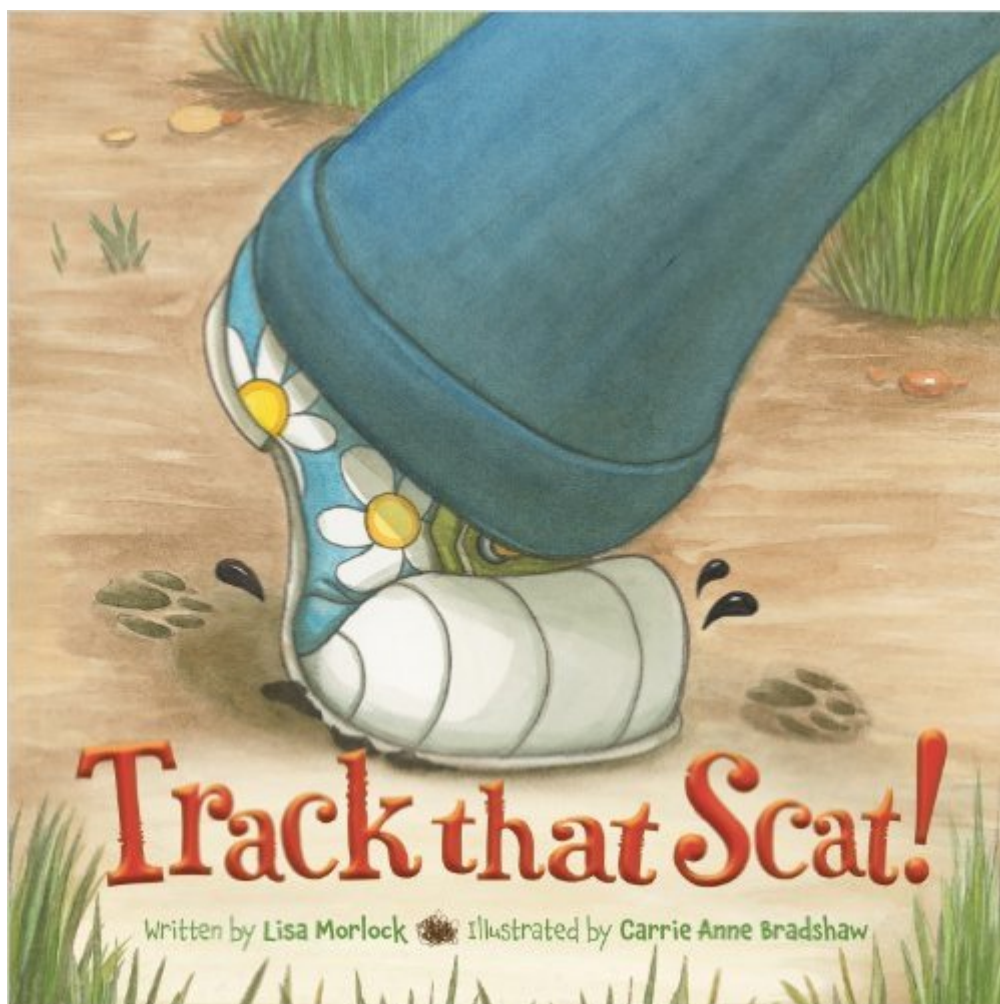


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# Track That Scat!



## Synopsis

When Finn and her dog Skeeter set out on a hike to cure their restless feet, they literally take a step into nature. A big gooey step...right into scat (also known as poop). And just like the animal it comes from, scat comes in all shapes and sizes. Scat, along with foot or paw tracks, can tell a lot about the creature who produced it. As Finn's hike takes her further into the woods, she happens along some scat and tracks from a variety of woodland creatures. Pairing punchy rhyme with science writing, Lisa Morlock has created the perfect nature guide, providing detailed descriptions of the prints, diets, and behaviors of the animals that Finn and Skeeter encounter along their hike. Watch your step!

