

## **All Aboard a True Train Story, by Susan Kuklin Orchard (Scholastic), 2003**

### SYNOPSIS-

*Travel through the Colorado Rocky Mountains on the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad with this extraordinary portrayal of some of America's oldest train engines. 'All Aboard!' captures the essence of these majestic machines against a landscape that is breathtaking, inspiring, and legendary. Children will feel transported to another time and place as they come to know the personalities of these "fire breathing dragons." Kuklin's photographs provide us with an in-depth look at these historic steam engines and a panoramic view of America's wilderness. –Scholastic, 2003*

### THEMES-

transportation, trains, Colorado

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR-

[www.susankuklin.com/](http://www.susankuklin.com/)

[www.hyperionbooksforchildren.com/authors/index.asp](http://www.hyperionbooksforchildren.com/authors/index.asp)

### Activities-

1. After reading *All Aboard a True Train Story*, have your students visit the Durango train website, [www.durangotrain.com](http://www.durangotrain.com), to learn more about the train and the town in which it originates. From the site your students can access the Colorado Railroad Museum at [www.crrm.org](http://www.crrm.org).
2. Use the description of the train whistle at the end of the story to create a listening and physical movement activity. Discuss with your students the importance of the whistle and the different means for short and long blows. Then ask your students to pretend they are trains by playing *Train Red Light, Green Light*. Use the following formula (based on the true meaning of the train whistle):
  - two long whistles- go
  - two long and one short whistle- slow
  - one short whistle- stop
  - three short whistles- back up