

RUSTY'S TRAIN RIDE

Rusty has an unexpected adventure on the train. The colorful pictures in this book make you feel like you're going along for the ride.

Author: Heather Amery Ages: 2 years and up

Illustrator: Stephen Cartwright

Pages: 16

Themes: Object identification; introduction to maps

You don't have to live on a farm to have a good time with this family from the Apple Tree Farm. Talk about who the members of this family are....Mrs. Boot (the farmer), a brother and sister, Poppy and Sam and their dog, Rusty. Talk about who is in your family. Your kids are interested in hearing about when you were small, too. If you have brothers or sisters, talk about what you did when you were kids. Great conversation!

Have you ever been on a train before? You can make one out of a half-gallon or quart milk carton. On the map in the front and back of the book, you can talk about how the train tracks look different than the roads that cars drive on. Find where the Apple Tree Farm is and then trace with your finger where the car would drive to get to the train station.

You can read this book several ways. The first time you read the book, read the top part of the book only. The second time through you can include the bottom part of the story. The third time through you can just talk about what's going on and what's going to happen. That's called anticipation!

(Don't forget to look for the little yellow duck that's on each page.)