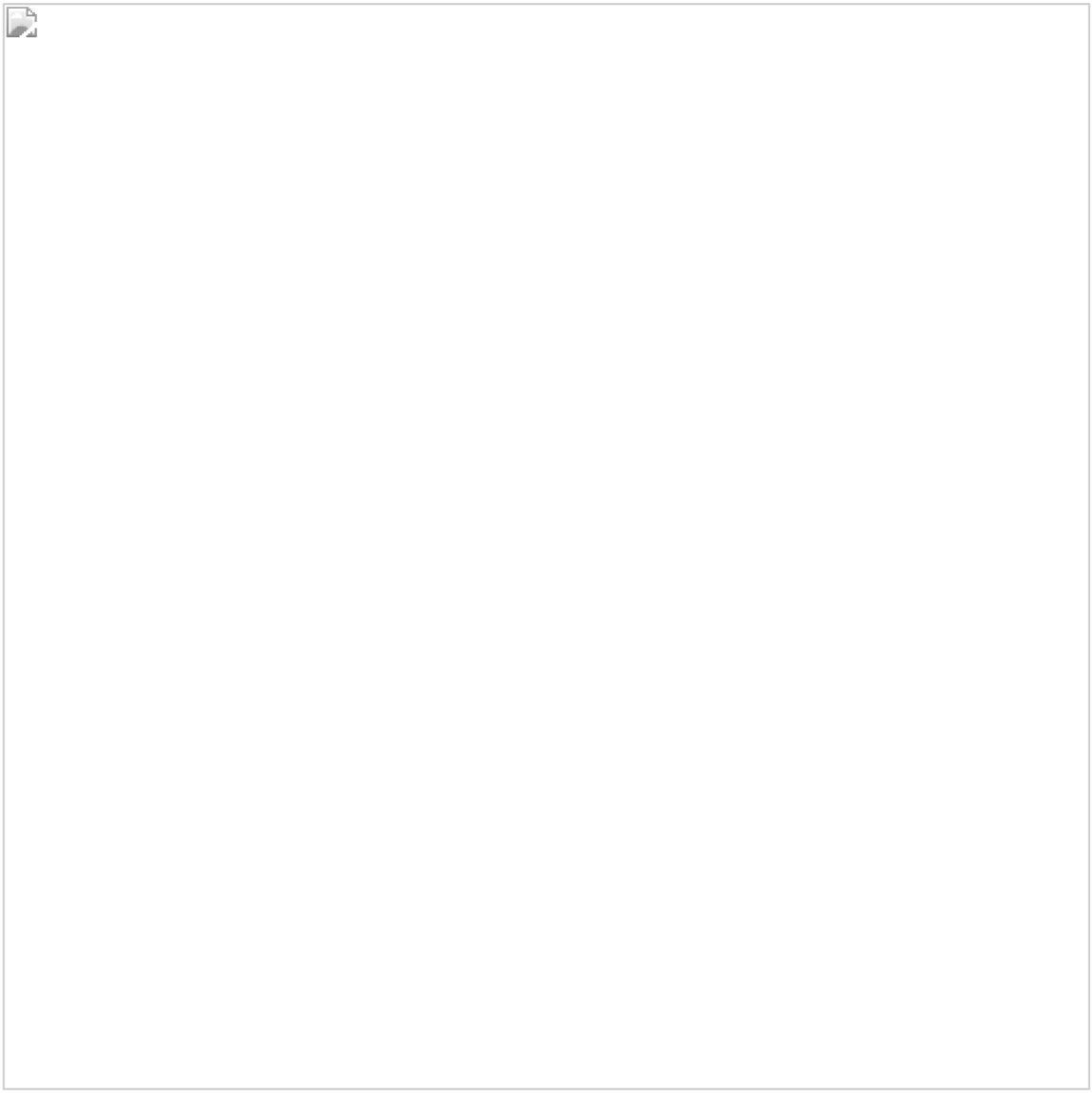
COLORING THE CLASSICS

The Little Engine That Could

A Very Little Engine and a Very Big Mountain



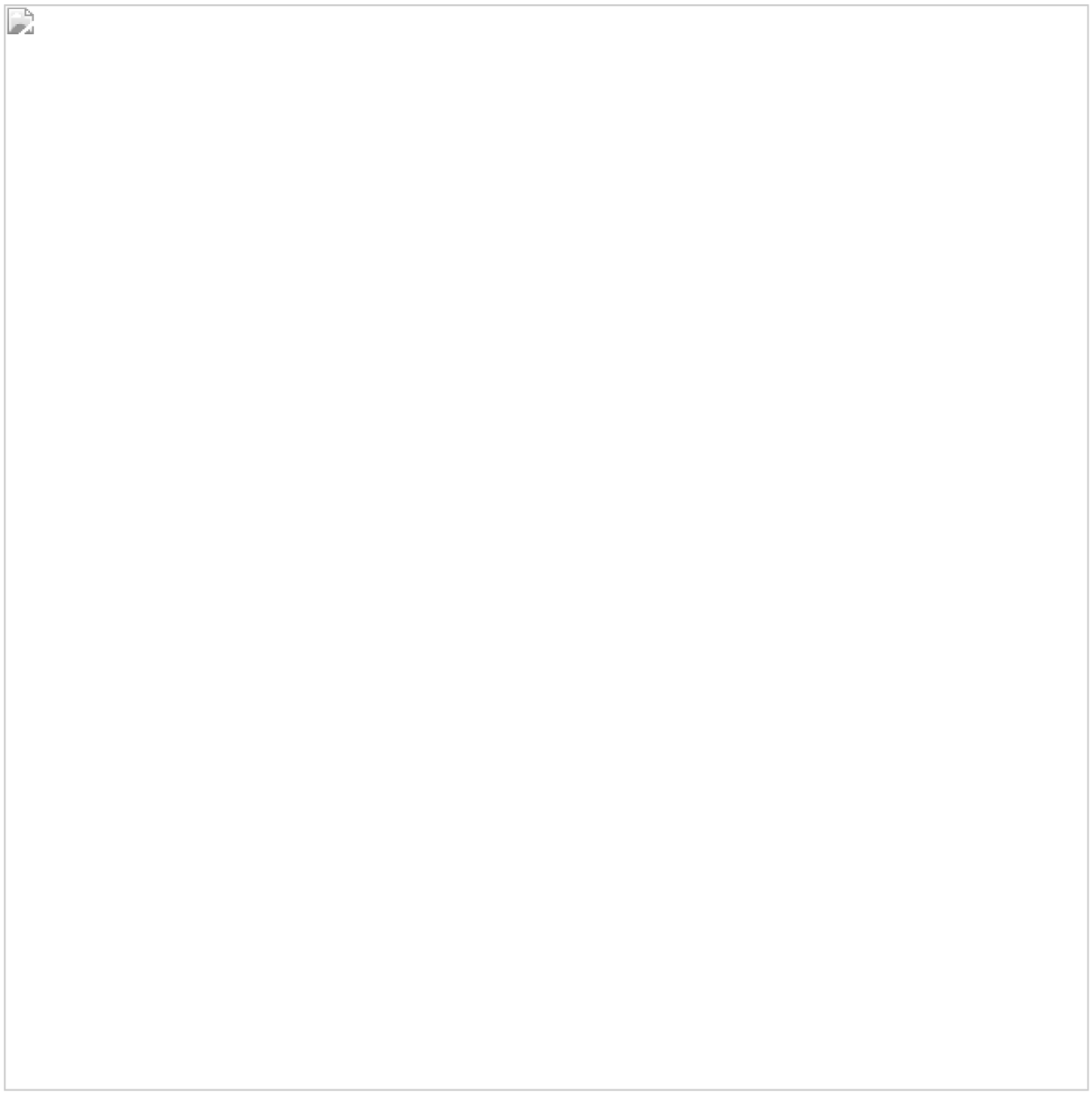
“Chug, chug, chug. Puff, puff, puff. Ding-dong, ding-dong.” Down the tracks rumbled a happy little train.