## Book Information

Hardcover: 32 pages

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Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (24 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #546,762 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #427 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Zoology](#) #3259 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature](#) #6965 in [Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works](#)

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

## Customer Reviews

This book has a wonderful concept, of following a girl around as she explores outside and discovers different types of scat, or animal droppings. The story part is in rhyming format, which is not particularly inspiring; I'll put a sample down at the end of the review. I wish the author had just stuck with prose. The animal scat discovered always results in seeing the animal tracks and then the animal itself. The animals are rabbit, goose, raccoon, red fox, and skunk. In our case, we have a decent chance of seeing rabbit scat, a slim chance of goose, and not much chance of the other three. I wish the book had included deer. Each animal has a few paragraphs off to the side of the

illustration telling a bit about the animal's tracks and scats and a teeny bit about the animal itself. The illustrations are good, very realistic and colorful. The animal scat is illustrated to appear lifelike on the first 2 page story spread where it's discovered, but then in the animal detail section on the next page, it's only shown in outline form. I wish they had illustrated it more realistically there as well, because the outline form isn't that recognizable. Overall, this ended up being a decent, but not outstanding book. I think it could have been improved by dropping the rhyming format, and including deer. A sample from the narrative follows: "Finn shuffles past another track. Toes form a line from front to back. A pinch of fur, a feather too. Mystery seeds and tail of shrew." "With one slid-skid Finn's foot goes \*splat.\* Oh no! She's stepped in.....red fox scat!" "Snort-snarl!" is all Finn has to say, And then she foxtrots straight away."

A fun educational read. Charming text and high energy illustrations chronicle Finn's walk with her dog. They flush all manner of critters who have left their scat to be stepped in by the rowdy duo. At the end, they are cozy in bed and Mom is sniffing Finn's shoes, wondering "what's that???" Well, shoe-bop bee-bop--that is SCAT.

Large and colorful, wonderful artwork by Carrie Anne Bradshaw and a well-written story about animal fecal matter by Lisa Morlock. What's not to like? As one who lives in the woods my kids love the outdoors and the animals that live there. Although not always easy we try to identify animals by their excrement so the idea of this book excited them. In the story we follow a little girl as she takes her dog on a journey to explore the outdoors. The book is written in two forms, one is the poetic story of the girl and dog and the other is more of science facts to learn about the animals. I like the formatting and the information is precise and to the point. Only five animals are mentioned so don't expect an expository book on the droppings of all major North American mammals. I would have liked to see the Spring plug from the bear because it's so weird but oh well, I'll have to write my own book I guess. Highly recommended as a cute informative children's book introducing them to one of the ways to identify our woodland creatures..

The inevitable first question is, "What is scat?" Ms. Morlock answers this question straightaway with three dictionary definitions. Then, delightfully, she illustrates all three definitions in a nicely balanced story, told in rhyme and meter (and great fun to read aloud), intermixed with conversational prose about each of the animals, their eating and pooping habits, and where they might be found. A seven-year-old and a five-year-old both enjoyed this one -- the older of the two re-read the verse

herself after I read it aloud. The animals discussed in 'Track that Scat' are found in the Midwest, and in some other parts of the country you might wonder about the selection of those included (okay, raccoons are ubiquitous). But in the Midwest, it becomes a great prequel to a hike on the paths and trails at the local nature and science center. Kids aged anywhere from four on up through middle school can make a 'treasure' hunt of looking for scat and tracks of each of the animals. Ms. Bradshaw's illustrations are a fine supplement, but Ms. Morlock's command of language and verse is the real standout! This one is a great read for kids interested in nature and animals!

Track that Scat is a beautifully illustrated story about a girl's discovery of various animals and their "scat" while exploring the woods. Told in short, very easy to read sentences, the reader follows Finn's adventures with her very lovable and devoted dog, Skeeter. Along the way, we learn how to identify various animals (raccoons, geese, rabbits, a red fox, chickadees and skunks) by their tracks and their "scat" (pooh/poop). While the book is narrated in the voice of Finn, a young girl, each discovery is followed by an informational section that explains the habits, mannerisms and sounds that various animals that they encountered make. I definitely think that this book would be a wonderful edition for (1) those children who have a love for the outdoors and animals. As an activity, on a sunny afternoon, you could even create a scavenger hunt and see if you can find the scat that is described in the woods near your home. (2) Science teachers or other elementary school teachers who want to make learning about animals fun would love this resource. And finally (3) those kids who have a desire to become future scientist/veterinarians or explorers would love to have this book. Overall, while I was skeptical about reading an entire book about poop, I ended up enjoying it.

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