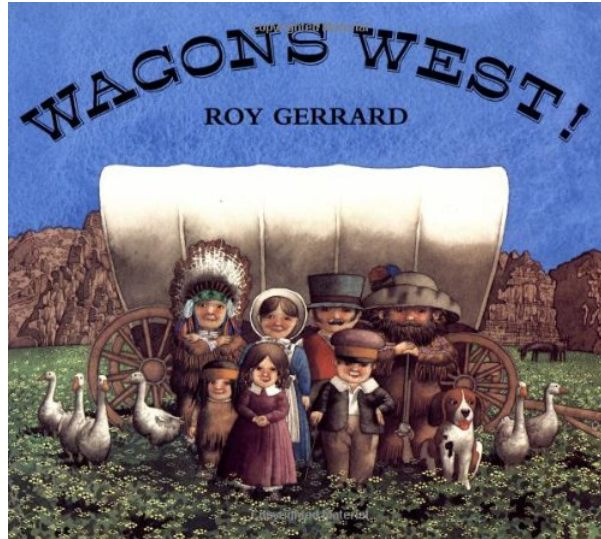
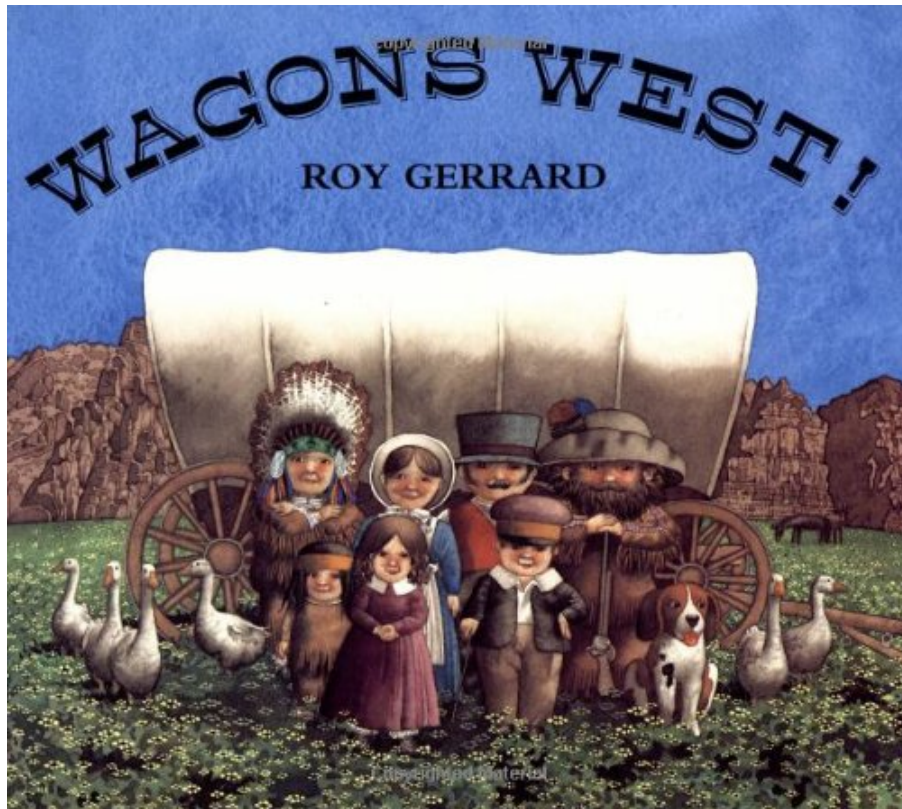


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From Publishers Weekly

A nattily clad cast of petite pioneers, with the compressed, spool-shaped bodies and outsized heads characteristic of Gerrard's work, gambols across the wry spreads of this verse adventure about an 1850 wagon trip to the West. When Buckskin Dan rides into town praising the riches of the frontier, recalls the amiable narrator, "The idea of Oregon so appealed to everyone/ That without a hitch we made the perfect plan:/ We would form a wagon train, and were lucky to retain/ As our trusty guide and leader Buckskin Dan." Along the way, the group survives inclement weather on the plains, dances during a stopover at Fort Laramie, befriends a lost Arapaho child, bests cattle thieves and builds rafts to carry the wagons down the mighty Columbia River. While the rhyme and rhythm flounder periodically, for the most part Gerrard's (Croco'nile) buoyant poem rolls easily off the tongue. But it's the art that gives this volume its flavor: the stylized characters indicate not so much an artistic idiosyncrasy as a fully realized imaginative vision just waiting to be shared with the reader. Ages 4-8.

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From School Library Journal

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From Booklist

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Saddle up for excitement on the Oregon Trail!

Way back in eighteen-fifty, when Americans were thrifty,
The times were hard, so most folks had to toil;
My mama, my pa and me labored hard to guarantee
That we'd earn a living from the barren soil.

In this rowdy adventure, the narrator and her parents and neighbors embark on a wild journey on the Oregon Trail, hoping to find rich green land out West. These hardy pioneers and their trusty leader, Buckskin Dan, fight off outlaws near Fort Laramie, rescue a lost Indian boy, and raft down the rocky Columbia River, eventually starting new lives in the fertile Willamette Valley. Readers young and old will relish Roy Gerrard's rollicking verse and distinctive illustrative style.

- Sales Rank: #2196714 in Books
- Brand: Farrar, Straus and Giroux (BYR)
- Published on: 2000-04-15
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.94" h x .12" w x 10.10" l, .33 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 32 pages

Features

- Great product!

From Publishers Weekly

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Most helpful customer reviews

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

Mom of a 3rd Grade (son) & reluctant reader:

By A Customer

This was the first book by son "begged" me to let him own. He connected with Buckskin Dan, the leader of the wagon train. The wonderful illustrations and flow of the rhyming text hooked him. My son declared Roy Gerrard to be "the most talented author and illustrator on Earth". (What mom could deny a pitch like that)?

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Outstanding children's story. The rhyme and rhythm are great. The ending is heart warming.

By Lyle G. Bruce

This is a great children's book. Roy Gerrard tells a good story with an intoxicating rhyme and rhythm. The illustrations, which he did himself, are wonderful. Unfortunately Roy is no longer with us and his books are out of print. I hope someone realizes what a treasure they are. Hope to see them preserved as E-books too.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Love it

By misskris

This is a really fun book with enchanting illustrations and rhymes. It gives an alternative fun view of pioneer life that can balance out heavier, more realistic books about Westward expansion.

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