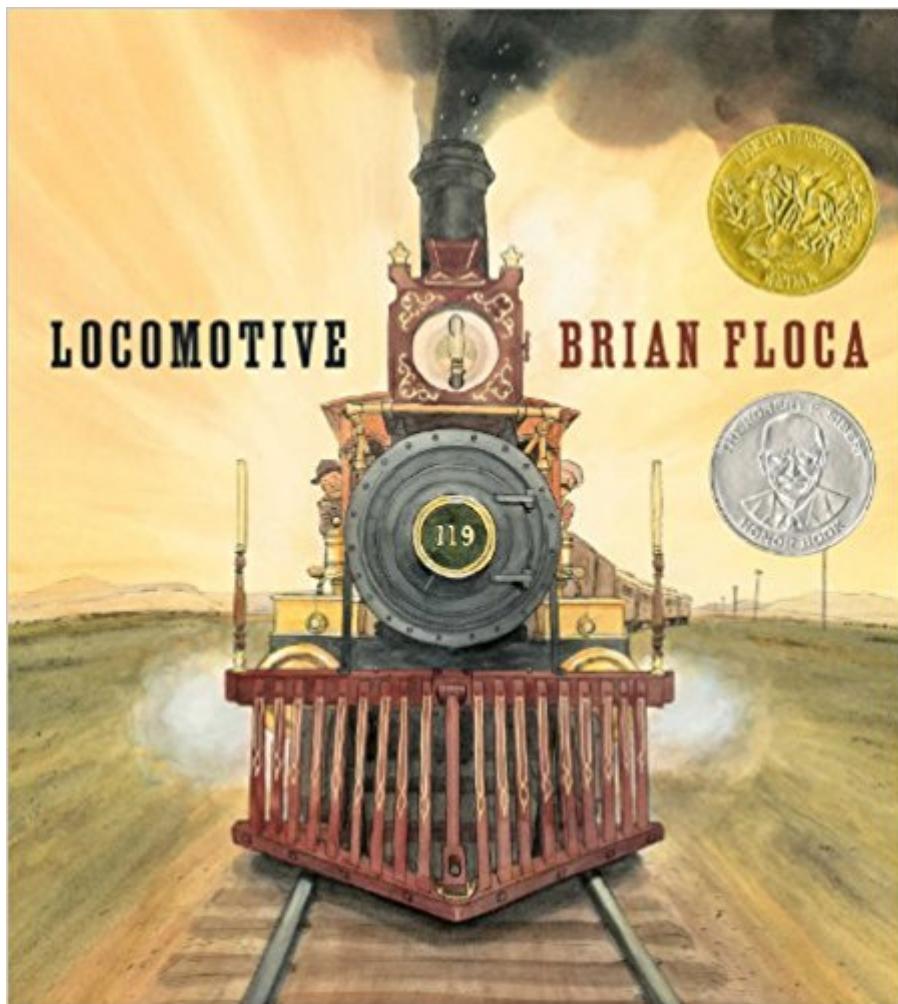


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# Locomotive (Caldecott Medal Book)



## Synopsis

The Caldecott Medal Winner, Sibert Honor Book, and New York Times bestseller Locomotive is a rich and detailed sensory exploration of America's early railroads, from the creator of the "stunning" (Booklist) Moonshot. It is the summer of 1869, and trains, crews, and family are traveling together, riding America's brand-new transcontinental railroad. These pages come alive with the details of the trip and the sounds, speed, and strength of the mighty locomotives; the work that keeps them moving; and the thrill of travel from plains to mountain to ocean. Come hear the hiss of the steam, feel the heat of the engine, watch the landscape race by. Come ride the rails, come cross the young country!

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 840L (What's this?)

Series: Caldecott Medal Book

Hardcover: 64 pages

Publisher: Atheneum/Richard Jackson Books; First Edition edition (September 3, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1416994157

ISBN-13: 978-1416994152

Product Dimensions: 10.5 x 0.6 x 11.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.5 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 381 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #12,271 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #6 in Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works > Heavy Machinery #8 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > 1800s #17 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > United States

Age Range: 4 - 10 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 5

## Customer Reviews

Gr 3-5-It all started with "a new road of rails/made for people to ride" where "covered wagons used to crawl." Almost 150 years ago-just after the Civil War-the completion of the transcontinental railway radically changed both this country's landscape and the opportunities of its people. The book traces the advent of cross-country train travel, focusing on an early trip from Omaha to Sacramento. As in Moonshot (2009) and Lightship (2007, both S & S), Floca proves himself

