



The Boundless

Description: Aboard "The Boundless," the greatest train ever built, on its maiden voyage across Canada, teenaged Will enlists the aid of a traveling circus to save the train from villains.

Book Appeal Terms: [Definition of Appeal Terms](#)

Genre: Canadian fiction; Historical fantasy; Steampunk

Character: Large cast of characters

Storyline: Action-packed

Tone: Suspenseful

Writing Style: Attention-grabbing

Min/Max Grade level: 4 - 7

Lexile: 730 **Accelerated Reader:** IL: MG, BL: 5, AR Pts: 11

/ Starred Review */* Grades 4 -7 Will's quiet life changes when he travels westward and takes part in the golden-spike ceremony completing the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1885. True, he's nearly killed by an avalanche and a sasquatch, but he also meets Maren, the young circus performer he can't forget. Three years later, Will joins his father for the inaugural journey of the Boundless, a mammoth train hauling 947 cars and 6,495 passengers across the continent. Along the way, Will learns that two groups plan to steal priceless treasures (including the golden spike) from a vaultlike mausoleum car. Hunted by a villainous gang, Will must rely on his wits, his courage, and his friends, including Maren and her circus community. Best known for his Printz Honor Book, *Airborn* (2004), and the *Silverwing* series, Opiel offers a grand adventure story that is firmly rooted in Canadian history but which is never limited by mere recorded facts. This vividly imagined, present-tense narrative features a series of heart-stopping action scenes involving dozens of memorable characters, many of them introduced in the 1885 segment and revealing themselves more fully aboard the Boundless. An epic journey novel with a distinctive setting, a powerful sense of adventure, and just a whiff of steampunk. HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY: Opiel's *Silverwings* trilogy has sold over a million copies worldwide and *Airborn* received a Printz Honor. Expect hoards of passengers

aboard The Boundless . -- Phelan, Carolyn (Reviewed 01-01-2014) (Booklist, vol 110, number 9, p96)

