



# WSRHT Gauge Museum Education Service



## Catalogue of Story Sacks for Schools and Early Years Settings

## Story Sacks

Story Sacks are designed to give children a more genuine insight into a specific story, by offering the opportunity to gain tactile experience of handling and exploring objects linked to the key themes in the book. These objects can be used in a variety of different ways e.g. to form the basis of role play, sequencing, discussion, comparison or guessing games.

Each story sack contains a copy of the main story book, an accompanying Non-Fiction Text that complements the key themes of the story and a collection of objects and resources that allow you to explore and enjoy the story in greater depth. In addition to this, each sack contains an activities pack containing ideas and resources that have been designed to extend engagement with the book and encourage the development of a range of skills linking to the EYFS curriculum, including communication, sequencing and early writing and maths.

Available for a period of up to three weeks, Story Sacks cost just £15.00 to borrow and are available for collection from the Gauge Museum at Bishops Lydeard.

For further information, or to book a Story Sack, please contact our Education and Learning officer:

[helen.anson@wsrht.co.uk](mailto:helen.anson@wsrht.co.uk)

## Story Sack 1: *Big Blue Train*

Two young children go on a train ride into their imagination, travelling all over the world and picking up some very unusual passengers on the way.

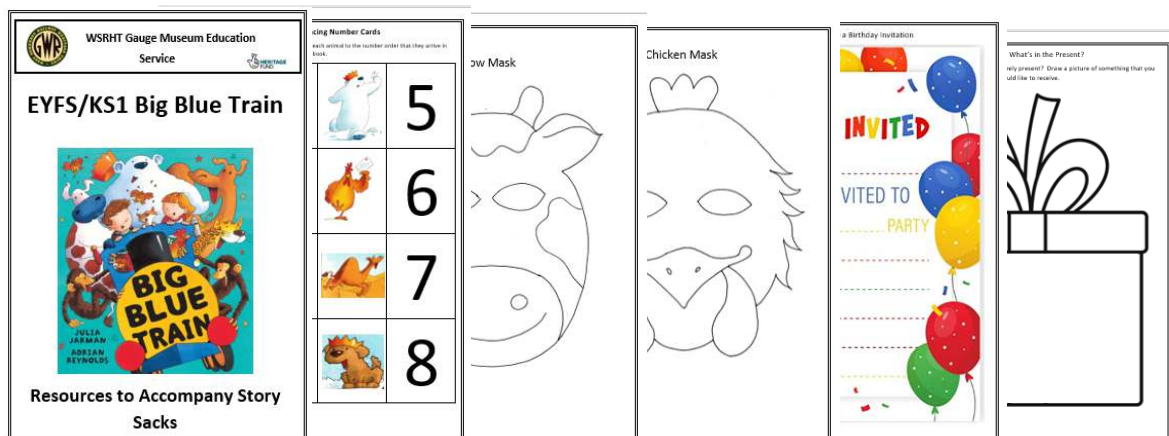


### Story Sack Contains:

- A paperback copy of the book *Big Blue Train* By Julia Jarman and Adrian Reynolds.
- A Hardback copy of *Epic Adventures*, a non-fiction picture book about trains around the world.
- A wooden model train
- Two ragdolls of Ben and Bella
- Soft toy animals representing each of the characters met by the children along their journey.

### Activity Pack Contains:

- Information about the Story Sacks and how to use them.
- A series of resources for suggested activities including:
  - **Sequencing Number Cards:** A set of cards showing pictures of each of the animals in the book for children to sequence and/or match to numbers (also available in the pack laminated and ready-cut)
  - **Story Masks:** a series of animal masks representing the different characters in the story for children to cut, colour and use to re-tell the story, or make up their own.
  - **Write an Invitation:** A simple writing frame for children to practise their early mark-making skills and write their own invitation.
  - **Design a Party Hat:** A set of templates for children to decorate as they like to make their own party hat.
  - **What's in the Present?** An imaginative activity where children draw a picture of what they would like to receive as a present.



## Story Sack 2: Freight Train

Two young children go on a train ride into their imagination, travelling all over the world and picking up some very unusual passengers on the way.

