Casey Jones's Fireman: The Story Of Sim Webb (Phyllis Fogelman Books)
The exciting story of a famous train disaster, as told by a two-time Newbery Honor author. In the final years of the nineteenth century, the engineer of the mighty locomotive depends on the fireman to stoke the furnace that runs the engine and supplies steam to the whistle. Sim Webb is proud to be Casey Jones's fireman—because Casey is the best engineer on the Illinois Central, and his is the biggest whistle. But one day Casey and Sim meet a sinister red-headed gentleman who offers Casey an even bigger whistle, an unearthly whistle that Sim knows should not be blown. Can Sim stop Casey from dooming not only the train, but the entire world? The marvelous text of two-time Newbery Honor winner Nancy Farmer, and astonishingly vivid art of James Bernardin bring a thrilling part of American history and folklore to fire-breathing, steam-belching life. It's a story that will blaze across the reader's imagination and will not soon be forgotten.

Book Information
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Grade Level: Kindergarten and up

Customer Reviews
This book sings with the cadence of the South and tells a wonderful story in spite of it's dramatic and TRAGIC end. My three year old loves it and has become one of our most requested stories.

I came upon this book just browsing in a children's book store. I love how the story hints at a
supernatural struggle in the midst of a folk story about the early days of railroad. Beautifully written and the pictures are gorgeous.

A great book that mixes the story of a legendary folk hero and a supernatural battle between heaven and hell. Nancy Farmer is a great writer and the oil paintings bring the story to life.

Got this book for my rail fan pre-schooler who knows all the facts about Casey Jones. I thought this would round out what we know of the true story by providing more information about Sim. Very disappointed. This is some weird, angel/devil story (one very scary picture of the devil’s face caused me to close the book!) that really has nothing to do with Casey Jones or Sim Webb. It’s a good book if you’re into heaven and hell, but we’re into trains! Not a book for rail fans.

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