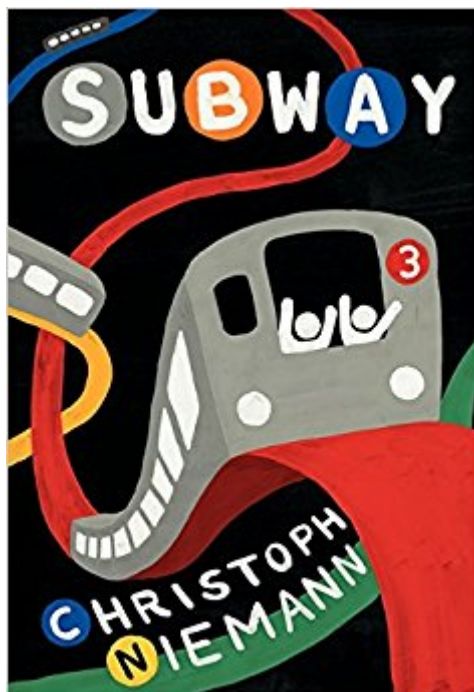


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# Subway



## Synopsis

A father. Two children. And more than 840 miles of track. What does it add up to? Something thrilling. Are you ready for Subway?

## Book Information

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Lexile Measure: 510L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Greenwillow Books; 1 edition (May 18, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0061577790

ISBN-13: 978-0061577796

Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 7.8 x 11.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 26 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #83,109 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #100 in Books > Children's Books > Cars, Trains & Things That Go > Trains #170 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > United States #295 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Stories In Verse

## Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Niemann (The Pet Dragon) navigates New York's subterranean system in this playful love letter to public transportation. Readers follow two children and their father, pictured as transit map "style stick figures, who spend a rainy day exploring routes. "Riding the A requires some patience/ if you plan to visit all forty-four stations," they advise. The trains occasionally acquire some light personification ("The 7 is on his way to meet... / his friends at Times Square, 42nd Street!"); after the F and G lines separate at Bergen Street, "The G says, 'Don't cry. I will meet you/ again at Roosevelt Avenue!"). The tone is largely celebratory-- rate hikes and construction don't come up--but Niemann finds pleasure in unexpected places, too ("There are plenty of critters on the tracks of the J/ enjoying the subway all night and all day"). His folksy gouaches are color-coded to match the various subway lines, and his pitchblack backdrops make the colors explode, while alluding to tunnel interiors. An abundance of droll details will delight regular straphangers and stir the imaginations of transportation-obsessed children. Ages 2-5. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

PreSchool-Grade 1 "This colorful, vivacious, child-centered title began with a post on Niemann's blog, *Abstract City*, in which he describes a day of riding the subway with his two sons just for fun. The artist uses thick gouache paint to render his characters as standard pictograms, akin to those on city signs, with curved edges for hands and feet, and the technique creates a chalky texture that looks like correction fluid. Visual communication lords over the text. Niemann uses many tropes for expression: the youngsters, excited to spend the rainy day on the subway, hi-five. The agony of the adventure coming to an end is punctuated with tears bursting from one son and father dragging the other one, boneless. The spreads of the dedication page, the A train and all its 44 stops, and the wild crisscrossing array of colored lines under Times Square mirroring the famed city lights on the surface, capture the glory of this venerable transportation system. The rhyming text and references to subway lore add chuckles for older readers, but the meter does create an occasional stumble. A sure hit with most youngsters, especially those who are transfixed by trains." Sara Lissa Paulson, American Sign Language and English Lower School PS 347, New York City Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Okay, this book has a very limited market. If you don't live in NYC or aren't familiar with the City's subway system, then I doubt you or your children will see the appeal. On the other hand, if you have a son like mine, who loves to ride the rails and look at the subway map, then this book is fantastic. The text is simple and the rhymes are a bit weak in spots, but the artwork is satisfyingly impressionistic with plenty of color contrast on a generally black background. Most importantly, the subway line symbols are all there as well as some of the routes, which my son loves to point out to me. The fact of the matter is, my son wants this book read to him every night. To me, that's high praise indeed.

One of my favorite books ever! Big bright text and beautiful illustrations, with fun little hidden gems (the train letters or numbers nestled in the illustrations), and a sweet story. Pages are thin, best if the parent reads or a slightly older kid who won't turn the pages violently.

This book is so funny. Our boys like subway trips and the longer they are the better. We borrowed the book from our library before and the little guys loved it. The illustrations are very simple however, they make us laugh every time. We decided to purchase the book to remind us of these wonderful subway trip memories.

We gave my three-year-old son a copy of this as a holiday present. He's a train enthusiast and, as New Yorkers, we ride the subway together frequently, but I was still surprised at how much he took to this book to the exclusion of everything else on his shelf. He's asked for it at bedtime every day since then (i.e. for the past two weeks!). The hardcover edition features a dust jacket that he loves to spread out on the bed, tracing the various lines. While the text and illustrations are very simple, they are also very clever -- the schematic of Times Square is actually quite accurate. Niemann has a whimsical view of the world that comes through brilliantly in little details.

Fun text/illustrations, esp. for a regular train rider like my son. I bought it used, and while the condition of the book itself was fine, several of the book's comments on various train lines are now outdated, and confused my 4year old.

My grandson & I go to the library. This is where he picked out this book. When the time came to return it he wanted to keep it. He does go into the city with his mom once in awhile. But at the end of the 2nd renewal it had to go back. This is a 3 year old that does not forget anything. So we purchased the book from as a Halloween gift. He is thrilled and now knows some of the trains and their stops.

Gift for 2+ yr old grandson who loves the subway. He will look at pictures by himself or enjoys having it read yo him. It is rather sophisticated for age 2', but for a child who uses subway it is perfect.

I bought this book for my 2 year old nephew, who lives in NYC. He loves it and asks for someone to read to him all the time. It's a fun book that is also nice to look at. I wish it was a little bit longer, but I enjoy the illustrations and the way the city and subway lines are portrayed.

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