TALK ABOUT IT

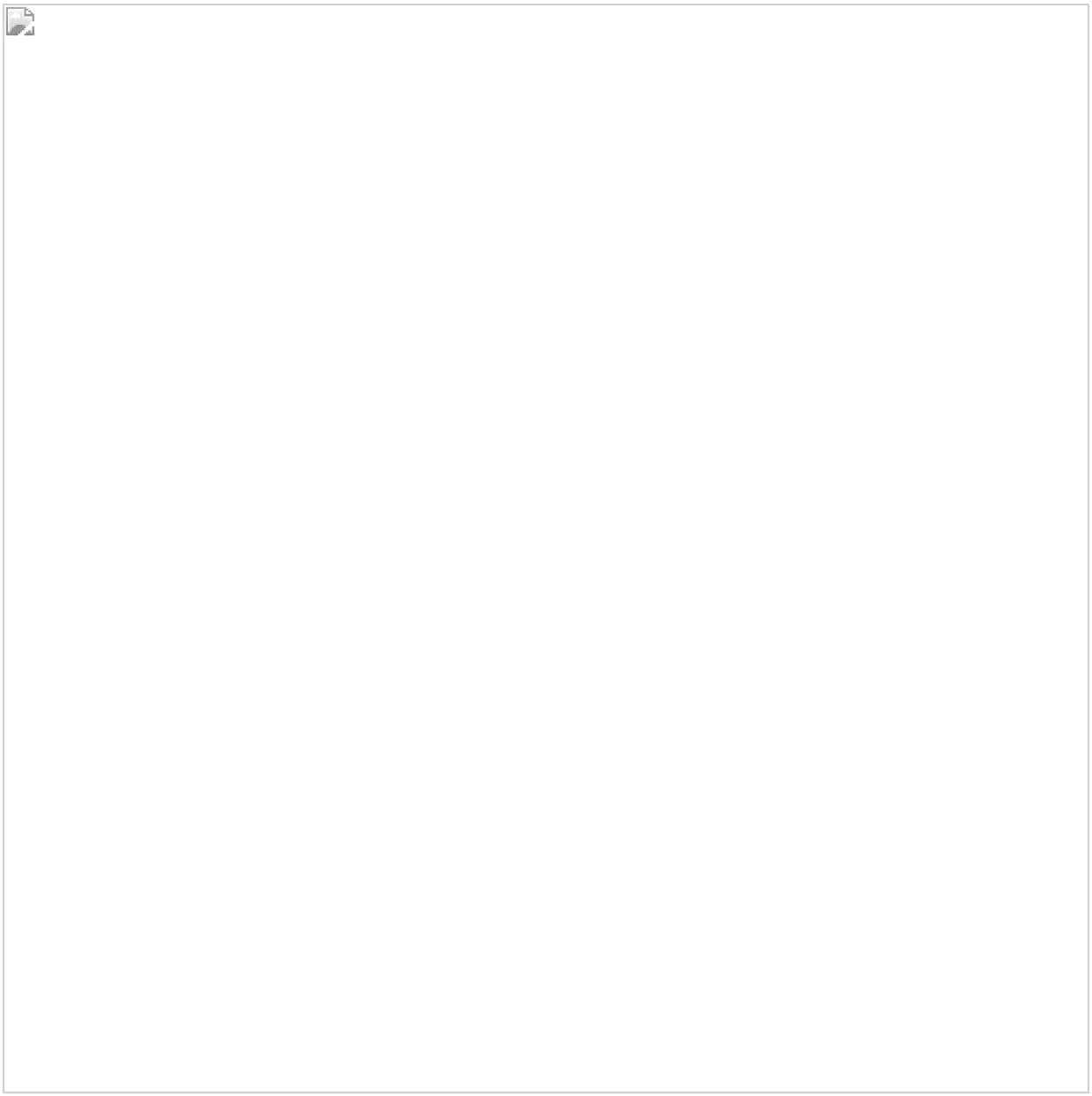
Chug, chug, puff, puff, ding-dong! What sound would you make if you were a little train?

This book belongs to _____

The Little Engine That Could · another picture



A Happy Little Train

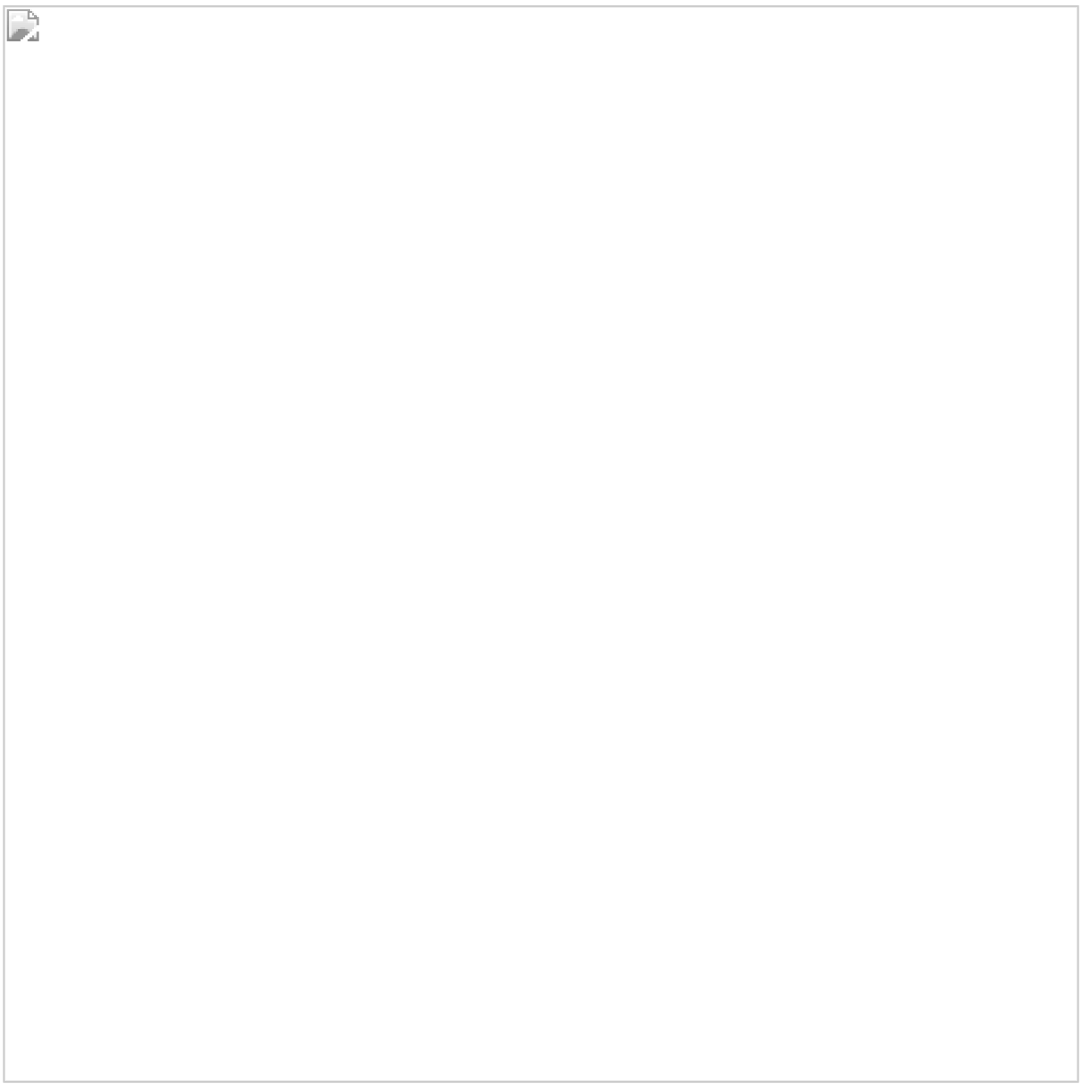


Her cars were full of good things for boys and girls. There were toy animals: giraffes with long necks, Teddy bears with almost no necks at all, and even a baby elephant. There were dolls with blue eyes and yellow curls, and dolls with brown eyes and brown bobbed hair. And there was the jolliest little toy clown you ever saw.

There were toy engines and airplanes, tops and picture puzzles and books, and every kind of thing a child could want.

TALK ABOUT IT

If you could ride in one car of the little train, which toys would you want to sit with?

