

# Two Little Trains

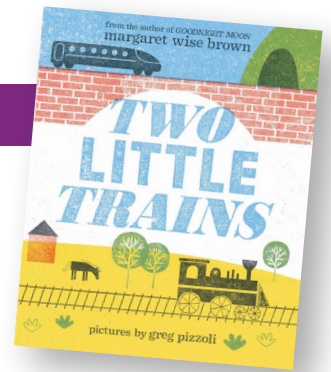
## A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

**Themes:** Imagination, Journey, Trains, Transportation

**Book Brief:** Join in the journey of two trains, one traveling across the country, and one moving across the house. Their trips may look different, but with poetic descriptions and a little imagination, they have many things in common.

**Author:**  
Margaret Wise Brown

**Illustrator:**  
Leo and Diane Dillon



## TIME TO READ!



### BEFORE WE READ LET'S LOOK AT...

**The Cover:** Read the title of the book and look at the cover. Ask, "How many trains do you see on the cover of this book?" If they don't notice on their own, point out the toy train on the box. Have students share ideas of what will happen in the story.

**Picture Walk:** Flip through some pages and have students share what they see happening in the book. Ask, "Do you already notice anything about the two

trains in this book?"

**Vocabulary:** Review these transportation words using the Picture Vocabulary Cards: train, car, airplane. Also introduce the word "journey."

**Purpose for Reading:** "In this book we'll get to read about two trains and think about what's the same and what's different in their journeys. Let's see where these two trains are going."

## WHILE WE READ

### COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (LEVELS 1-4)

Throughout the story, pause and ask...

- **Level 1:** "Where is the train on this page? Point to it." Have students point to other things that are mentioned in the text.
- **Level 2:** "Where is the train on this page? What is happening here?"
- **Level 3:** "How are the trains' journeys the same on this page? How are they different?"
- **Level 4:** "What do you think is going to happen next? At the end of the story- What will happen now that they reached the West? What makes you think that?"

## LET'S THINK ABOUT

**Our Purpose:** Say, "This book helped us think about two different ways to travel. One is a real trip that we might take on a train, an airplane, or in a car. The other is a trip we can take using our imagination!"

**Extending Thinking:** Ask, "Have you ever taken a trip on a train before? What was like? If you've never been on a train before, what do you think it would be like?"

### BOOK ACTIVITY:

#### All Aboard!

Materials: Shared Writing Materials (chart paper and markers, board and markers or chalk, etc.), postcard template.

After reading, display the question: "Where would you go on a train?" Have each child share their answer to the question and add it below the question with each child's name. Display somewhere

in the room for students to revisit, find their name, and see their response. In a small group, students can be given the postcard template along with writing and drawing materials. Encourage your students to create their own postcards for the place they wanted to travel. Ask, "Who would they send a postcard to if they were on a trip? What would their postcard say?" Have them share and dictate their responses on their postcard.