

Terrific Truck Tales

By Ruth Gilbert, Youth Services Librarian

With the arrival of fall comes a newer Kirkland Town Library tradition - our annual Touch-A-Truck event! On Saturday, September 28, from 10-12, we'll be gathering some big and interesting vehicles in our parking lot for our young (and young-at-heart) patrons to explore. This is your chance to sit in the cab of a firetruck, check out the kitchen on a food truck, and see an excavator up-close. If your kids can't wait that long for some truck excitement, check out these delightful picture books about hard-working vehicles.

"Trucks on Trucks" by Sorche Fairbank and Nik Henderson uses trucks of all kinds to demonstrate concepts like color, numbers, rhyming, and size. Have you ever seen a pig truck on a rig truck? How about a clown truck on a brown truck? The combinations of trucks on trucks get sillier as you read.

In "Little Taco Truck" by Tanya Valentine and Jorge Martin, Little Taco Truck is surprised to find Miss Falafel in his parking spot one day. The next day she's back, and she's brought Gumbo Jumbo and Annie Arepas with her. Little Taco Truck thinks there's no room for him, but when all the trucks work together they find there's enough space for everyone.

"Turbo's Special Delivery" by Jean Reagan and Eduardo Marticorena. Turbo is known for making really fast deliveries, but one day he's given a job to transport something very fragile. Can he slow down and deliver his cargo without ruining it?

"Cranky" by Phuc Tran and Pete Oswald. In this funny picture book, Cranky the crane truck is feeling, well, cranky, and he isn't sure why. His friends Zippy, Wheezy, and Dump Chuck encourage him to talk about what's wrong, but Cranky just doesn't want to. In the end his friends understand and just give him the space to feel his big feeling.

"Crane Jane!" By Andrea Zimmerman and Dan Yaccarino shows a day of Jane's hard work operating a crane. She moves cargo from ships to the shore with ease, but when she has to move a firetruck she runs into some trouble. She uses all her skill, and some help from some friends, to get her cargo under control.

"The Digger and the Duckling" by Joseph Kuefler. Trucks named Dozer, Squirt, Mixie, and of course Digger are working hard on their jobsite when a little duckling wanders along. At first they think she's a nuisance, but Digger lets her tag along and they all grow attached to her. Together the trucks dig a pond for her and wait for her mother to return, but the duckling grows up and returns with a surprise.

"Little Excavator" by Anna Dewdney. A pint-sized excavator is so excited to work on the busy jobsite, but every time he tries to help he runs into trouble. He can't reach as high as the big crane or haul as much debris as the dump truck. He feels discouraged until there's a special job that only he can do.

"The Mixed-Up Truck" by Stephen Savage follows a cement truck on his assignment: mix up white powder to make the cement. Unfortunately, the truck mixes the wrong kinds of white powder and ends up making a cake and frosting. He finally sorts himself out and mixes the cement that the other trucks need to make a building, and then finds one last kind of white powder to give all the trucks a bubble bath.