



Down by the Barn

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Down by the barn, early in the morning, a farmer drives his tractor, stopping along the way to pick up a calf, then a chick, then a pig. The group of animals grows and grows until at last they reach their destination?and find a surprise. Charming illustrations and rhythmic text filled with sound words make this the perfect read-aloud for young children.

Down by the Barn Details

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Author : Will Hillenbrand

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Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Animals, Storytime

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From Reader Review Down by the Barn for online ebook

Nick says

This nicely-illustrated picture book will entertain the kids, but I wish that Hillenbrand had put a bit more work into the rhymes, which are just clumsy enough that they may bother the parents who will have to read them aloud, as their kids request the book again and again.

Sort of a sequel to "Down by the Station," where he turned an old children's song into a story about zoo animals, here the story takes place on a farm.

The only down side is that the entire story consists of adding baby animals to the wagons, and only at the end does the reader learn why.

Still, it is simple enough to read to young children, and cute enough that they will enjoy it.

Bea Charmed says

Cute Old McDonald type update on Down By the Station

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The artwork is cute with nice color range and details, has a watercolor feel to it. The story follows Hillenbrand's Down By the Station story but uses farm animals instead of a zoo. It's funny and cute.

Elle Markov says

This children's book was an absolute delight.

The little ones learn about what kind of animals you can find in a farm and the brightly colored illustrations keep them engaged.

Rating 5 out of 5

Read@Book

Mother Melania says

Fun and witty riff on a classic children's song

A fun and witty riff on "Down at the Station.". The illustrations are well done and humorous in their own right.

Karla Winick-Ford says

This is an adorable story- you will absolutely LOVE if you like down by the bay (song)- which.... my students adored last year.

It has rhyme, repetition and cute illustrations
Doesnt sing like the song... but..
not bad

Anthony says

The tractor driver pulling the empty wagons, at each stop loads baby animals for a final destination. But to where? Last stop - FUN!

Marie Sorensen says

As I completed the first reading of this book, I was aware that I was smiling broadly and had been for quite some time, and that the glow remained for quite a while. So much eye candy - the illustrations are full of character development, story line, and gentle, good humor. It is a sound filled, color filled delight, and I am EAGER to share it with my grandchildren!!! I am grateful to have received it as a First Reads winner. I anticipate it will go on to receive many accolades and awards. In our extended family I imagine there will be many participative readings of the book accompanied by acclamations of "Again, Again!" Bravo, Will Hillenbrand!

Barbara says

This book can be sung to the tune of Down by the Station, Early in the Morning. A farmer and his scarecrow travel through the farm on the tractor picking up baby animals as they go along. This is a cumulative song that adds the sounds of the animals one by one. Children and their readers will have a ball trying to remember all the sounds. There is a surprise ending that will delight. For ages 3-7.

Lingsze Wong says

Fun story to sing.
Enjoyed reading to toddlers.
The fox scene was very random to me.

Kelsey says

Age: Infant-Preschool

A perfectly metered song book that depicts several baby animals climbing aboard a wagon train as their parents say goodbye. We finally find out where these babies are going when they reach their destination just as a school bus is unloading a class to play with them. A simple, yet much appreciated, all-inclusive class including a girl in a wheelchair and a boy with a high top haircut.

Mary says

An adorable adaptation of the classic children's song "Down by the Station." The rustic style and colors are perfectly suited for this setting. The final pages show a field trip arriving to visit the farm. The class is a lovely, diverse group, with an African American teacher and a classmate in a wheelchair. A fun read and sing-aloud for story times and kindergarten classes.

Sandy says

It's the repetition and the pictures that attracted me to this book. The pictures are kid-friendly with brilliant, sharp illustrations of a dog on his tractor pulling a few trailers with a happy-go-lucky scarecrow sitting on the last one. "Puff, Puff, click, clank, off we go!" as they head off down the hill. Pulling on his lever, he passes many of their farm yard animal friends. Each of the animals gets onto one of his trailers and their individual animal sound is then added to the famous line "puff, puff, click, clank, off we go!" Each time they see an animal, the refrain is repeated and the famous line is also repeated, substituting the new animals name and adding each animals sound until you have a chant with all the farm yard animals sounds. The trailer finally makes it to its destination and its smiles all around. I think this would make an excellent book for younger readers as they would love the repetitive refrain with the animal sounds and the pictures are lively and entertaining.

Jeff Harris says

This book's use of repetition and sound words would make it a GREAT book to use with young readers who want to chime in and read along, which would make it especially suitable for kindergarteners and first graders. These young students could also guess which animals might be found next, infer what the fox is up to as he skulks around in the corners and backgrounds of each page, and they would learn the names of baby animals that they might not know.

Vickie Schafer says

Print and pictures are too small.

Story was good but the book shows up so small that this granny can hardly read it and the pictures are too small

Katie says

Story about baby farm animals being picked up for school. Simple repetitive text and only 1/2 sentences per page.

I wish I could recommend it for storytimes but no.

Odd animals sounds and key elements of the picture, e.g., the chick are too small to see.

Also no set up of a story - no explanation, or idea of where it is going.