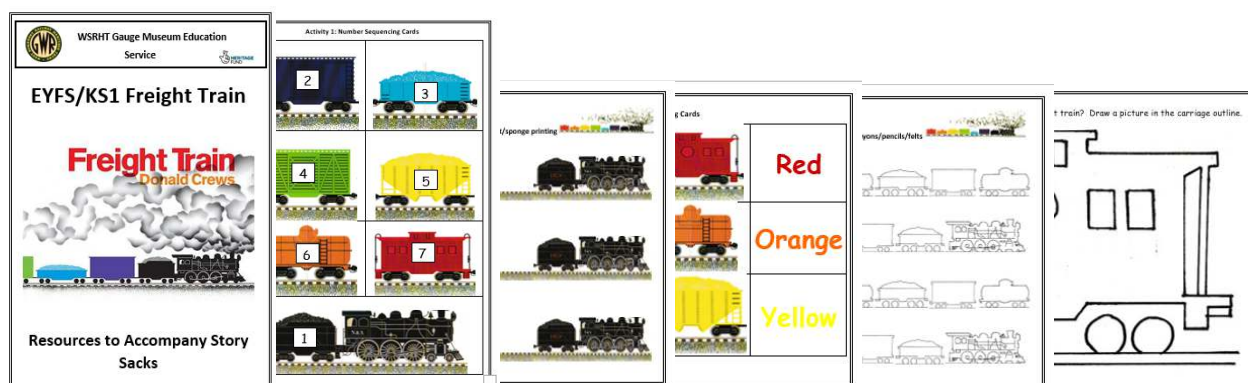


### Story Sack Contains:

- A Board book copy of *Freight Train* and *Inside Freight Train* by Donald Crews.
- A paperback copy of *Freight Trains*, a Non-Fiction picture book
- A wooden model train
- An eight-piece wooden train with brightly coloured goods wagons
- The Little Train Game

### Activity Pack Contains:

- Information about the Story Sacks and how to use them.
- A series of resources for suggested activities including:
  - **Sequencing Number Cards:** A set of numbered cards showing the different wagons on the freight train for children to sequence in order. (also available in the pack laminated and ready-cut)
  - **Pattern Making:** two different templates (one for crayons/felt-tips, the other for printing or painting) encouraging children to explore the different colours and create their own repeating pattern freight train.
  - **Colour Matching:** a simple matching activity, inviting children to match the different wagons to their colour card.
  - **What's in the Truck?** A set of outline templates of the different wagons from the book inviting children to draw or cut and stick pictures of what they would like the freight train to bring them.
  - **Colour mixing/Blending:** Children use either chalks or paints to mix and blend the colours to create a rainbow train.



## Story Sack 3: *How to Train a Train*

A book for any child who has ever wanted their own pet train. Learn all about trains, where they live, how to catch one and how to care for them.

### Story Sack Contains:



- A Board book copy of *How to Train a Train*
- A hardback copy of *Trains*, a Non-Fiction picture book
- A pair of nets and some coal to go train hunting with
- A pith helmet to wear while train hunting
- Two wooden train whistles so that you can make the call of the wild train
- A set of different wooden trains so that you can find your ideal pet

### Activity Pack Contains:

- Information about the Story Sacks and how to use them.
- A series of resources for suggested activities including:
  - **Sequencing Number Cards:** A set of numbered cards showing the different stages of train training for children to sequence in order. (Also available in the pack laminated and ready-cut)
  - **We're Going on a Train Hunt:** Poem and activity cards encouraging children to act out the story and join in with the repeating language patterns. (Also available in the pack laminated and ready-cut)
  - **Your Ideal Train:** a set of templates of various train types encouraging children to design their ideal train using paint, collage, crayons etc. Also with optional writing frame.
  - **Mapping your route:** A set of mapping templates to inspire children to create their own map of the train hunt, using either the original obstacles, or making up some of their own.





# WSRHT Gauge Museum Education Service



## Terms and Conditions for Story Sacks:

1. Story Sacks are loaned out for a period of two weeks. They are popular so we usually restrict loans to one two-week period only.
2. The Sack will be checked when it comes back to make sure the objects are undamaged and wrapped securely. In light of this, upon picking up and dropping off the story sacks, please be prepared to wait a number of minutes whilst these procedures take place.
3. One person must be responsible for the story sack whilst it is away from the museum. It is important to note that private arrangements must not be made to loan out the story sack to another school or organisation. The story sack must stay with the organisation or school that has the loan agreement with the museum.
4. There are teachers' notes in every story sack which are designed to be used by both the teacher and the pupils. They should also be returned with the objects.
5. Evaluation forms must be completed for each story sack.
6. By making a booking you are agreeing to these terms and conditions.

## Loss or Damage to Story Sacks

Any items broken or lost will be charged for as well as for the administration time it costs for us to source replacement items. If damage does occur, please do not attempt to repair an object yourself.

## How to handle resources in the Story Sacks

Please follow the guidelines below when using the resources in this sack.

- Treat all resources with respect and handle them with care.
- Do not eat or drink when you are handling the resources.
- Ensure hands are clean before touching the resources.
- Ensure resources are replaced in the box in their packaging and that the heavier items are at the bottom.
- Never use pens or felts when handling the resources: if you need to make notes or drawings use a pencil.
- Please report the loss or theft of a resource to the museum immediately.