

Road Trip

By Danny Parker & Nathaniel Eckstrom

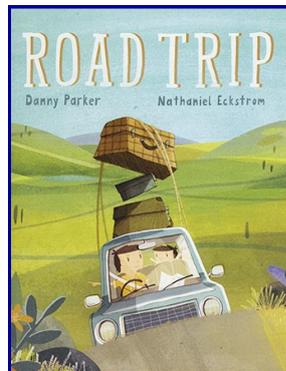
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**PICTURE BOOK OF
THE MONTH**

The only thing worse than a long and boring road trip is driving with someone who loves long and boring road trips. Even when that someone is your dad. A hilarious story about a child who becomes increasingly exasperated by his father's inclination to take it slow. But when will we get there? It's just a disaster... couldn't we get just a little bit faster?



Teacher notes have been based on those supplied by the publisher, Little Hare Books. A full version is available on our website www.lamontbooks.com.au.

Themes:

- Travel
- Time & Space
- Segments of time

Discussion Questions & Activities:

- Road Trip is a sophisticated text that employs traditional text-types and plot strategies at the same time as appearing to be a simple dialogue. Analyse the narrative in terms of the child character's emotional arc, demonstrating how orientation, a series of complications and a resolutions are portrayed in the text. What is the boy's main goal, and what main complications does the boy face in achieving this goal?
- The textual narrative begins at a point where it is clear the characters have already covered some conversational ground. What questions does the reader need to assume the boy has already asked? How effectively does the father appear to have answered the child's pre-narrative questions? What does this suggest about the ways that children and adults think about the same things?
- Describe some of the visual strategies Nathaniel Eckstrom employs to emphasise the time-space conundrum faced by the child character in *Road Trip*. Compare and contrast the landscape pages with the flashback episodes, and consider elements such as proportion, perspective, contrast and point of view.
- What typesetting strategies are used to differentiate the dialogue of the boy and his father? How effective is this in clarifying the narrative? In what ways do typesetting choices replace grammatical elements in the textual narrative?
- Talk to your class about the concepts of 'an hour', 'far away' and 'forever' and ask them to name examples of each. What's their favourite way to pass an hour?
- Using those examples, have your class write and perform their own rhyming verse dialogue - the sillier the better!
- Road Trip is a timely reminder to parents and children alike to slow down and enjoy the 'ride' of life. With that in mind, have your class play a game or do an activity very quickly, and then very, very slowly, and ask them how they felt during both.