



## ***The Rain Train Board Book* - Elena de Roo (author) and Brian Lovelock (illustrator)**

**Published by Walker Books RRP \$17.99**

It's a pleasure to see this award-winning picture book republished in board book format. The generous size allows the illustrations to be clearly seen and appreciated.

A boy in pyjamas watches from his bedroom window as rain pitter-pats against the glass. He hears the sound of a train in the distance.

Then doors open along the row of houses in his street and light streaks out into the rainy night. People leave their homes shielded by colourful umbrellas. The boy and his mother join them.

A train glides into the nearby station. "All aboard the Rain Train," shouts the guard and passengers enter the softly-lit carriages.

Roll-off-the-tongue rhyme echoes the steady pace of the train:

*Gathering speed  
A ratter-tat-tat  
Into the black  
A clatter-clat-clat.*

The illustrations spread across double pages give the sense of a train snaking through the night. Muted blues and greens convey the dusky atmosphere, while golden light in the carriages is cosy and reassuring.

The rhythmic verse and atmospheric artwork make this an excellent bedtime story to ensure good dreams.

**Reviewed by children's book author Jean Bennett**

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