



## **Zoo Train by Sally Sutton illustrated by Daron Parton**

**Publisher: Walker Books**

**RRP \$27.99**

A young boy and his mother arrive at the zoo for a day out together. They're wrapped up warm and carry a picnic bag. They climb onto the zoo train with other passengers and begin their journey around the animal enclosures.

Rhythmic language imitates the train as it traverses the zoo: "*Chugga ... Chugga ... Choo! Choo!*"

Along the way, the passengers are joined by two mischievous monkeys who have slipped past their keepers. The stowaways provide an amusing diversion as they secretly swipe hats, scarves, and picnic food. Readers will sympathise with the young boy who has his outing disrupted by the frisky rascals.

The brightly-coloured illustrations have a touch of nostalgia with a retro-style train, and the old-fashioned uniforms of the zoo keepers and train driver. Many animals are rather angular which adds to the comic style. Several scenes are double-page landscape spreads that give a sense of the train moving through a vast area. The end pages show an overall pictorial map of the zoo and its inhabitants.

This hardback picture book is published in a large-size format that is ideal for sharing with pre-schoolers.

**Author's website:**

[www.sallysutton.co.nz](http://www.sallysutton.co.nz)

**Illustrator's website:**

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

