



The Ice Train

Raymond Viger

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About the author:

Raymond Viger has had multiple careers: aviator, biochemist, journalist, author, community social worker. He has published 20 books in French and English, some of which have become best-sellers and classics. A man with a heart and profound values, he founded the publishing house Éditions TNT to ensure that future generations have an outlet for their writing as well as to transmit his desire to protect and enrich Quebec culture. Mr. Viger is part of the province's ministry of education Artiste à l'école program (Artist at School), which promotes the presence of writers in Quebec schools, to encourage the interest of young people in literature.

About the book:

The Ice Train is a colorfully illustrated children's book based on a true story. An ice train did at one point cross the Saint Lawrence River, between Hochelaga, on the island of Montreal, and Longueuil, on the south shore. The Montreal Ice Railway ran across the frozen river during the winters of 1880-1883. This forms the setting for our exciting story.

The book is part of a series of illustrated books on social themes. It encourages youths to manage their environment and get to know it better. It's an easy tale for a child that is just starting to read to understand. We follow Little Joe on an adventure in which he manages and tames his dreams, his goals and his troubles.

Little Joe loves trains. Born in Hochelaga, he never misses the trips of one of the trains that runs through his village. His only dream is to one day be a train conductor. When he becomes a big, strapping man he applies to become a conductor. There is hard work and many tests. His dream is realized. He enjoys a remarkable synergy with his locomotive. One day the railway company decides to lay rails on the icy Hochelaga-Longueuil river crossing for a winter train. Little Joe and his team take an active part in laying the track. It is hard work, and Little Joe insists on laying the last rail of track himself. His body becomes battered and bruised. Then Little Joe becomes a conductor on that same line. The ending, though tragic, is a reminder of how there is risk in any venture, as there is reward.

The Ice Train transmits values of hard work, following your dreams, teamwork, and in the end, courage. It is also available in French under the title *Le train de glace* from Editions TNT Publishing. There is a colour version and a colouring book as well. And The Ice Train/Le train de glace is also an animated film presented in French and English. The story stimulates reflection, questions, and opens a discussion on issues important to us all.

Available in French and English.

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