

A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF BOOKS ABOUT CARS
Preschool – Grade 8
Developed for the California Automobile Museum
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PICTURE BOOKS:

ADVENTURES OF TAXI DOG. Debra and Sal Barracca. Illus. by Mark Buehner. Dial. 1990. Grades K-3. "My name is Maxi, / I ride in a taxi / Around New York City all day." So begins the story of a stray dog (Maxi) that is adopted by Jim, the taxi cab driver, with whom he rides and shares adventures every day. This picture book gives the reader a good picture of the role taxis play in a large city and also shows how some people work out of their automobiles. Ask the small children if they have ever ridden in a taxi. How is it different from a family car?

ALICE RAMSEY'S GRAND ADVENTURE. Don Brown. Houghton Mifflin. 1997. Grades K-3. On June 9, 1909, 22-year-old Alice Ramsey set off from New York behind the wheel of a Maxwell touring car. Fifty-nine days later she and her 3 women passengers arrived in San Francisco. Ramsey was the first woman to drive across America – a sparse land with few paved roads and lacking any of the modern conveniences travelers have today. The book is based on a true story. Let's hear it for the women!

BEHIND THE MUSEUM DOOR: POEMS TO CELEBRATE THE WONDERS OF MUSEUMS. Selected by Lee Bennett Hopkins. Illus. by Stacey Dressen-McQueen. Abrams. 2007. Grades 2-4. A collection of fourteen poems about what can be found in different museums – armor, mummies, dinosaur bones, tapestries and many other wonders. The bright illustrations illustrate many cultures and sparkle with the excitement of a visit to a museum. Although a car museum is not mentioned in this book, it is a nice springboard for introducing the concept of an automobile museum. How does it differ from other museums featured in this book?

THE BIG TRIP. Valeri Gorbachev. Philomel Books. 2004. Grades K-3. Pig tells Goat that he is going to take a big trip far away – on his bike, perhaps. Goat says that could be very dangerous, so Pig says he'll go in a car and Goat says that could be very dangerous and so it goes, through almost every mode of transportation. Finally, Pig decides a big trip is a scary idea and then goat says, "Unless you go with a friend." The importance of friendship is the focus of this delightful picture book but small children will enjoy talking about the different kinds of transportation.

THE CABLE CAR AND THE DRAGON. Herb Caen. Illustrated by Barbara Ninde Byfield. Chronicle Books, 1972. Grades K-3. Charlie, the youngest cable car in San Francisco, is bored after spending 60 years going up and down the same hills on the same track. One day he goes on a different track and ends up in Chinatown, where he meets a Chinese dragon named Chu Chin Chow who is also bored with the sameness of his life. Together they take a wild and almost disastrous ride through the streets and hills of San Francisco. The author was a San Francisco newspaper columnist who grew up in Sacramento. The cable car is an important part of San Francisco and California history, and a mode of transportation that is still used today. Ask the children if they have ever ridden in a San Francisco cable car. How did it differ from riding in a family car or a bus?

CADILLAC. Charles Temple. Illustrated by Lynne Lockhart. Putnam's Sons. 1995. Grades K-3. A rhyming story that describes the excitement of going for a ride with Granny in her old Cadillac, as she "cruises through traffic like a bull through a dance."
Out of Print – Look in your library!

CLINK, CLANK, CLUNK! Miriam Aroner. Pictures by Dominic Catalano. Boyds Mills Press. 2006. Grades K-3. A group of animal friends ride to town in a junky car that has numerous mechanical problems. The sounds the car makes rhyme with the problem: "Boing, Boing, Ping! 'There goes a spring,' said Rabbit." They finally make it to town and while the animals enjoy shopping, Rabbit buys himself a new car and the animals all ride home in grand style. A good read-aloud that will have children chiming in making the sounds of the junky car.

DANIEL'S RIDE/EL PASEO DE DANIEL. Michael Perry. Illus. by Lee Ballard. First Gasp/Last Gasp Publishing. 2001, 2005. Grades 2-5. Daniel's big brother Hector owns a 1963 Chevrolet Impala convertible, complete with spider hydraulics and gold wire wheels – a classic low rider. Daniel loves to ride around town with Hector and when his brother promises to give him the car when he graduates from high school and enrolls in college, Daniel is thrilled and is determined to meet that goal, and to give Hector a ride in the car when he is the owner. Text in English and Spanish. California author. California illustrator.

