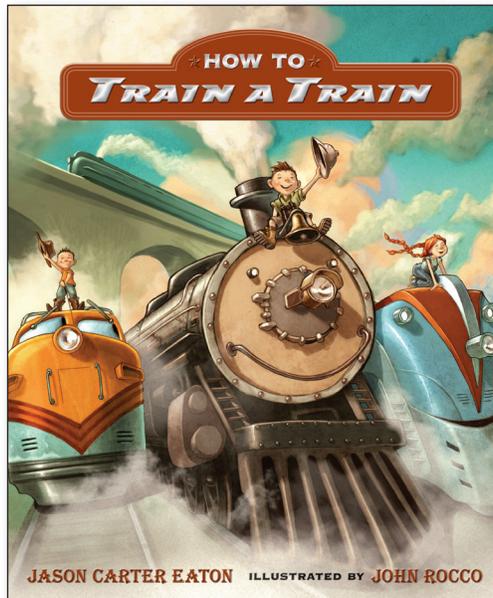# CHIRP

STORY-HOUR KIT

A Shortcut to Your Story Hour

Presenting our latest CHIRP Story-Hour Kit
containing entertaining activities to be used
in conjunction with *How to Train a Train*.

Have fun!

How to Train a Train
by Jason Carter Eaton
illustrated by John Rocco
978-0-7636-6307-0
Ages 4–8

How to Train a Train

Name That Train

For every child who loves trains, this beautifully illustrated book is filled with the perfect advice for catching, caring for, and even naming a pet train. After reading the story with the children, discuss the different types of trains depicted as well as where they are found and what they look like. Review the page that showcases the various train names, and discuss the trains' shapes and styles. Ask the children which train they would pick for a pet. Invite them to use the accompanying reproducible to draw a picture of their own pet train. Ask them to name their train and consider where they would like to go with it. To school? The playground? The beach? Make sure there is time for each child to share his or her picture.
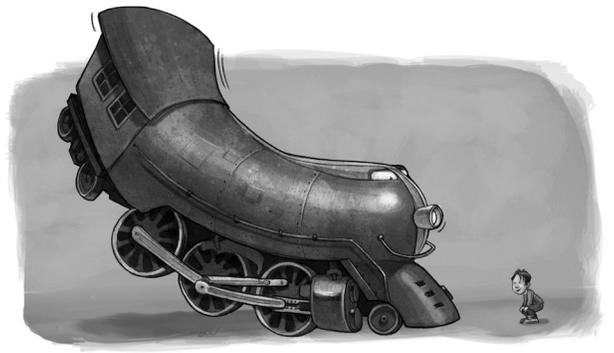
My Unusual Pet

Many children have a cat, a dog, a guinea pig, or even a goldfish as a pet. This imaginative tale about catching and caring for a pet train gives readers a lot to think about. Ask children to imagine what object they would choose for a pet (such as a car, a soccer ball, or a pencil). Have them think about what characteristics of the object appeal to them. Is the object silly, playful, serious, or helpful? Discuss the way the book describes snaring a train by reviewing the actions involved. Then, using the attached reproducible, have children write or illustrate the steps that would be involved in capturing their pet. Young children may need to dictate the steps to an adult.

Name That Train

Here is a picture of my pet train.

Its name is _____

_____

My pet train and I would go to _____

_____

_____

My Unusual Pet

I would like a pet _____.

This is how I would catch it:

1.

2.

3.