



Demolition

Sally Sutton , Brian Lovelock (Illustrator)

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What's even more exciting to preschoolers than seeing big machines that build things? Watching the massive ones that tear them down!

Crush the stone. Crush the stone.

Chip and grind and munch.

Make new concrete from the old.

Whirr! Churr! Crunch!

From the huge crane with a swinging ball (crack!) to the toothy jaws that ram the walls (thwock!), this rambunctious demolition, reverberating with sound words, is guaranteed to have small kids rapt. Bright spreads showcase the gargantuan machines in all their glory, and a pictorial glossary explains what each one can do.

Demolition Details

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Author : Sally Sutton , Brian Lovelock (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review Demolition for online ebook

Laura says

This is a bright board book, suitable for pre schoolers. We learn about how construction works and find out what is being built at the very end! The words create a rhyming pattern you can turn into a singalong. The illustrations are perhaps a bit old fashioned but still entirely lovely all the same.

Camille says

My 17 months old is obsessed with this book, we often have to read it several times in a row. The language is great to read out loud and I personally like that there are female workers represented. I also like that they turn the waste from demolition into other things.

Lindsay says

Fun book for learning about how they tear buildings down and make new ones. The back of the book also has the trucks that were working in the book and it has a small paragraph of information next to it. Great way to see how something old was used to make something new.

C. says

While the content of this book and Roadwork may not be *my* preferred topic, for young readers who enjoy Construction, both Roadwork and Demolition provide bright easily viewed illustrations along with text that has a rhythm to it and lots of fun noises to make. They were enjoyed both by the pre-schoolers I did a read aloud with, as well as my five year old son.

The Brothers says

Jasper (3yo) LOVED this book - probably because of all the sound effects that went along with the scenes of destruction caused by massive construction equipment. Honestly, what's there not to like?

Illustrations were good.

Gwen the Librarian says

This is the PERFECT "truck" book. The rhyming text describes what each machine does, rather than stating what it is or how it looks. There is great, non-repetitive onomatopoeia on every page, so this adult doesn't get

bored reading it. Just as I was wishing it did actually say what each machine was somewhere on the page, I found the back matter that covers it all. This feature is great because it makes the book perfect for big machine aficionados who are tired of books that just name machines, but if you have tots (or parents) who are just learning their vocabulary, there is something for them too.

The endpapers are rocks & dirt! The illustrations are fantastic and have an interesting and refreshing focus on safety without beating you over the head. Each brightly colored page is full of motion, energy, and great demolition to exclaim over. There is a great page that compares an excavator to a dinosaur. The people operating the machines are not the focus, but they are a multicultural bunch and include women.

Carolyn Jeziorski says

I selected this as a read aloud for three and four year olds this week. I was amazed when my students, many of whom speak very limited English, knew the names of the bulldozer, excavator, and crane! They enjoyed all the construction vehicles in the story. The rhyming text was also great for a read aloud.

Shep says

Five star for a two year old. We read it 3x in a row when we got it home from the library. Wonderful sound words, rhyming, big machines, and interesting seeing the process of destruction/recycling/building of a park where a high rise once stood.

Mama Bibliosoph says

Roadwork, Construction, and Demolition are amazing books that will appeal to kids who love construction vehicles and watching, from start to finish, how workers use trucks and machines to transform a site or complete a project. Roadwork shows a new highway being dug, paved, wired, and painted. Construction is the story of a library being built. And in Demolition an old building is taken down so the land can be re-developed into a playground.

Sutton uses a driving, pulsing rhythm and rhyme scheme that communicates a lot of excitement. Each stanza ends with sound words that accurately convey, through onomatopoeia, the noise the machine makes. It's extremely clear that author and illustrator have done a ton of research for each book, and children who read these will learn a lot about the nuts and bolts of construction.

Lovelock's illustrations in all three books are wonderfully diverse, both racially and in representation of women. Sutton's story choices (building a playground, a library, and doing roadwork) are highly relevant to children, and that personal connection about how this work builds something that kids use is what makes this trio of books so special. A brilliant, well-executed series for construction vehicle lovers.

I review books for children from the perspective of a parent of kids with autism. The review above is part of

a longer post on books for kids who really love trucks: <https://www.lineupthebooks.com/20-book-reviews-for-kids-who-love-trucks/>

Cherie says

From my 5 year old son Ben:

It was good! I would give it 10 stars! I liked reading about the construction site because I like construction. I liked how they painted the pictures.

From my 2 year old son Eli:

He kept repeating the sounds from each page (Rip! Roar!, etc) and laughing and he kept pointing at the trucks on each page. After we were done he had fun flipping through the pages on his own.

From me:

This was a really fun book about the demolition of an old building so a new playground can be built in its place. I read it aloud to my 5 year old (Ben) and my 2 year old. The author did a fantastic job of choosing words and sounds that really appeal to young readers. For example:

"Work the jaws. Work the jaws.

Bite and tear and slash.

Dinosaurs had teeth like this!

Rip! Roar! Crash!

It was a lot of fun to read aloud and make the sounds.

The illustrations are bright and bold and are double-page spreads so the various vehicles really take center stage. My 2 year old loved that. This also makes it a great book to read with multiple children on your lap or to a group as everyone can see easily.

At first my 5 year old just liked that there was demolition going on. Then, when he saw the playground at the end he realized that there was an actual progression of events. We re-read it and he really understood - at least in a child's terms - the steps to demolish the building and clear the space for a new playground. It started a whole conversation about reusing materials and land.

Overall, we really enjoyed this one. My 5 year old and 2 year old both enjoyed it. It was detailed enough to entertain my older son while the noises and bright colors really caught my 2 year old's attention. Highly recommended - especially for boys.

Portable says

This chunky board book is always a favourite in our library: vibrant illustrations of demolition vehicles in all their mechanical marvelousness! Lots of great sound words as the machines go about their business make this a fun one to read aloud too.

Sarah says

Received this as part of a set of three books and my 1-year-old loves having all of them read to him. It's great that the rhyming noises change between books so by the time we're on the fourth re-read of the same book, switching between them actually feels like a break - points to the author for the parental sanity saver!

J. Boo says

The title is full of lies - we get less demolition than we get salvage and the building of a playground on the demolished building's lot.

Uninteresting text. Rhyme scheme heavily dependent on onomatopoeia.

Illustrations sort of blah. The trucks themselves are not bad, but backgrounds and people were not well detailed. It's a modern book, so ~50% of the construction workers were female. I couldn't help but think of all those little boys disappointed when their little girl playmates inexplicably fail to be enthusiastic about playing bulldozer vs. building for three consecutive hours.

Also, the boards salvaged from the building are shown being turned into mulch. I don't think this is something that happens.

DS#1 (age 5) wasn't nearly as interested as would be expected even though he, himself, chose the book. And really, if the subject interests him -- as this does -- he isn't a demanding audience. I suppose younger boys really into construction might like it, but it didn't do much for mine.

Me 1/5, DS#1 2.5/5, DD (age 3) 2/5

Milton Moon Louie says

Tearing down to build something else. B

Melissa says

A great book for little boys. I'm keeping it in mind for my grandsons. :)