FIVE LITTLE MONKEYS WASH THE CAR. Eileen Christelow. Clarion. 2000. Grades K-3. Rhyming text tells the story of five little monkeys who wash the family car before trying to sell it, but that is only the beginning of their adventures with the old heap. New paint, a swamp full of crocodiles, and ingenuity give the old car new life, and new owners. A fun read-aloud!

GALIMOTO. Karen Williams. Illus. by Catherine Stock. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 1990. Grades K-3. Kondi, a little boy in Malawi, searches and trades for enough wire to make a galimoto (a toy shaped with wire). His galimoto is in the shape of a pickup that in his play is used to haul maize from his village to the city. This book shows just how universal playing with toy vehicles is and how the creation of a toy is as important as the play. Have the children make a galimoto of a car, bus, or truck.

GOOD DRIVING, AMELIA BEDELIA. Herman Parish. Illustrated by Lynn Sweat. Greenwillow. 1995. Gr. 1-2. It's Amelia Bedelia's birthday and Mr. Rogers takes the family maid out to practice her driving, but confusion reigns when she literally follows his directions. He warns of a "fork in the road" and Amelia thinks he means cutlery rather than a cutoff. There's a happy ending with a birthday party for the silly Amelia Bedelia. Kids love the books about Amelia Bedelia and find great slapstick humor in her literal meanings of words. This humorous book offers an opportunity to talk about the importance of driving safely and the difference between the literal meaning of words and colloquial expressions.

GRANDFATHER'S TROLLEY. Bruce McMillan. Candlewick Press. 1995. Grades K-3. The narrator, looking back at her childhood, remembers trolley rides with her grandfather, a trolley motorman. While the story is fiction, the trolley car in this book, Connecticut Trolley 838, is real and was built in 1905. It resides in a trolley museum in Kennebunkport, Maine, where people can still take rides on it. This is a nice story to connect with the trolley on display at the Towe Museum. **Out of Print – Look in your library!**

IF I BUILT A CAR. Chris Van Dusen. Dutton. 2005. Grades K-3. In verse, Jack describes the kind of car he would build--one with amazing accessories and with the capability of traveling on land, in the air, and on and under the sea. Kids have the best imaginations!

JENNIFER AND JOSEPHINE. Bill Peet. Houghton Mifflin. 1967. Grades K-4. A cat named Josephine makes her home in an old car named Jennifer that sits in a junkyard. When the car is sold, they suddenly find themselves on the road with a reckless, frenzied traveling salesman at the wheel. A wonderful read-aloud that depicts the resiliency of both cats and old cars! California author.

MAYBELLE THE CABLE CAR. Virginia Lee Burton. Houghton Mifflin. 1996, c1980. Grades K-3. Maybelle loves to carry people up and down the hilly streets of San Francisco, until the city leaders decide that she should be taken out of service in the name of progress. Maybelle's fans rally, and the ending is a happy one. Pair this book with **The Cable Car and the Dragon** by Herb Caen.

MAMA AND ME AND THE MODEL T. Fay Gibbons. Illus. by Ted Rand. Morrow Junior Books. 1999. Grades K-3. When Mama gets behind the wheel of the new Model-T which her husband just drove into the yard of their Georgia mountain home, she proves that she can drive a car as well as the men of the family. This book is a delightful read-aloud and fun look at gender roles in history. **Out of Print – Look in your library!**

MERCY WATSON GOES FOR A RIDE. Kate DiCamillo. Illustrated by Chris Van Dusen. Candlewick Press. 2006. Grades K-3. Mr. Watson's usual Saturday drive in his Cadillac with his favorite pig, Mercy, turns into an adventure when an unexpected passenger shows up in the back seat and Mercy finds herself behind the wheel. This is a delightful early chapter book that can be read-aloud or alone and will have readers chuckling either way.

MR. GUMPY'S MOTOR CAR. John Burningham. HarperCollins. 1973. Grades K-2. Mr. Gumpy's friends, both human and animal, squash into his old car and enjoy a drive – until it starts to rain. It takes cooperation and good spirits to get through the muddy road.

MRS. ARMITAGE: QUEEN OF THE ROAD. Quentin Blake. Peachtree. 2003. Grades K-3. When the car her uncle gave her loses parts all over the road, Mrs. Armitage takes it in stride, but a gang of motorcyclists is impressed with the resulting car.

