



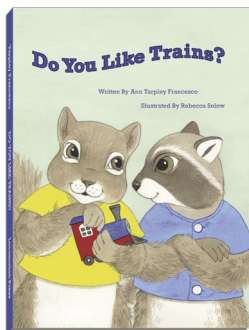
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Do You Like Trains? is reading, rhyming, and learning fun for pre-schoolers through third grade reading level

Author Ann Tarpley Francesco encourages learning and finger puppet entertainment in latest children's book inspired by her childhood love of Dr. Seuss!



Concord, NC - Author Ann Tarpley Francesco will be releasing her second children's book featuring trains entitled *Do You Like Trains?*. The book's story was written nearly 18 years ago, inspired by Francesco's childhood love of Dr. Seuss and an assignment by her son, Matthew's first grade teacher. Illustrator Rebecca Solow has also returned to bring her creative genius to the characters in the book, a train-loving squirrel and a skeptical raccoon who needs a bit of convincing about why trains are so amazing.

Do You Like Trains? was originally written in 2001 when her son, Matthew's first grade teacher sent home a weekly parent-student assignment that progressed throughout the school year. Because Francesco's son loved trains, she decided her portion of the assignment would be inspired by her son's favorite playtime activity as much as possible. With more than 24 of these rhyming stories in her keepsake composition books from that assignment, 10 of the poems written were about trains. While going down memory lane in 2018, the *Do You Like Trains?* story leaped off the page to Francesco as a perfect next book.

A special holiday edition of the gift set and pre-publication version of the book will be sold during Francesco's fall and holiday book tour throughout the Southeast. The holiday edition of the gift set will only be available for purchase through the publisher, Locomotion Press, and where Francesco will be in attendance this holiday season. The gift set includes the 32-page hard-cover book, an 8-pack set of Crayola crayons, a train holiday coloring page as well as a Finger Puppets Fun coloring page with cut-outs of the squirrel and raccoon characters.

The book will be officially released and available at retailers like Amazon and Barnes & Noble on January 1, 2020. With its national and international release, the coloring gift set will replace the holiday train line art with a coloring page from a scene in the book where the squirrel and raccoon characters are playing with a toy train.

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About the Author

Ann Tarpley Francesco developed an interest in writing before the age of ten. She started out writing rhyming poetry for family members, given as birthday presents, anniversary gifts, and for other special occasions. Francesco continued to nurture her love of writing and poetry into her adulthood as a mother and teacher. She attended Radford University in Radford, Virginia, where she earned her teaching certification for early childhood and middle education. Ann also earned a B.A. in business administration at Lynchburg College in Lynchburg, Virginia. Two lesson plans she developed were included in teacher resource books entitled, "Sweet Numbers" (Learn Every Day About Numbers, Gryphon House Books) and "Yummy Colors" (Learn Every Day About Colors, Gryphon House Books). Her writing ability served her well as a college admissions counselor at Lynchburg College and as a fifth-grade elementary school teacher in Stafford County, Virginia. Ann's love of education continued in a different capacity after moving to North Carolina, where she worked as a classroom presenter for King's College in Charlotte, NC, and later owned and operated a tutoring franchise, and then a personal chef business. In her spare time, she enjoys playing tennis, yoga, working out at the gym, traveling, cooking, and creating unique sugar scrubs and body butters. She is an impassioned advocate of healthy living and an active lifestyle.

About the Book

Do You Like Trains? is the second book written by Ann Tarpley Francesco and illustrated by Rebecca Solow. The 32-page hard cover book introduces a train-loving squirrel determined to help newfound friend raccoon fall in love with trains too. Francesco's first book, *The Gingerbread Train – Santa's Secret Gift*, introduced the concept of a gift set option. Francesco is also offering a *Do You Like Trains?* gift set, this time focused on engaging young children's imaginations and their love of coloring. A special Holiday Edition of the gift set will be sold during Francesco's pre-publication book tour September 26th through December 31st. The holiday gift set includes the book, 8-pack of Crayola crayons, a holiday train line-art coloring page, as well as Finger Puppet Fun cut-out coloring page of the book's squirrel and raccoon characters. When the book is released in January 1, 2020, the holiday train line-art coloring page will be replaced with a scene of the squirrel and raccoon from the book. Also of note is the fact that everything is Made-in-the-USA, something that was important to Francesco. To learn more, go to the website, www.doyouliketrains.com, which features Francesco's books as well as recipes, activities for family, and lesson plans for teachers inspired by her books characters and storylines. The book is written for pre-school to 3rd grade reading level. *Do You Like Trains?* is currently available in pre-publication copies for purchase at www.locomotionpress.com and will be available for purchase on Amazon, Barnes & Noble and other online retailers on January 1, 2020.

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