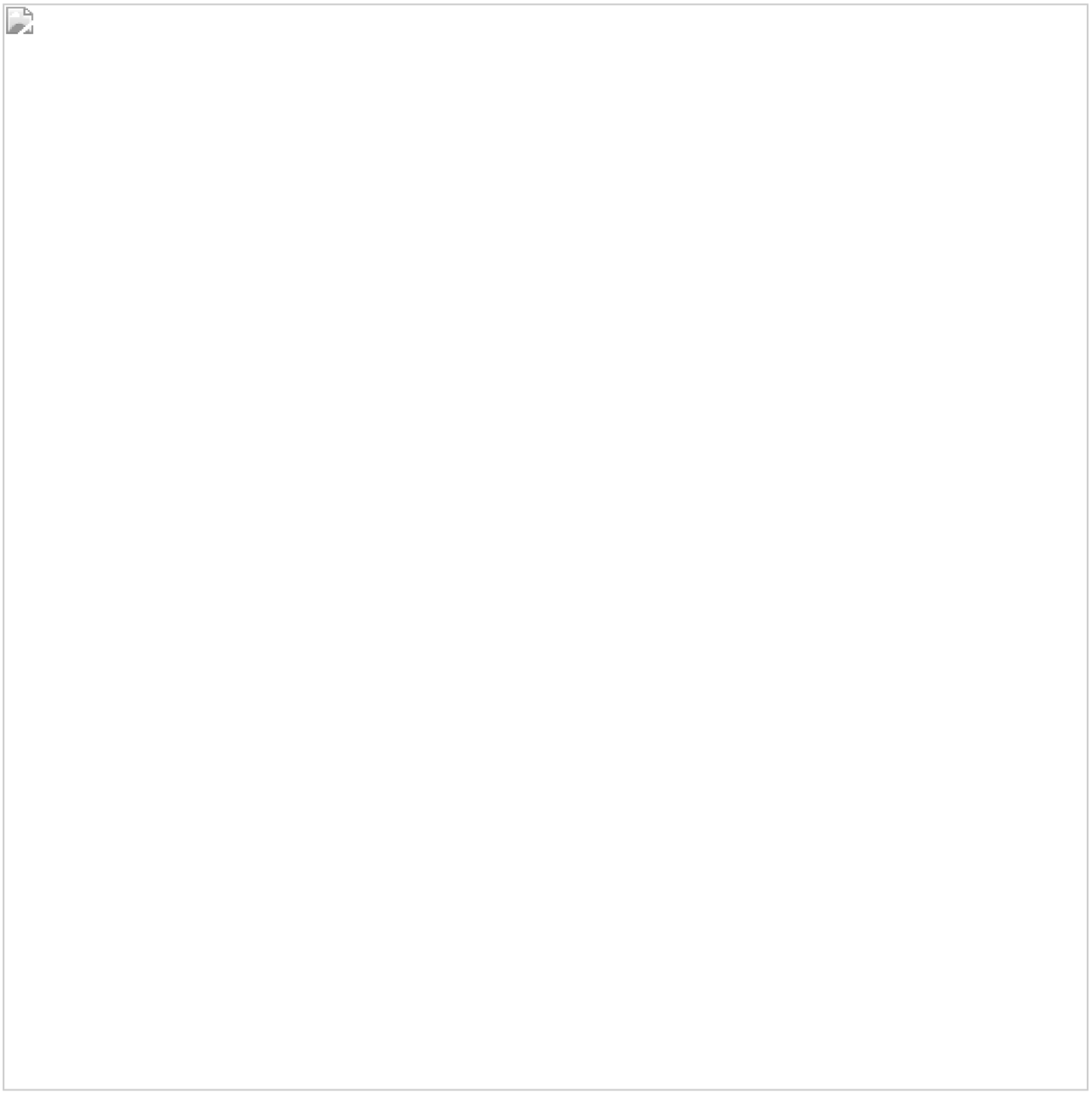


Think about it

1. What was the little train carrying?

- ○ Coal and rocks
- ○ Toys and good things for children
- ○ Nothing at all

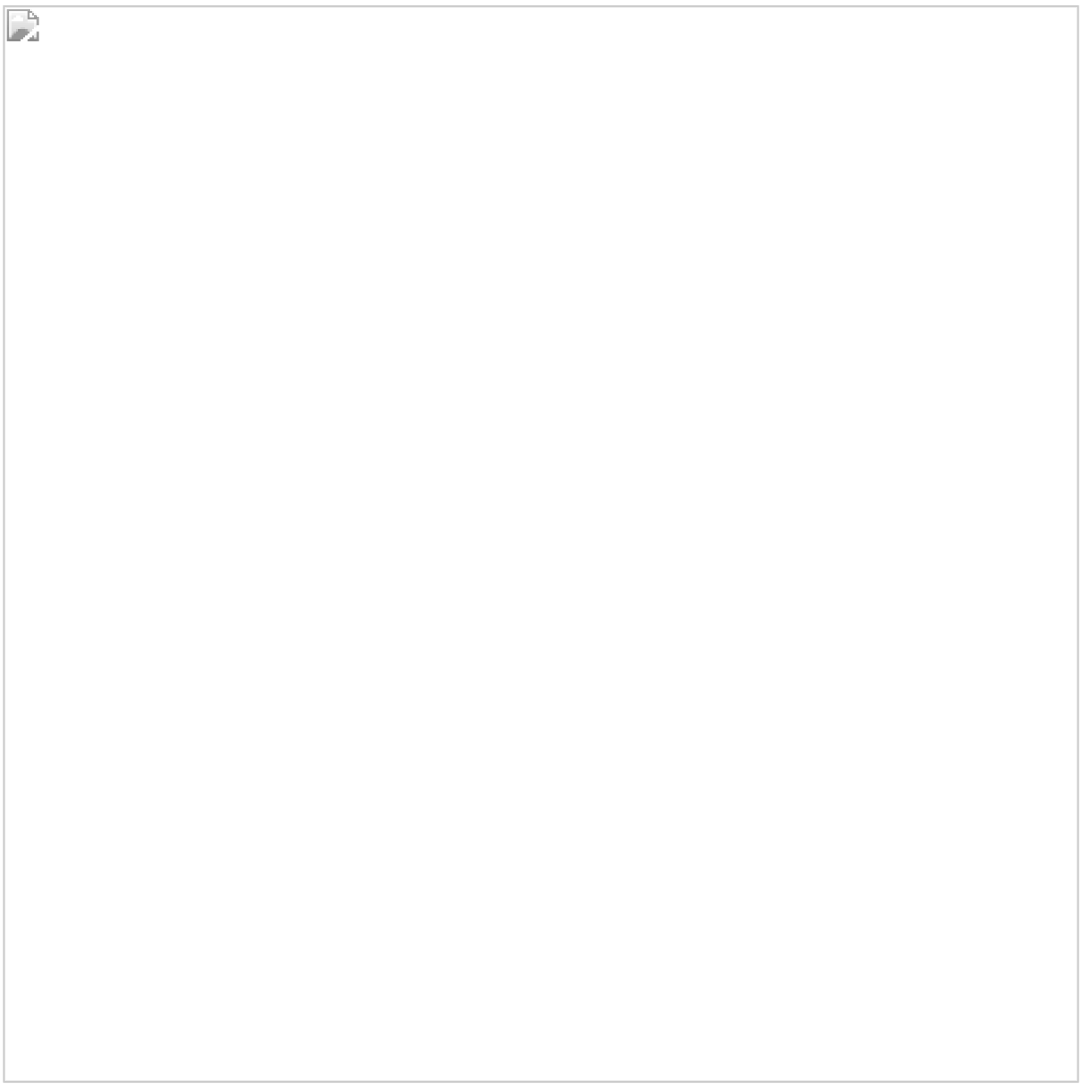
Good Food, Too



That was not all. Some of the cars were full of good things to eat: big golden oranges, red-cheeked apples, bottles of creamy milk for breakfast, fresh spinach for dinner, and peppermint drops and lollypops for a treat after meals.

The little train was taking all of it to the boys and girls on the other side of the mountain. They were asleep. When they woke up in the morning, the good things would be waiting for them.

TALK ABOUT IT
Which food on the train would you pick for your breakfast? Which for a treat?

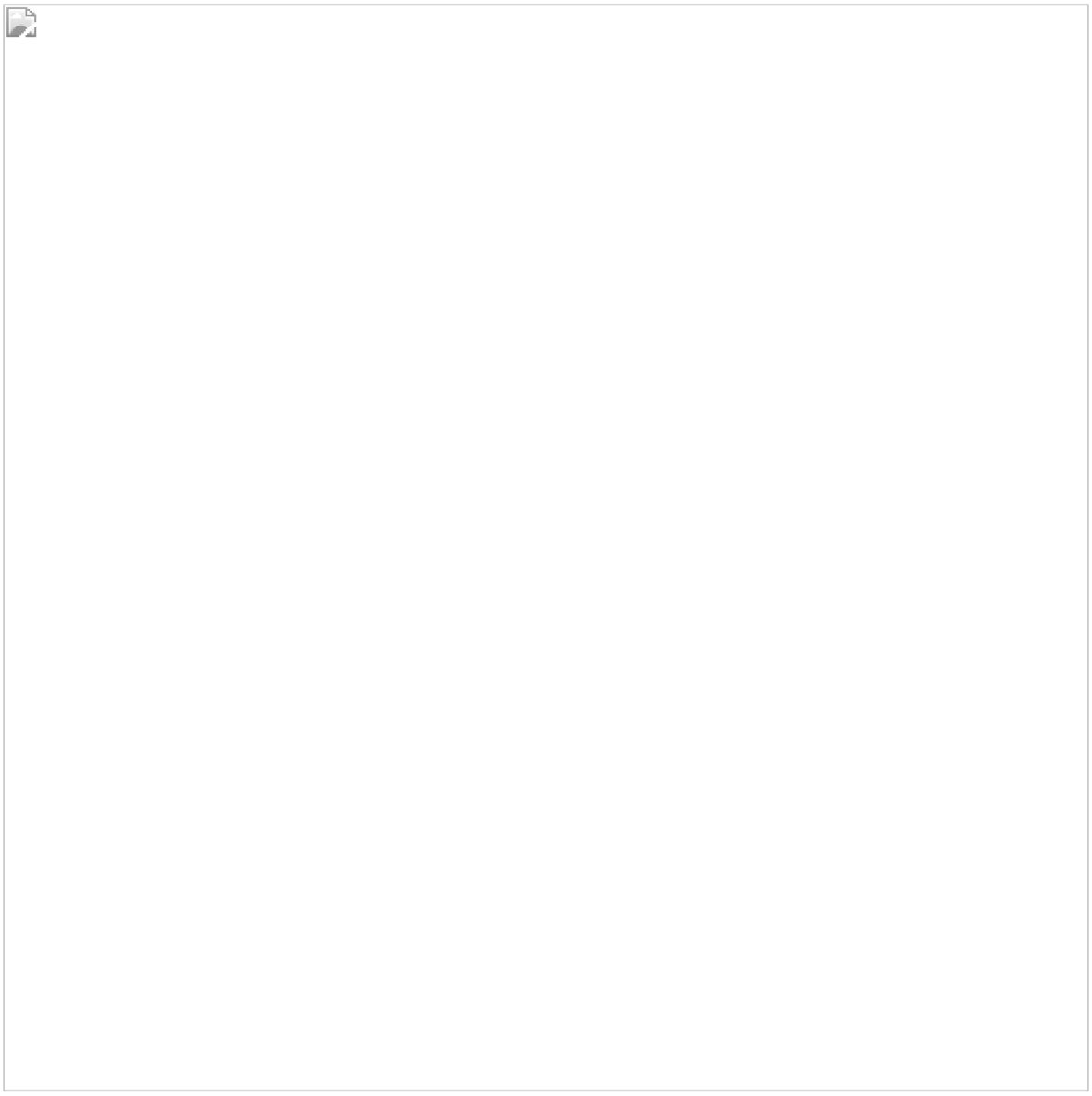


Think about it

1. Where were the boys and girls who would get the toys and food?

- ○ On the other side of the mountain
- ○ Under the sea
- ○ On the moon

Stuck!