masterful with words, art, and ideas. The book's large format offers space for a robust story in a hefty package of information. Set in well-paced blank verse, the text begins with a quick sketch of "how this road was built" and moves abruptly to the passengers on the platform and the approaching train. The author smoothly integrates descriptions of the structure and mechanics of the locomotive, tasks of crew members, passing landscapes, and experiences of passengers. Simply sketched people and backgrounds, striking views of the locomotive, and broad scenes of unpopulated terrain are framed in small vignettes or sweep across the page. Though a bit technical in explaining engine parts, the travelogue scheme will read aloud nicely and also offers absorbing details for leisurely personal reading. Substantial introductory and concluding sections serve older readers. There's also a detailed explanation of the author's efforts and sources in exploring his subject. Train buffs and history fans of many ages will find much to savor in this gorgeously rendered and intelligent effort.-Margaret Bush, Simmons College, Boston  
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\*Starred Review\* Floca follows up the acclaimed *Moonshot: The Flight of Apollo 11* (2009) with this ebullient, breathtaking look at a family's 1869 journey from Omaha to Sacramento via the newly completed Transcontinental Railroad. The unnamed family is a launching point for Floca's irrepressible exploration into, well, everything about early rail travel, from crew responsibilities and machinery specifics to the sensory thrills of a bridge rumbling beneath and the wind blasting into your face. The substantial text is delivered in nonrhyming stanzas as enlightening as they are poetic: the "smoke and cinders, / ash and sweat" of the coal engine and the Great Plains stretching out "empty as an ocean." Blasting through these artful compositions are the bellows of the conductor ("FULL STEAM AHEAD") and the scream of the train whistle, so loud that it bleeds off the page: "WHOOOOOOO!" Font styles swap restlessly to best embody each noise (see the blunt, bold "SPIT" versus the ornate, ballooning "HUFF HUFF HUFF"). Just as heart pounding are Floca's bold, detailed watercolors, which swap massive close-ups of barreling locomotives with sweeping bird's-eye views that show how even these metal giants were dwarfed by nature. It's impossible to turn a page without learning something, but it's these multiple wow moments that will knock readers from their chairs. Fantastic opening and closing notes make this the book for young train enthusiasts. Grades K-3. --Daniel Kraus

I saw this book at our library on the "new books" shelf and grabbed it for my 5-year-old train-loving

son. I just finished reading it to him... I didn't time it, but it took over 20 minutes to read, I am sure. maybe a full half hour? the time went by fast for us, though. we both really loved it. and my 3 year old and 8 year old daughters listened to the majority of it as well. What can I say that hasn't been said in the previous thorough review... I don't have much to add, since I agree with everything in that review. The pictures were amazing. Very simple, yet at the same time, detailed. I can't explain it! Just right to hold the attention of my three kids through all of the text. And the text itself was also captivating. There was a rhythm to it, but it wasn't at all sing song-y. I don't particularly care for the sing song-y rhyming books. I loved the cadence of this book... it was just the right rhythm to correspond to the rolling rumbling train. The imagery was so wonderful and you really felt like you were there on the long trip. The fact that this book held the attention of my kids despite its length says it all. I do plan to purchase this book... but I wanted to throw my review in the pot immediately! so glad I stumbled on this book!!

I bought this book for my grandson who loves trains. While I didn't read it, my husband, a retired railroader, did and pronounced the book a beautiful book. He and our grandson share their love of trains. The pictures are lovely and the text is well written according to my husband.

This is a wonderful picture book for kids who think they are too old for picture books. It is about the height of mid-nineteenth century technology, the steam locomotive. Two kids and their mother taking the train from Omaha, Nebraska to San Francisco. As they travel, we see what they are seeing out the train windows, we learn about the building of the railroads and the functions of each part of the train. We learn about the jobs of the conductor, the engineer and the fireman and how they keep everything running smoothly. Every part of this book, even the endpapers will have kids pouring over the details. It is part narrative, part geography and part technology. A worthy successor to the author's previous work, "Moonshot".

I can see why Locomotive won the Caldecott. This is such a beautiful book and packed full of information too. I learned a lot reading this book with my 7-year-old. More than just facts, this book really gives you a feeling for what is what like in 1869 to either work on the railroad or to be a passenger. I think this book could easily be enjoyed by a middle grader studying American history. We visited a large train museum on vacation last summer and I wish we had read this book first. Instead, we did enjoy reminiscing about things we saw on that trip that tied into this story. Anyway, fun, beautiful, informative book to be enjoyed by a large range of ages.

I bought this book for my two year old. He loves the pictures. As he gets older we will be able to read the story to him. Great book.

Purchased for reading with my 4 year-old grandson whose dad runs freight trains. Was concerned it wouldn't hold his attention because there were many words to read and the images are past era. However, my grandson was enthralled with it. He learned some things that prompted conversation with his dad about the trains he engineers for work.

My son is 2 years and 4 months. I am not sure who likes it more, he or I. He absolutely loves this book. Yes, some information is beyond his age but he retains and learns it anyway. He usually recited information when we go to train museums. Can't say enough good things about this book. Good from ages 2 to 37 (my age).

This book exudes quality. Myself being a great lover of train I got it for my 2.5 years old son. Though my son likes stories, he listened to this book with a special admiration. I was able to explain him about how the engine eats water and coal and gives out steam and smoke, about tracks and stations etc. I used a model train to add to the effect. To describe the book itself. It is of a huge size so it will be difficult for placement along with other books. The illustrations bring out that period setting quite well. The papers are thick and non-glossy. Its money worth spent. I am planning to get other books by the same author namely Moonshot and Lighship

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