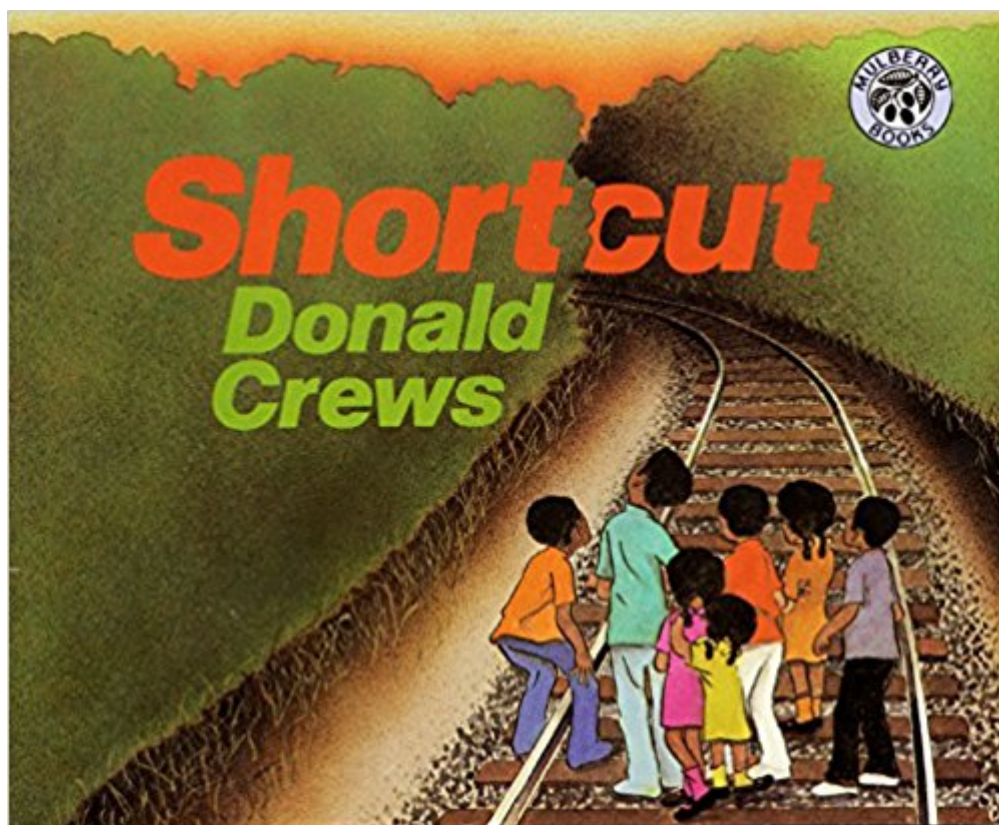


The book was found

Shortcut



Synopsis

The train tracks ran right by Bigmama's house in Cottondale, and the children were warned to stay off the tracks. But one night they were late, and the tracks were a shortcut, so they started off. And when there was no turning back, they heard the train coming.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 210L (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Greenwillow Books; 1st Mulberry Ed edition (September 20, 1996)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0688135765

ISBN-13: 978-0688135768

Product Dimensions: 9.9 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 42 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #9,335 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #28 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > African-American](#) #68 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Siblings](#) #461 in [Books > Children's Books > Action & Adventure](#)

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

A group of children get the thrill of a lifetime when they decide to cut short their walk home in Crews's new picture book. Though they know the freight train might round the bend momentarily, the kids opt for playing along the tracks instead of walking on their familiar route. Charged with excitement, the escapade turns to fullblown alarm when the train whistle sounds, sending the youngsters scrambling to safety at the last minute. Crews's economical text deftly explores a roller coaster ride of emotion in just a few paragraphs, highlighted with effective onomatopoeia-Whoo wh(,o; klackity, klackity, klack. The underlying childlike sensibilities here-taking a risk to the limit, for example-authenticate the author's voice throughout. The story, an extension of the characters first introduced in Crews's nostalgic Bigmama's, is a perfect foil for the artist's masterful renderings of trains. A predominantly warm, earthy palette sets a serene and playful mood at the outset, followed by several dark, wordless spreads that show freight cars rushing past, ready to speed right off the

page. Scenes portraying the frightened children are equally effective in this out of the ordinary drama set forth with uncommon artistry. Ages 4-up. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"An out of the ordinary drama set forth with uncommon artistry."--"Publishers Weekly (starred review)"Beautifully crafted from cover to cover."--"Booklist (starred review)

A perennial winner! Donald Crews is so talented. My grandchildren noticed that the same train from "Freight Train" appears again here. An amazing story, breathless illustrations and fabulous lesson!

My grandson's school suggests that the student purchase a book for the school library on their birthday. This was on the recommended list. We read it before he took it to school and thoroughly enjoyed it together.

Cautionary tale about NOT taking shortcuts! Not in your face about it either! I love Donald Crews books! Your kiddos will enjoy the story, but not for very little ones (it may be a bit too scary.).

All of my children have loved this book, so much so I've had to buy several replacement copies. Some people criticize it for teaching a bad lesson (glorifying doing something dangerous and keeping secrets from adults), but what it does is perfectly capture a child's perspective of doing something wrong (and dangerous) and learning a lesson independent of adult input. In case you are wondering (spoiler alert), the kids take a short cut on train tracks and almost get hit by a train. Crews is at his best in this one with succinct sentences that are wonderful to read out loud, lots of action, and beautiful illustrations.

Arrived as described. Pleased with my purchase.

great purchase my students love it!

It's not my favorite book to read aloud but the kids like it. I do like that it "shows" rather than "lectures" about the dangers of train tracks. It illustrates how suddenly a train comes and how little time there is to get out of the way.

Great book

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