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The Wheels on the Race Car

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Zane, Alexander. *The Wheels on the Race Car*. Illustrated by James Warhola. Orchard Books, 2005. ISBN 0439590809. \$14.95. 32 p.

Reviewer: Sandra L. Tidwell

Reading Level: All

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Humorous poetry;

Subject: Automobile racing--Juvenile Fiction; Animals--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

"Racers... start your engines!!" This fun-filled take on the familiar song "The Wheels on the Bus" is sure to please children of all ages. The charming front cover is just a sneak preview to the comical animal race car drivers introduced in the book. These include Penguin, driving the Pengoil Igloo #44, Hippo, driving the Dippo Donuts #5, Moose, driving the Northwinds Hairgel #88, and Rhino, driving the Rhino Battery Charger #35, to name but a few. Each verse describes some aspect of the racing environment, from the sound of the engine, refueling and pit stop action, to the checkered winning flag. Each verse has appropriate sound effects to go along with the lyrics. "The wheels on the race car go ROUND and ROUND, all around the track." Inside the front and back covers are illustrations of Hot Rod Dog's hand actions for each verse.

Warhola's colorful and very detailed illustrations make this picture book a thorough success. By positioning the verses in the NASCAR racing scene and keeping the illustrations very true to life, he has created a delightful picture book that will be enjoyed by preschoolers as well as anyone willing to read it to the younger set.