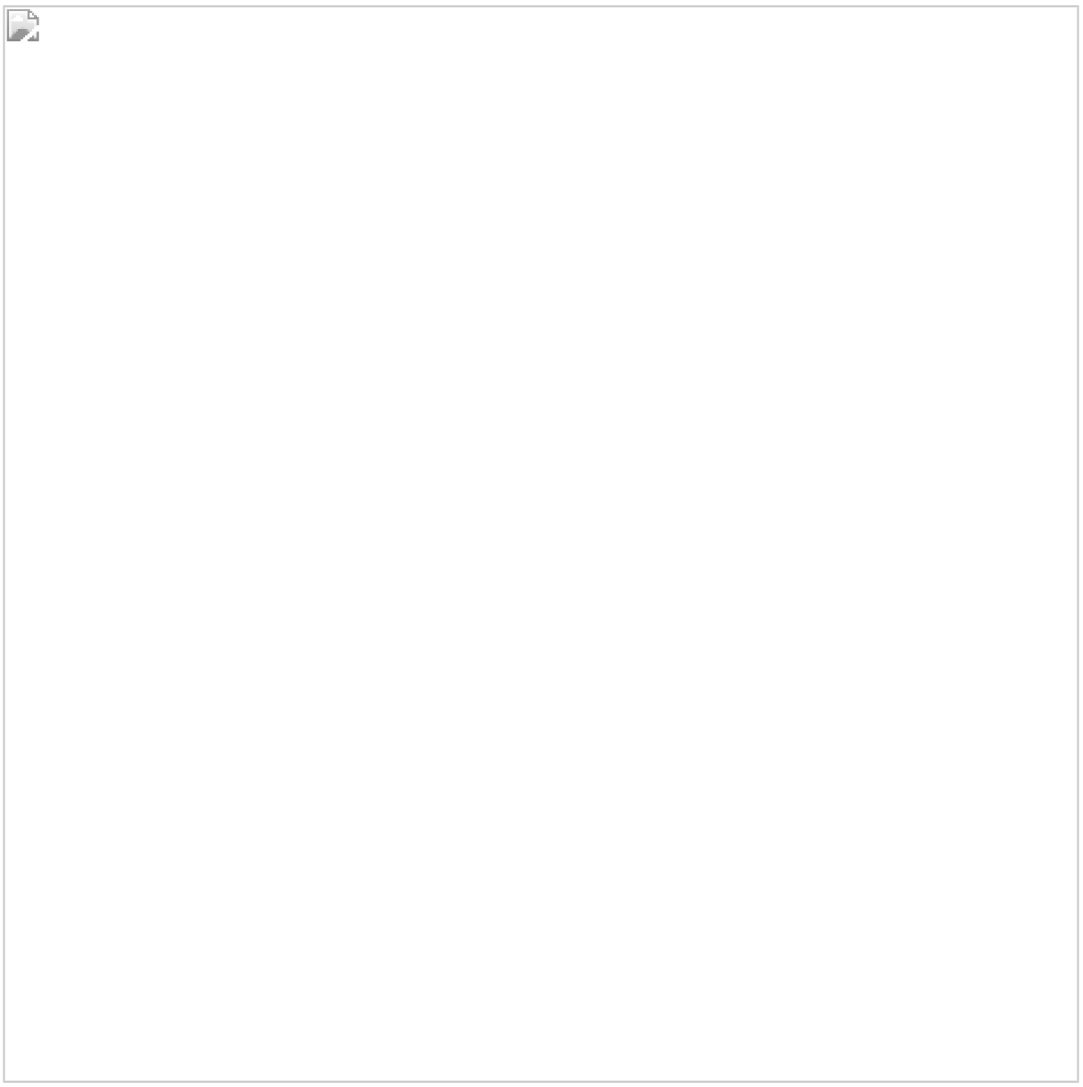
The little train puffed along happily. Then, all of a sudden, she stopped with a jerk.

She could not go another inch. She tried and she tried, but her wheels would not turn. Her engine had broken down.

What would the children over the mountain do, with no toys to play with and no good food to eat? The little toy clown jumped down onto the tracks to look for help.

TALK ABOUT IT

The clown jumped down to look for help. What do you do when something breaks and you can't fix it yourself?

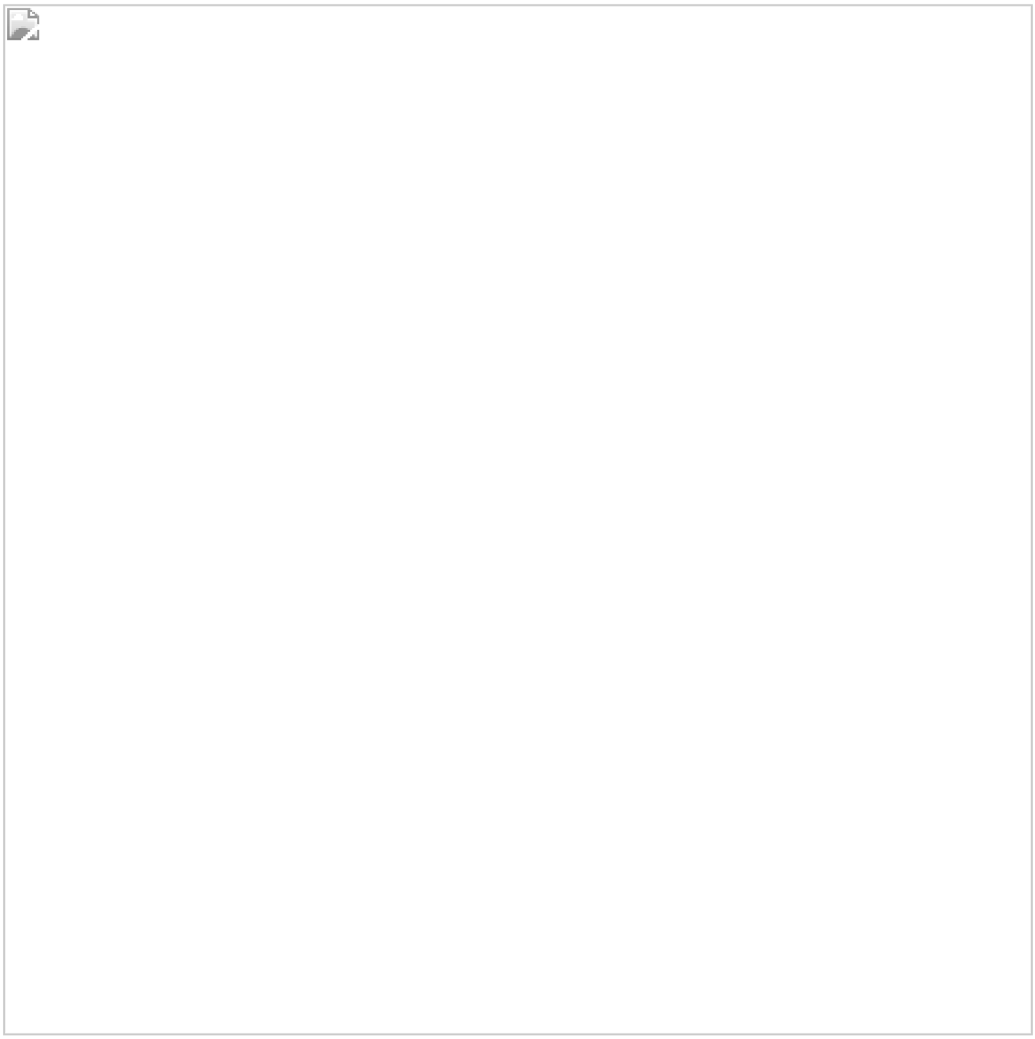


Think about it

1. Why did the little train stop?

- ○ She was tired of the toys
- ○ Her engine broke down
- ○ It started to snow

The Shiny New Engine



“Here comes a shiny new engine,” said the little clown. “Let’s ask him to help us.”

“Please, Shiny New Engine,” called all the dolls and toys, “do carry our train over the mountain! Our engine has broken down, and the children will have nothing unless you help us.”

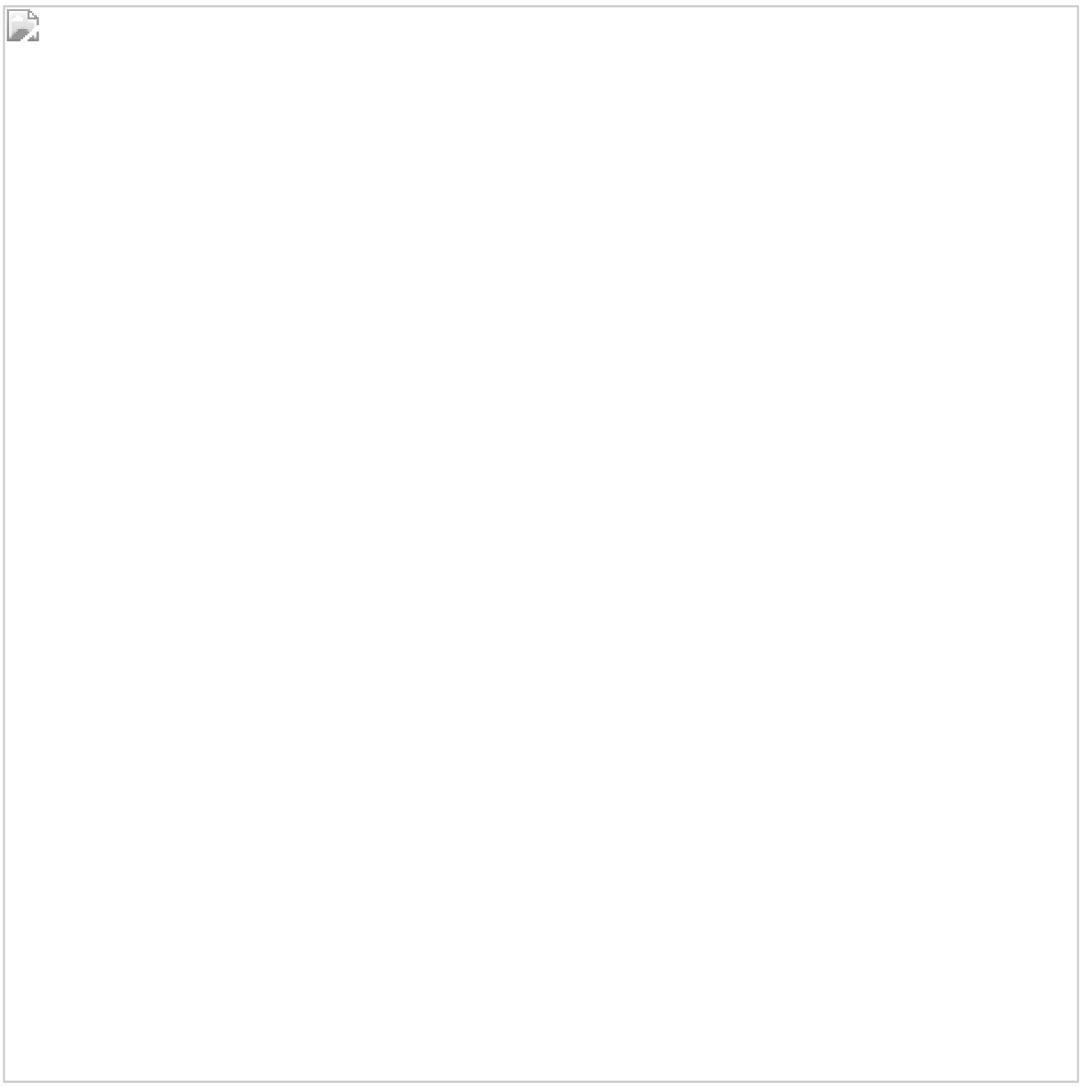
The Shiny New Engine snorted. He was a Passenger Engine. He pulled long trains with sleeping cars and dining cars and soft armchairs by big glass windows. “Carry a little train like yours? Indeed not!” And off he steamed to the roundhouse, where engines live when they are not busy.

