



© Adrian Reynolds

“Repetition, rhymes and the energy of the whole thing make this ideal for reading aloud” The Bookseller



BIG BLUE TRAIN



SCHOLASTIC

Using this book in your classroom

Quick summary

All aboard Chuffa Luffa the big blue train as Bella and Ben speed off, picking up a variety of different creatures as they go along. They're all on their way to a special birthday party! A cat, a polar bear, a leopard, two chimpanzees, a hen and her chicks ... then a spotty cow jumps in too! Is this the last straw? There are so many animals inside the train that they almost get stuck! Just in time, a camel gives them a push and off they zoom, all the way to Puppy Dog's birthday party by the sea. Everyone has fun until it's time for Chuffa Luffa to take them all home again – just in time for bed!

Story themes

This fun rhyming story has a focus on **sharing, working together** and **celebrating birthdays**.

The story session

1. Introducing the story

- Start by showing the cover to the children. Ask:
"What are these children and animals riding in?"
"What do you think this story is going to be about?"

2. Reading the story

- Read the whole story to the children. Read it as rhythmically as you can, and stress the rhyme. Pause briefly so that children can guess each animal before it is revealed. After Spotty Cow gets on, ask the children what they think might happen next. Ask: "Will there be a problem now that there are so many animals in the train?"

3. Follow-up

- Read the story through once more, and invite children to clap along with you to the rhythm on some of the pages.
- Role-play the story with the children. Choose two children to be Bella and Ben, and ask some others to be different animals. The 'animals' should take it in turns to jump on the train as Bella and Ben chug past.
- Children could draw a picture of Puppy Dog's party, or write an invitation for Bella and Ben to come to the party.

Did You Know?

- *Big Blue Train* is the sequel to Julia Jarman and Adrian Reynolds' very successful *Big Red Bath*.
- Julia Jarman used to be a teacher, and has written over seventy books for children of all ages, from toddlers to teenagers.



Photograph © Joanna Wilson



Price	£5.99/€8.70
Case	Welcome to Reading Age 2+
Author	Julia Jarman
Illustrator	Adrian Reynolds
Publisher	Orchard Books

