

## The Shop Train

By Josie Wowolla Boyle & Illustrated by Paul Seden

Publisher: Magabala Books

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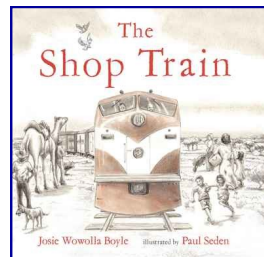
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Picture Book of  
the Month

Every week, Rosie and her mother drive down the bumpy dirt road and across the rocky riverbed to visit the 'Shop Train'. The Shop Train was inspired by the Tea and Sugar train that began operating in 1917 to provide supplies and services for railworkers and people living in remote communities between Port Augusta in South Australia and Kalgoorlie in Western Australia.

*The Shop Train* is a heartwarming story about Rosie and her mum, and the rickety journey in their old car to pick up stores from the shop train. The train carried everything they needed, and was an exciting time for all who lived near its tracks. Rosie and her mum slowly wind their way through Wonghi country, on its dusty tracks and never-ending horizon, until they reach the train, brimming with activity and treasures from other places.

Paul Seden's evocative illustrations effortlessly capture a bygone era, rendering the past with a deep sense of nostalgia, whilst capturing its uncluttered beauty. *The Shop Train* was inspired by similar journeys author Josie Wowolla Boyle took as a young girl. It was these journeys that left unforgettable memories on Josie, no matter how young or old she may have been.



Teacher Notes have been based on those supplied by the publisher. A full version is available on our website.

### Themes:

- Family
- History (Past and Present)

### Discussion Questions:

#### *Cultural Notes:*

- *The Shop Train* was inspired by the Tea and Sugar train that provided supplies and services to workers and people living in remote communities between Port Augusta in South Australia and Kalgoorlie in Western Australia. Use the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies' (AIATSIS) Map of Indigenous Australia to mark where the Shop train railway line ran to extend young children's geographical knowledge of Australia's First Nations' countries. <https://aiatsis.gov.au/explore/map-indigenous-australia>

#### *Classroom Ideas:*

- Re-read the story and highlight all the descriptive language used.
- Use *The Shop Train* as a model text to explicitly teach adjectives and adverbs.
- Discuss with children why the author used the rich variety of adjectives and adverbs.
- Create a small world that depicts the book. Have the book displayed to guide children's play with *The Shop Train* provocation. Set-up a Shop Train imaginative play area with props that depict The Shop Train. Provide a range of dress ups such as train driver uniform or shop attendant's clothes as well as writing artefacts like clipboards and pencils for children to pretend they are visiting the shop train. Encourage children to make lists and model being a customer or service provider.
- Discuss what the illustrations tell us about the time in which this story is set (sepia tones, ect). Display the illustrations alongside other objects from the past and present to stimulate 'Where', 'What', 'When', 'How' and 'Why?' questions. This can be set up as an exploration table/area to encourage children's inquiry skills.
- Compare images of the train in the book with images of the modern-day shops in your own community. Discuss the differences, continuity, and change.
- Ask questions before, during and after reading the book about people and places and about their past and present.
- Use the book as one resource to teach students how changing technology impacted on people's lives (at home and in the ways they worked, travelled, communicated and played in the past).