How sad the little train and all the dolls and toys were!

TALK ABOUT IT

The Shiny New Engine thought he was too fancy to help. Why do you think being fancy made him say no?

The Shiny New Engine · another picture

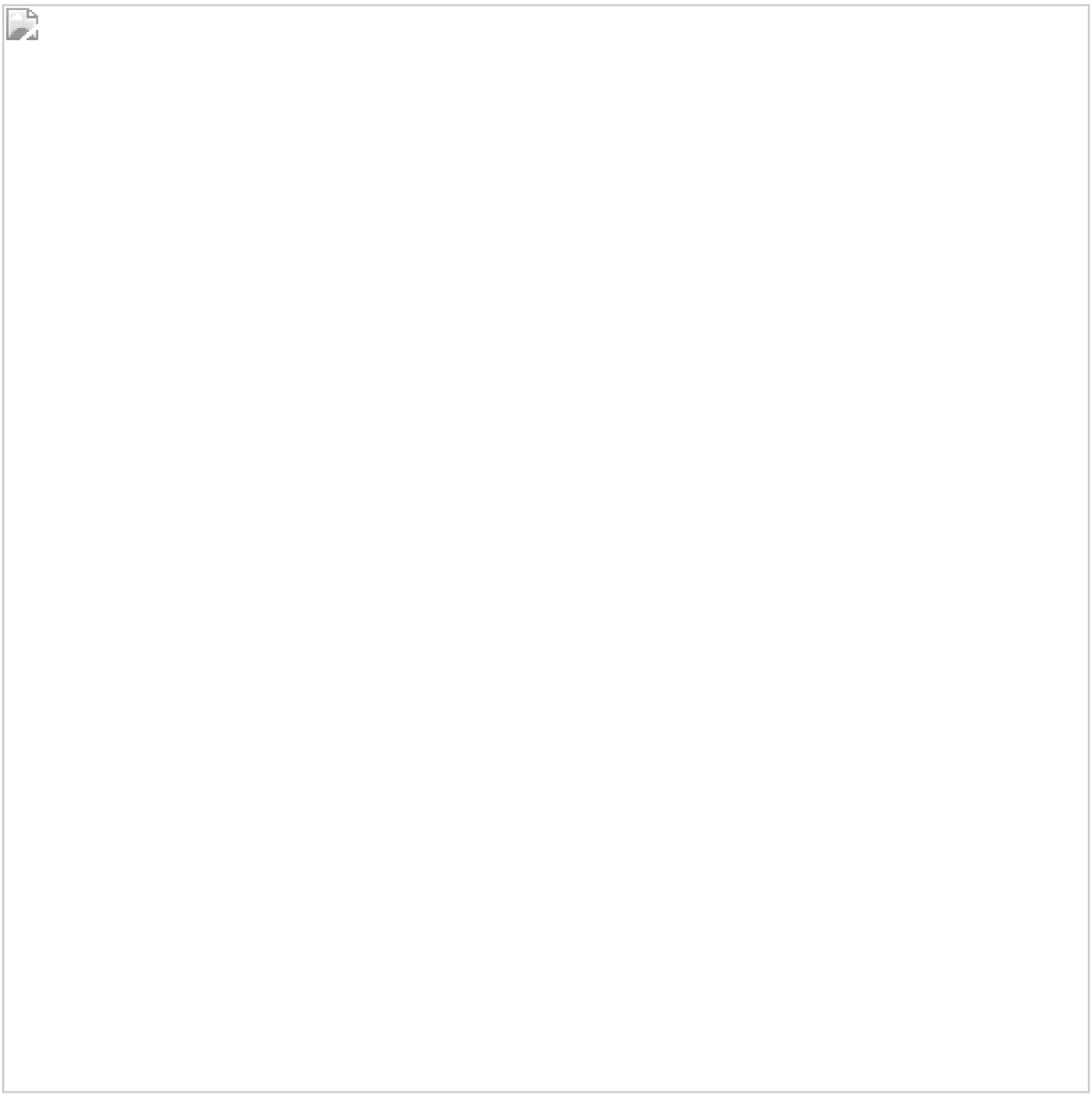


Think about it

1. What kind of engine was the Shiny New Engine?

- ○ A Passenger Engine
- ○ A toy engine
- ○ A fire engine

The Big Strong Engine



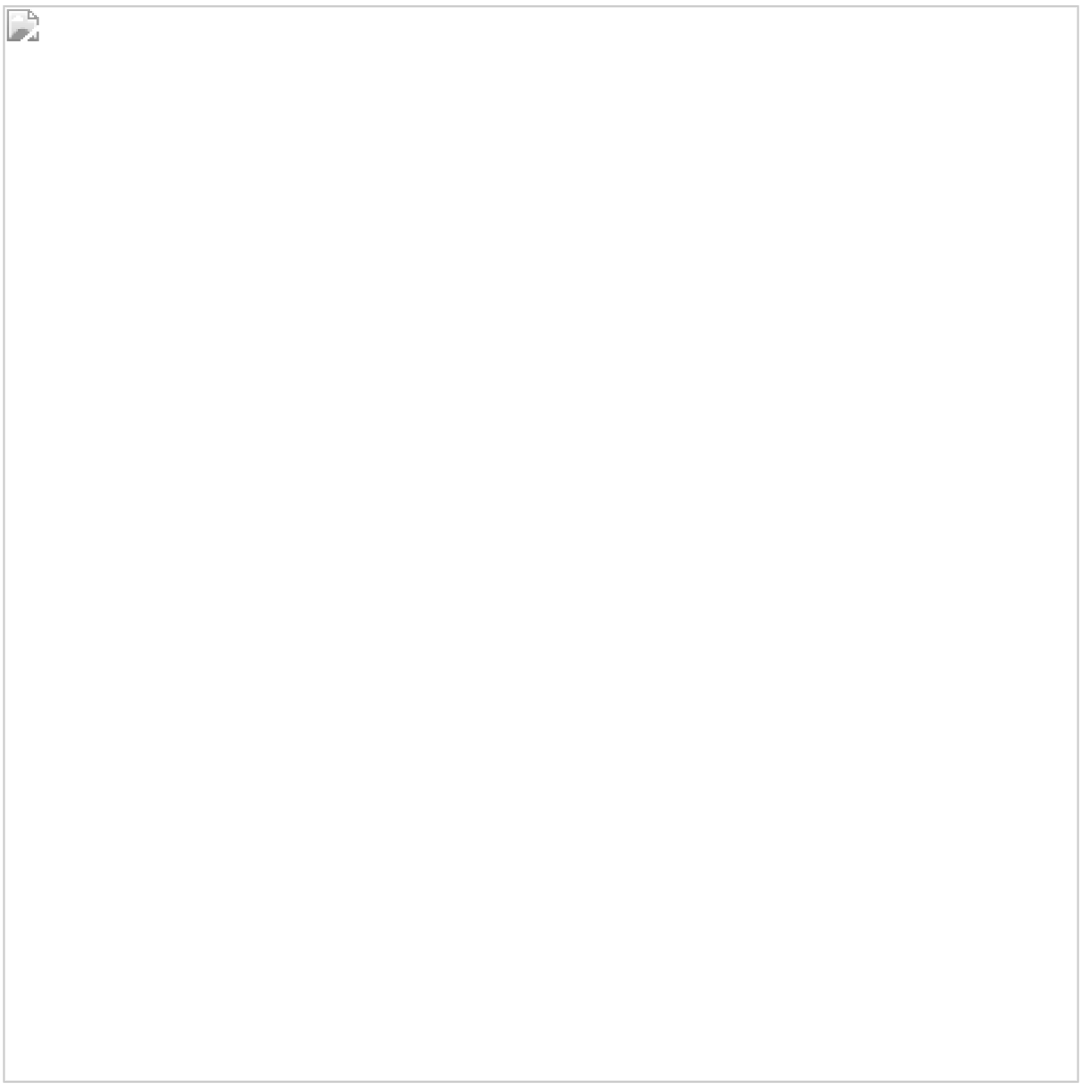
“The Passenger Engine is not the only engine in the world,” said the little clown. “Here comes a big strong one.” He waved his little flag, and the Big Strong Engine stopped.

