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Foreword Review PICTURE BOOKS

The Rain Train

Elena de Roo
Brian Lovelock, Illustrator
Candlewick Press (March 2011)
Hardcover $15.99 (32pp)
978-0-7636-5313-2

A talented New Zealand duo teamed up to produce this disarmingly simple ode to nighttime acoustics. Two children lay awake in a sleeper car while they “Whistle past rivers / Whoosh through the tunnels / Roar down the plains / And all of the time / Always the same / the wail of the wind, the sway of the train / the strum of the wheels to the beat of the rain.” Full bleed illustrations across each spread are colored in soothing tones of blues, greens, and violets with an overlay of diagonal hatched lines representing the ubiquitous rain. One can almost feel oneself sway to the evocative rhyming verses in this gentle book. Ages four to eight.

(May / June 2011)

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