MY CAR. Byron Barton. Greenwillow/HarperCollins. 2001. Preschool – Grade K. Sam describes all the details of his car and how he drives it. The bright illustrations and minimal text makes this a nice read-aloud for the youngest child.

MY LITTLE CAR/MI CARRITO. Gary Soto. Illus. by Pam Paparone. Putnam's Sons. 2006. Grades K-3. Teresa loves to show off her shiny, new, pedal-powered low rider car from Grandpa Benny, but the toy soon looks old when she neglects it. Together, Teresa and Grandpa Benny restore the car to its former beauty. The text is interspersed with Spanish words and the illustrations evoke the Hispanic culture of California. Includes a glossary of Spanish words used in the book. California author.

NIGHT DRIVING. John Coy. Illus. by Peter McCarty. Henry Holt. 1996. Grades K-3. A small boy is the narrator as he and his father take their first road trip together. The boy says, "I imagine the car as a giant mouth gobbling up the road." As they drive into the night, they watch the sunset, talk about baseball, sing cowboy songs, and even change a flat tire before pitching camp at daybreak. The story is set sometime in the early 1950s and the soft black, gray, and white illustrations evoke not only another era but the closeness of a father and son enjoying time together.

ON THE ROAD. Susan Steggall. Kane/Miller. 2005. Preschool- Grade 1. Succinct text and colorful collages describe all the kinds of transportation a child might see when going on the road – from city streets to country lanes.

PIGS IN THE MUD IN THE MIDDLE OF THE RUD. Lynn Plourde. Illus. by John Schoenherr. Blue Sky Press. 1997. Down East Books. 2006. Preschool – Grade 1. A feisty grandmother and her family struggle to get an assortment of farm animals out of the road so they can pass in their Model T Ford. This rhyming picture book with delightful illustrations is a wonderful read-aloud that will introduce both farm animals and the Model T to young children. "It had rained. It had poured. Now a Model T Ford... was stopped in the rud ... by some pigs in the mud."

RATTLETRAP CAR. Phyllis Root. Illus. by Jill Barton. Candlewick Press. 2001. Grades K-3. Various disasters threaten to stop Poppa and the children from getting to the lake in their rattletrap car, but they manage to come up with an imaginative solution to each problem and finally arrive at the lake.

ROY MAKES A CAR. Mary E. Lyons. Illustrated by Terry Widener. Atheneum. 2005. Grades 1-5. Florida mechanic Roy Tyle lives up to his slogan, "If Roy can't build it, nobody can," by building a series of increasingly fantastic automobiles. Stylized illustrations glow on the pages of this African American story. Based on a tall tale collected by African-American writer Zora Neale Hurston. Bibliography.

SHEEP IN A JEEP. Nancy Shaw. Illus. by Margot Apple. Houghton Mifflin. 1986. Preschool – Grade 1. Liling rhymes relate the misadventures of a group of sheep that go riding in a jeep. The illustrations perfectly match the clueless sheeps' attempt at driving a jeep – beep, beep!

SLEEPY CADILLAC: A BEDTIME DRIVE. Thacher Hurd. HarperCollins. 2005. Preschool- Grade K. A nighttime ride in the Sleepy Cadillac drifts through the skies and covers the entire world, all the while ensuring little passengers a night of happy dreams and cozy sleep. **Out of Print – Look in your library!**

TIN LIZZIE. Allan Drummond. Farrar, Strauss and Giroux. 2008. Grades K-3. Grandpa loves working on old cars, especially his Model T Ford, and he passes along to his grandchildren not only the history of automobiles and all of their benefits, but also his concerns about traffic, pollution, and the problems of relying on foreign oil.

TIN LIZZIE. Peter Spier. 1975. Doubleday. Grades 3-5. This is a chronicle of the experiences of one Model T Ford with a series of owners from 1909 to 1975. Just when the life cycle of Tin Lizzie is over after over 60 years, Tin Lizzie is reclaimed and restored for new adventures on the road. The illustrations are detailed watercolors that enhance the text and evoke good times and many adventures. This book is a true classic. **Out of Print – Look in your library!**

VROOMALOOM ZOOM. John Coy. Illus. by Joe Cepeda. Crown Publishers. 2000. Preschool – Grade 1. Daddy takes Carmela on an imaginary car ride, lulling her to sleep with various sounds, from the wurgle lurgle of swamps to the hoopty doopty swoopty loopty of driving in circles. Good read-aloud. **Out of Print – Look in your library!**