“Please, oh please, Big Engine,” cried the dolls and toys, “will you carry our train over the mountain?”

But the Big Strong Engine bellowed, “I am a Freight Engine! I have just pulled a train of great machines that print books and newspapers for grown-ups. I am a very important engine indeed. I won’t carry a little train like yours!” And off he puffed to the roundhouse, grumbling all the way.

TALK ABOUT IT

The Big Strong Engine said he was too important to help. Can someone be important and still help with little things?

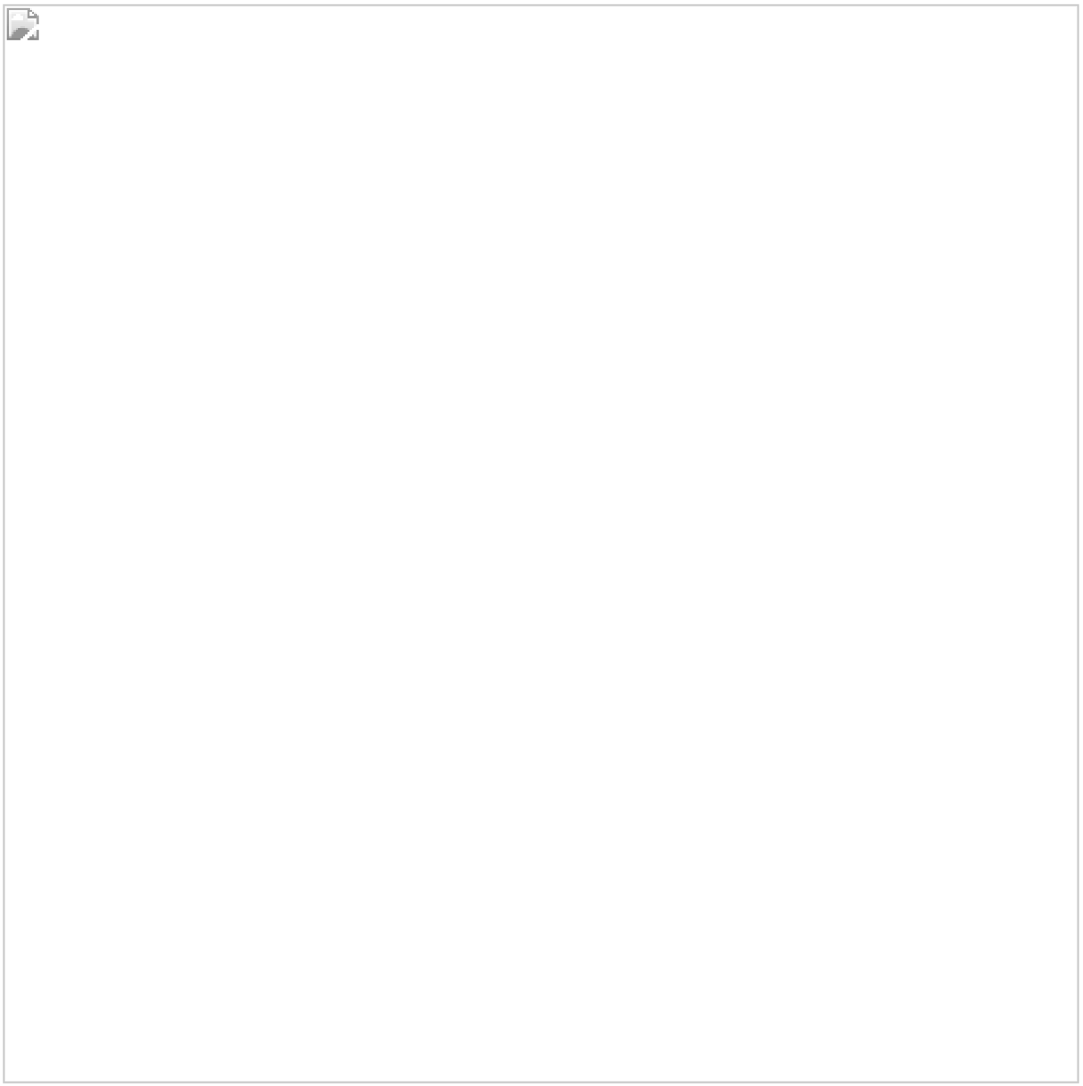


Think about it

1. Why did the Big Strong Engine say no?

- ○ He thought he was too important
- ○ He was lost
- ○ He was out of steam

The Rusty Old Engine



“Cheer up,” cried the little toy clown. “The Freight Engine is not the only engine in the world. Here comes another. He looks very old and tired, but our train is so little. Perhaps he can help us.”

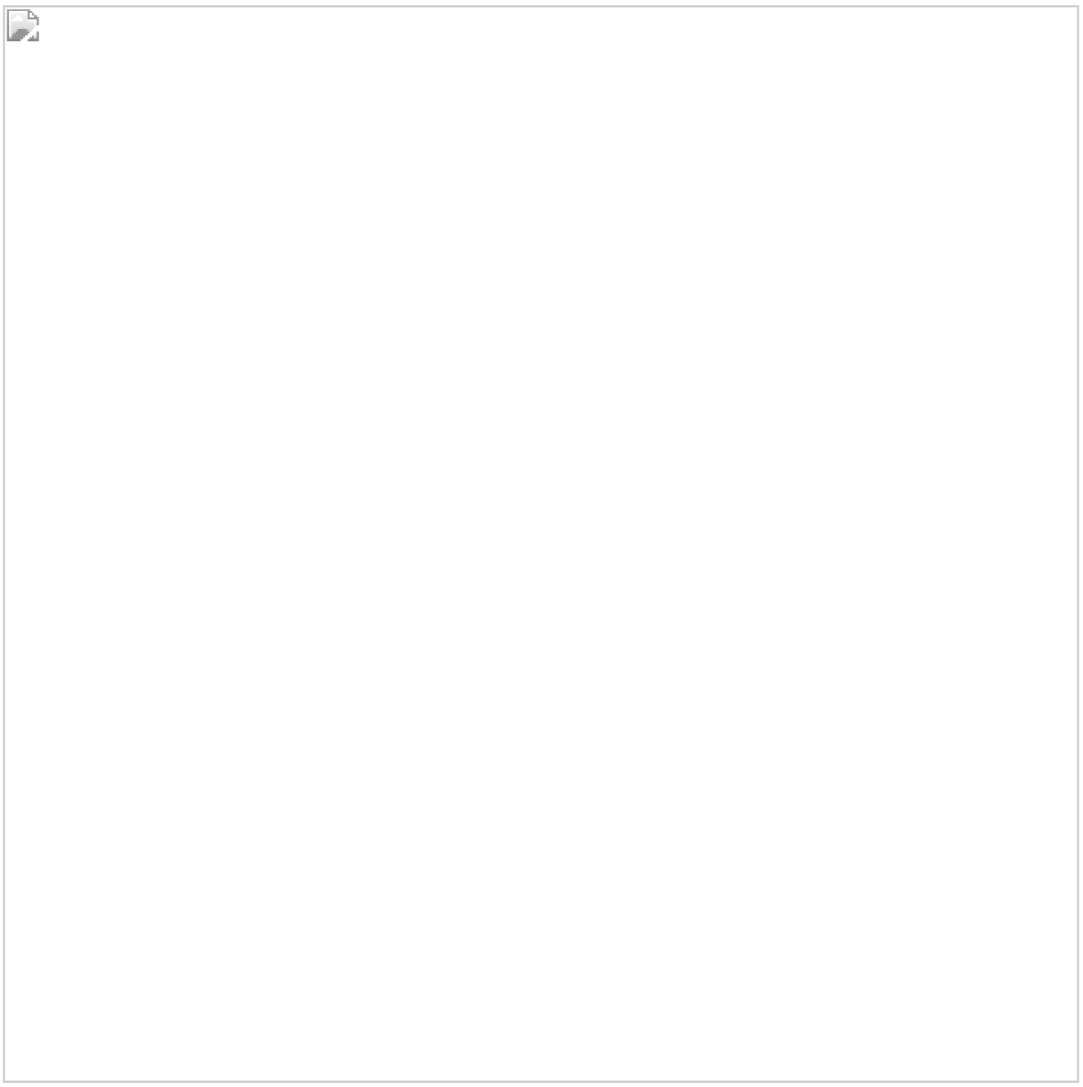
So the clown waved his flag, and the dingy, rusty old engine stopped.

“Please, Kind Engine,” cried the toys, “will you carry our train over the mountain?”

The rusty old engine sighed. “I am so tired. I must rest my weary wheels. I can not. I can not. I can not.” And he rumbled slowly off to the roundhouse. The dolls and toys were ready to cry.

TALK ABOUT IT

The old engine was too tired to help. What can you do when someone you ask can’t help you?



