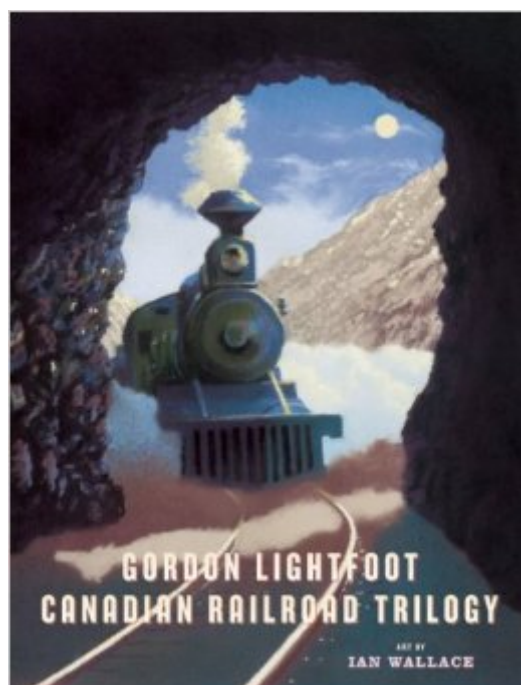


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# Canadian Railroad Trilogy



## Synopsis

This lavishly illustrated book brings Gordon Lightfoot's heart-stirring song to readers young and old. Commissioned by the CBC in 1967 to mark Canada's centennial year it eloquently describes the construction of the transcontinental railway; an iron road running from the sea to the sea; a great feat of nation building that changed Canada forever. Award-winning illustrator Ian Wallace brings the song to visual life with his sweeping landscapes and evocative portrayals of the people who lived the building of the railroad. The book includes Gordon Lightfoot's music and lyrics, a brief history of the railroad and notes on the illustrations.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 56 pages

Publisher: Groundwood Books; First Edition edition (December 1, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0888999534

ISBN-13: 978-0888999535

Product Dimensions: 9.7 x 0.6 x 12.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars See all reviews (7 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,251,457 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #93 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Canada #638 in Books > Children's Books > Cars, Trains & Things That Go > Trains #3648 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry

Age Range: 4 and up

Grade Level: Preschool and up

## Customer Reviews

I bought this for my 18 year old daughter as a Christmas Gift this year and she is quite a fantastic mature girl with an intense like for Gordon Lightfoot as she got hooked from a young age. She is a Animal Sciences major at Cornell University and a fantastic writer. She did a wonderful paper on Wreck Of the Edmund Fitzgerald and got an A- on it. Why do I say all of this????...Because I want you all to know she is one sharp kid. My.... when she opened this book (as I never opened it from its plastic seal when i purchased it) she was overwhelmed by the Chalk Pastel Artwork by Ian Wallace!!!! This book is full of historical facts and in the back he has minature pics of each of the larger works with explanations of each. Stunning ....Classy.....best gift I could have ever given

her!!!!!!!!!!!!Worth 3X's the asking price. I am going to buy 2 more for my Canadian friends!!!!

"Canadian Railroad Trilogy," a song by acclaimed singer-songwriter Gordon Lightfoot, describes the construction of Canada's transcontinental railroad back in the late 1800s. The song was commissioned by the Canadian Broadcasting Commission for a special broadcast in 1967 commemorating Canada's centennial anniversary. This book uses the lyrics to inspire an artistic display, created with handmade chalk pastels and gray pastel paper, of the motivation behind the railroad, the hard manual labor of the "navvies" who built the track, and the displacement of the Métis and First Nations people from their land. Unusual in a picture book, the illustrator, Ian Wallace, takes the opportunity to provide the reader with insights into the historical background, symbolism, and vision of each illustration. These notes, together with a brief history of the Canadian Pacific Railway at the end of the book, can help teachers and parents use the verses and artwork to generate an interesting discussion with young learners about how railroad construction has contributed to economic development through the movement of people, goods, and even information across long distances. Equally important is the book's lesson about the high costs not only in financial terms, but also in terms of environmental disruptions, discriminatory treatment of the Chinese workers, and the loss of land for Canada's first people.

Canadian Railroad Trilogy is a 12 x 9 hardcover children's book that is illustrated by Ian Wallace. The book and art in it is inspired by Gordon Lightfoot's song with the same name as the book title. The song itself was commissioned in 1967 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Canada. The song describes how the Canadian Pacific Railroad was built. Each page is fully and lavishly illustrated with images that bring the song to life. The book does not censor the song, as it talks about drinking whiskey and pays mention to those who passed away building this railroad. At the end of the book is the song's sheet music and a small thumbnail of each image with a description of the significance of each image written by Mr. Wallace. As someone who loves trains and utilizes them everyday in my job, I found this book a joy to read and it is one I will share with my son in a few years when he gets just a little bit older!

Bought this to read to my 3 year old daughter, and she loves it. The pictures and imagery are incredible, but also entertaining enough to keep a toddler hooked. It's a relatively short book to read, with only a couple of sentences on each page.

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