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Construction by Sally Sutton, illustrated by Brian Lovelock

Publisher: Walker Books

RRP \$29.99

The award-winning duo of Sutton and Lovelock have again combined their talents to produce another superb picture book. *Construction* has the outward appearance of a book about building, which it is. It follows the growth of a structure from the start through the many stages to completion. However, it's the purpose of the finished building that surprises and delights. Readers will enjoy the discovery.

Descriptive language reflects the sounds and processes involved in construction. It invites children to join in the reading:

“Dig the ground, dig the ground.
Bore down in the mud.
Shove the piles in one by one.
Slip! Slap! Thud!”

Anticipation grows as the frame takes shape, the roof goes on, then the walls and doors are fitted. Laying of pipes, wires for electricity, and painting, all add to the suspense. When the final usage of the building is revealed the pleasure is worth the wait.

There's almost a Lego-style aspect to the illustrations that will appeal to young builders. Bold use of colour draws the eye to the main features, while sharply defined machinery and characters highlight the action. Precise angles and architectural perspective accentuate the scale of the structure. Large fonts emphasise the onomatopoeic words which echo the building sounds. A pictorial glossary gives a brief explanation of each machine.

This attractive, hardback publication will have readers turning the pages again and again to discover the detail in each stage of the construction. Educational and entertaining.

Reviewed by children's book author, Jean Bennett

Author's website:

<http://www.sallysutton.co.nz/>

Illustrator's biography:

<http://www.illustration.co.nz/lovelock.html>