Think about it

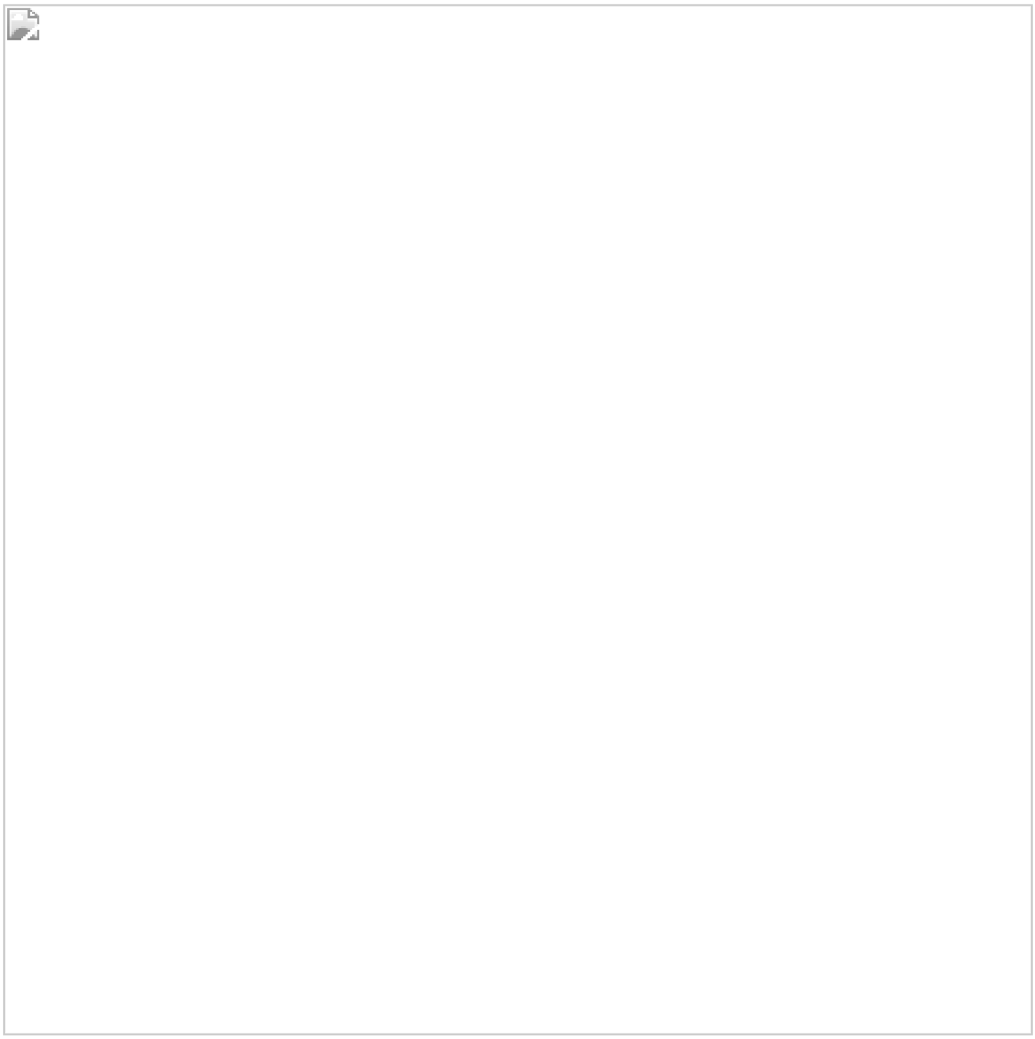
1. What did the rusty old engine keep saying?

- ○ “I can not.”
- ○ “I think I can.”
- ○ “Hooray!”

2. Who never gave up looking for help?

- ○ The Shiny New Engine
- ○ The little toy clown
- ○ The Big Strong Engine

The Little Blue Engine



Then the little clown saw one more engine coming, chug, chugging merrily along. It was a little blue engine, a very little one. “Perhaps she will help us,” he said, and he waved his flag.

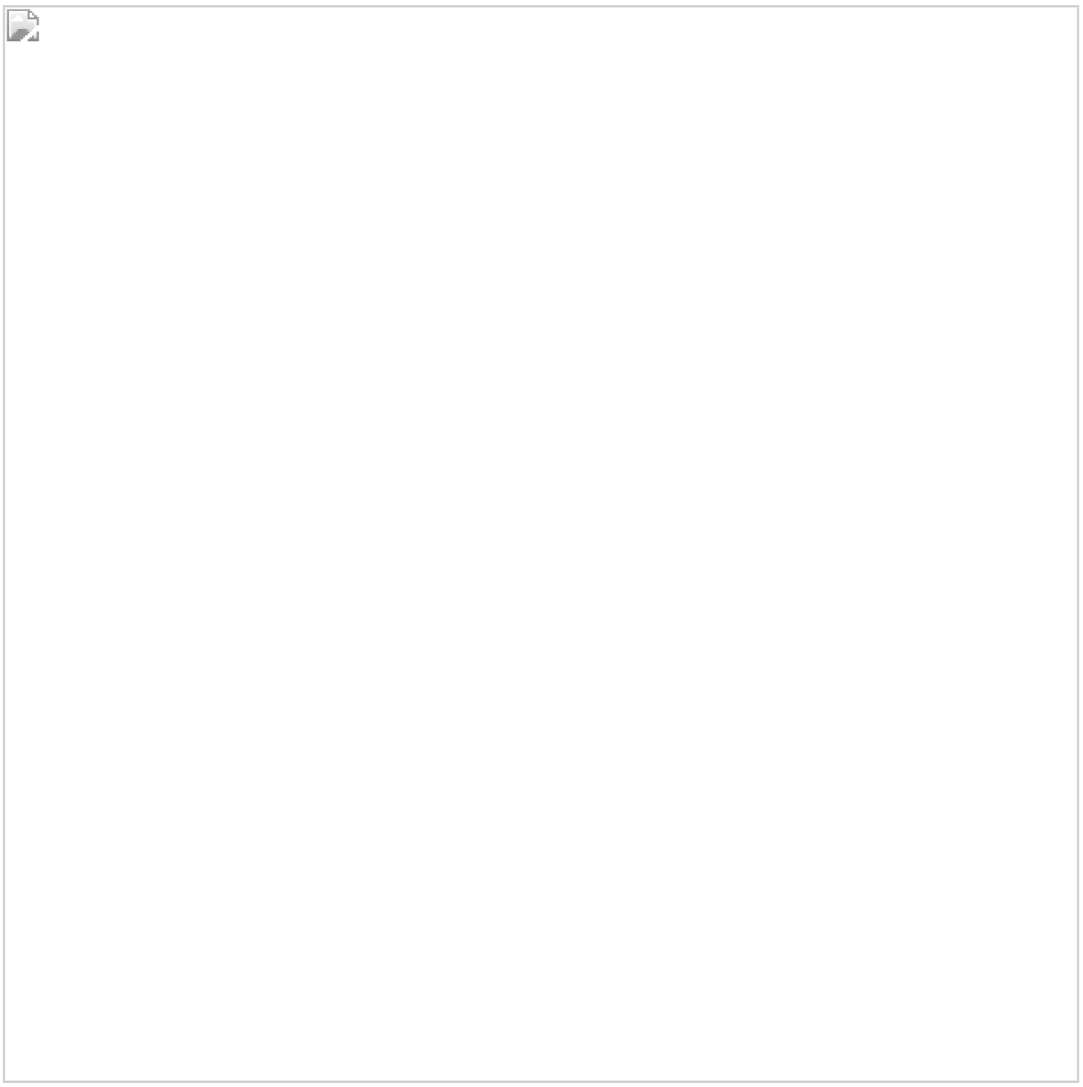
The Little Blue Engine stopped right away. “What is the matter, my friends?” she asked kindly.

“Oh, Little Blue Engine,” cried the dolls and toys, “will you pull us over the mountain? Our engine has broken down. We must get over before the children wake up.”

“I’m not very big,” said the Little Blue Engine. “They only use me for switching cars in the yard. I have never been over the mountain.”

TALK ABOUT IT

The Little Blue Engine told the truth: she was small, and she had never done this before. Why is it good to be honest about that?

