

# Two Little Trains

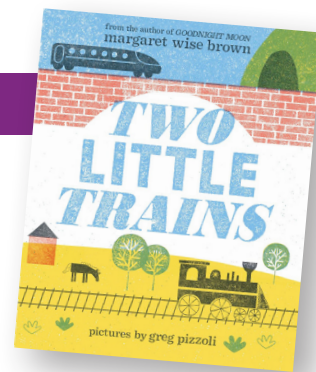
## A RIF GUIDE FOR FAMILIES

**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:** Read the title of the story and look at the cover. Ask your child to share what they know about trains. If your family uses a second language at home, what word do you use for “train”?

**During:** As you read, have your child share what they see in the picture on the left and the picture on the right. Ask, “Is there anything in the pictures that looks the same? What do you think will happen next?”

**After, ask questions:**

- What were the two trains in the story?
- Where were all the places they went?
- Do you think their journeys were the same or different? Why?

## CONVERSATION STARTERS

Even children that are just learning how to read or not yet reading have opinions about stories and think about texts in a critical way. This is part of **thinking about the text**, when readers notice elements about the writing, the pictures, or the content of the story to help them analyze what they are reading. In *Two Little Trains*, there are many opportunities to think about the two trains in the story and notice how they are the same and how they are different. During a first or second read, you might notice similarities and differences in the pictures. As you reread multiple times, you can talk about how the text on each page relates to both the real train and the toy train. To help strengthen your child’s memory, ask if they remember what happens next. Helping your child think about and analyze books will set them up for success as a strong reader and critical thinker.

## RELATED ACTIVITIES

### TRAIN TRAVEL

Materials: Toy train (if available), various items around the house.

One of the trains in the story takes a journey around someone’s home. Can you create a train journey around your home? Use toy trains you have at your house, pretend to be a train, or create your own train with recycled materials. Can you create obstacles or scenery like the ones in the book? Determine which direction is west and have your train travel west like the ones in the story! Where will it end up?



## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



### OTHER BOOKS BY MARGARET WISE BROWN

- [Goodnight Moon \(1947\)](#)
- [The Runaway Bunny \(1942\)](#)
- [Big Red Barn \(1956\)](#)