



*Winter Ride*: Learning to Read With the Railfence Bunch.

This lovely book for young children keen to learn to read is the second instalment of The Railfence Bunch, about the adventures of Chick and Duckling and the animals on the Railfence Farm.

This series is very popular with young children and their parents, early primers that use the sounds of words and watercolour illustrations to encourage young ones to read as they are being delighted by the short stories. Judging from the reaction of new moms and dads, The Railfence Bunch series promises time-pressed parents much-needed down time as their children entertain themselves.

And no wonder: Carolyn j Morris is a Junior Kindergarten teacher who often brings chicks and ducklings to her classroom to teach her students about nature and get them interested in reading. Her collaborator, Richard McNaughton, is an award-winning artist working in acrylic and, in this case, watercolours that showcase the warmth and splendour of Ontario's farm country.

This time out, Chick and Duckling hop into their little red sleigh and tour the farm and forest. The key words are "zip," "slip," "slide" and "glide," and the two avian friends do a lot of that. Gliding on level ground, zipping down hills, sliding on the frozen pond and, eventually slipping off the track and tipping over the sleigh. Oh well, they know where to find the little red sleigh for next time.

As a teaching tool, *Winter Ride* will find an enthusiastic audience with young children who learn to identify animals by sight and sound, associating the names of the animals with their pictures and learning about the sounds made by recreational activities. Parents will eagerly await the publication of the next instalment of the series, as their children will want to follow the next adventures of The Railfence Bunch.

**Author Biography:** Carolyn j Morris's country roots began on the family farm in old Nottawasaga Township. She has taught in Toronto and rural communities for 30 years, bringing baby chicks and ducklings to share with her Junior Kindergarten students and in communities around her home and school.

Richard McNaughton is an award-winning artist whose works hang in private collections throughout North America and Europe. Richard's art reflects his love for the rural countryside, especially the Grey/Bruce area of Ontario, where he has lived for 28 years.

Winter Ride

by Carolyn j Morris

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