

Fire Truck Santa

By Nic McPickle & Illustrated by Nathaniel Eckstrom

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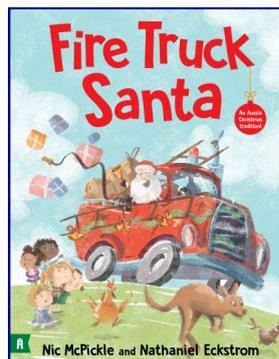
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At Christmas time all over Australia - from the bush to the 'burbs - Santa arrives on the back of the fire truck! This boisterous picture book celebrates a much-loved Aussie tradition.

A Christmas tradition, all round this land,
from the city to the country, from the bush to the sand,
in a shiny red truck instead of a sleigh,
Santa sets out on his jolly old way.

But this fire truck has seen better days. It creaks and rattles and groans as Santa makes his rounds. It will take a miracle to get through Christmas Eve...

With beautiful illustrations by Nathaniel Eckstrom, this is an energetic and delightful celebration of a wonderful Aussie tradition.



Themes:

- Christmas
- Australian Traditions
- Community

Discussion Questions:

- Just by looking at the pictures in the story, are there clues to where and when the story is set?
- Have you ever seen Santa on the back of fire truck?
- This has been a 'tradition' in many places in Australia. Why do you think this is a very unique Australian thing? (Think about the time of year!)
- Christmas in Australia is in summer. In other parts of the world, Christmas is in winter. Do you know why this is the case? Do you know what parts of the world it is Christmas occurs in summer, compared to where it is Christmas in winter? (You might want to have a globe or map handy for this discussion!)
- Santa is referred to as 'Saint Nick' in the story, as well as 'Santa'. Why do you think the author has done this? Have you heard Santa being called this before?
- 'The spirit of Christmas is lending a hand, and coming together to do what you can.' How is there a sense of 'community' in this story? What examples does Santa refer to?
- Can you think of some examples of things that happen in your school or neighbourhood where people help each other or where you can see a sense of community?
- Do you think that it is important to help others? Discuss as a class.

Activities:

- Paint or draw your favourite scene of Santa in the fire truck from the story.
- In the story, Santa is in a fire truck. Draw a picture of Santa in a different vehicle that would usually be used for something else - use your imagination!