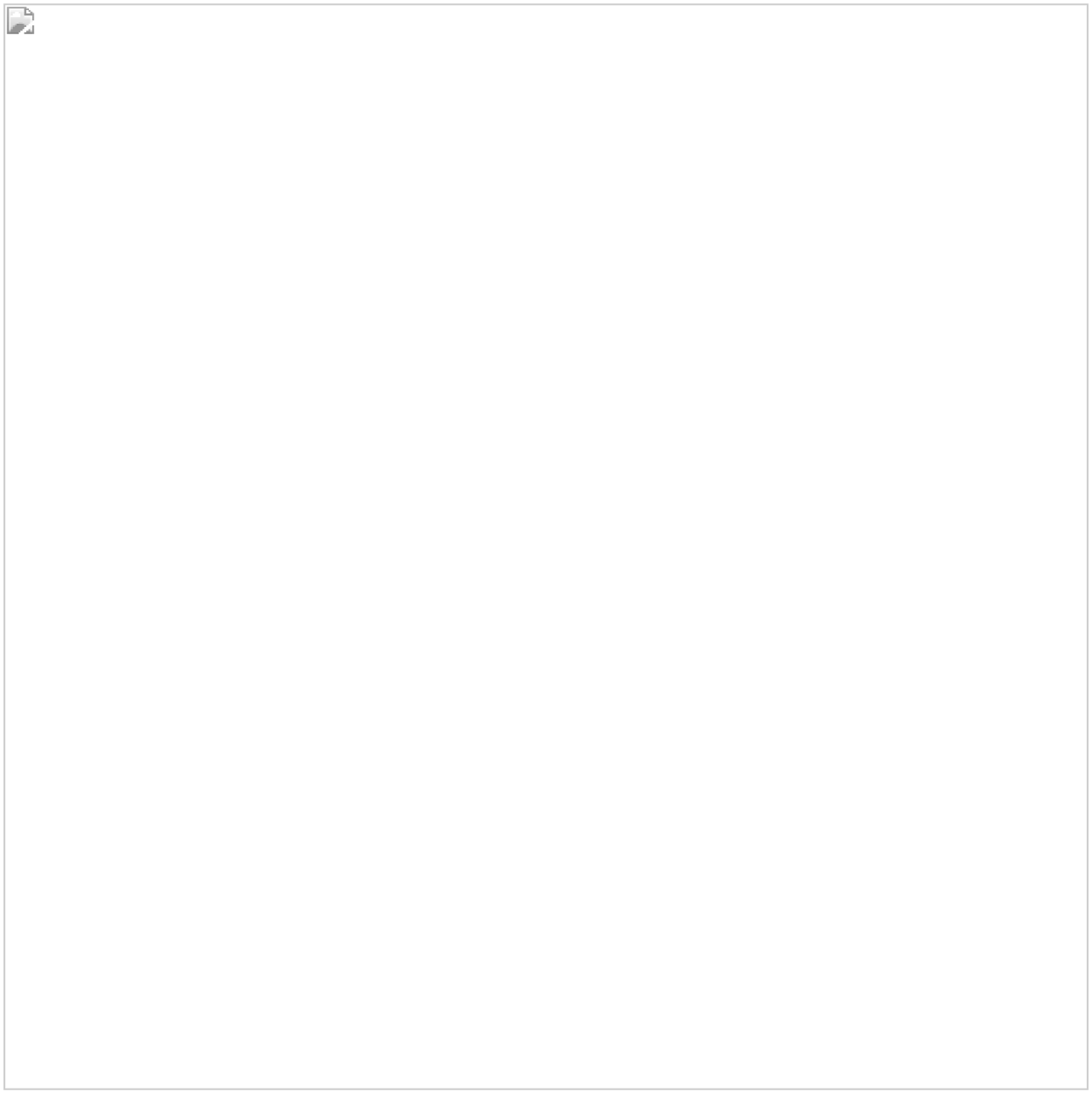


Think about it

1. What did the Little Blue Engine usually do?

- ○ Race other engines
- ○ Move cars around in the train yard
- ○ Carry the king

Tears in a Doll's Eyes



The very little engine looked up, and she saw the tears in a doll's eyes.

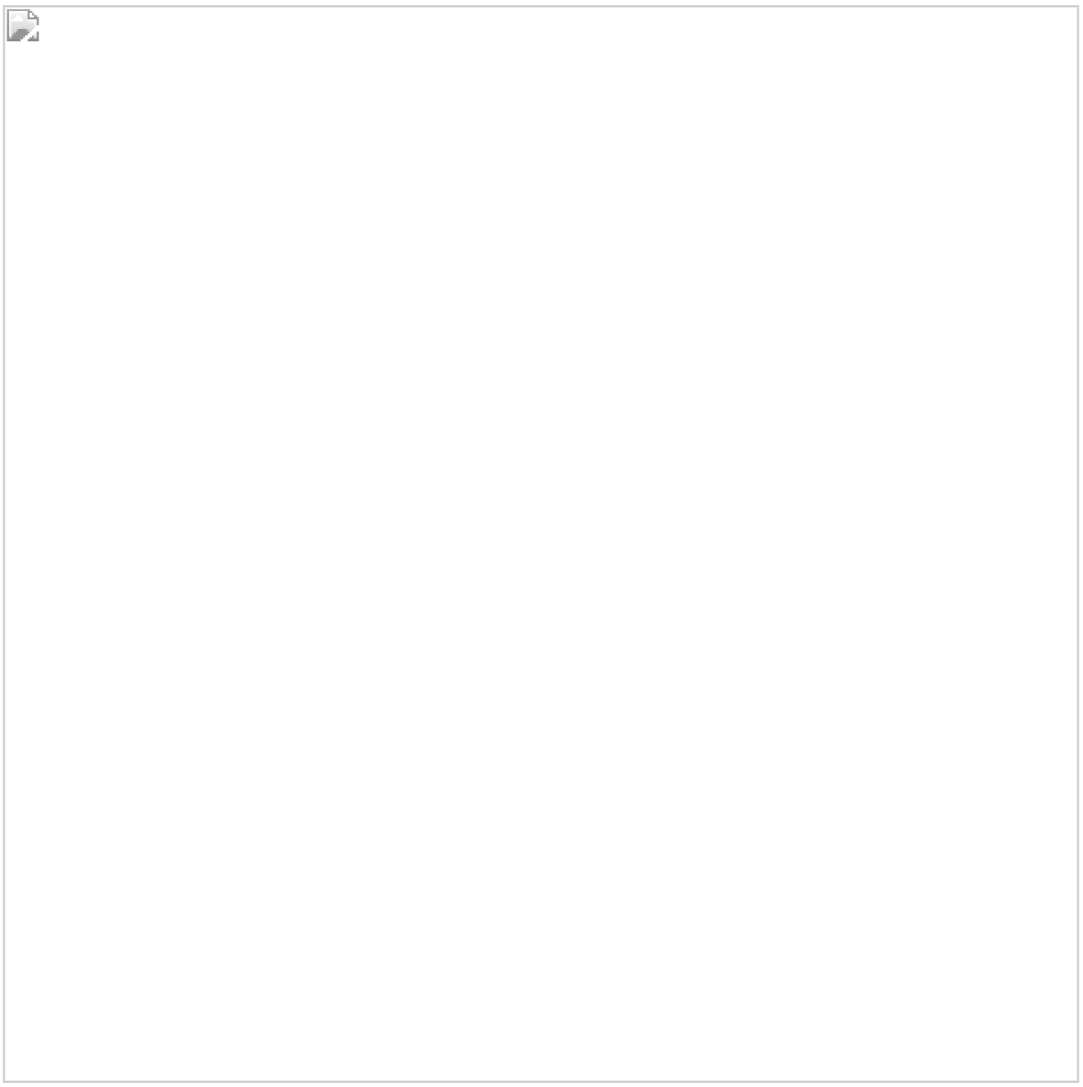
And she thought of the good little boys and girls on the other side of the mountain, who would have no toys and no good food unless she helped.

So she said, "I think I can. I think I can. I think I can." And she hitched herself to the little train.

TALK ABOUT IT

She was not sure she was strong enough, but she thought about the children and decided to try. Who would you try a hard thing for?

Tears in a Doll's Eyes · another picture

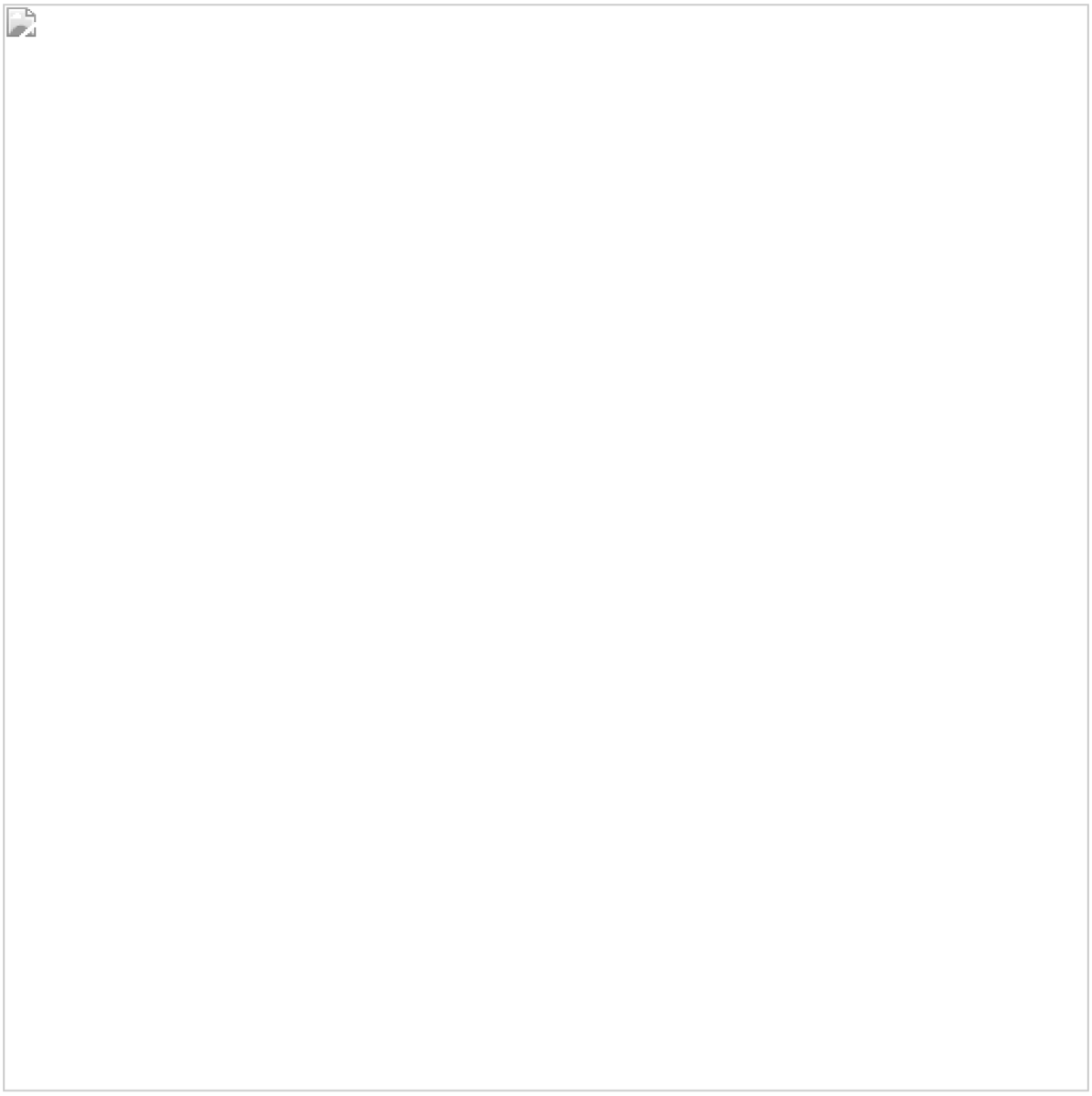


Think about it

1. What made the Little Blue Engine decide to help?

- ○ She wanted a prize
- ○ She saw the doll's tears and thought of the children
- ○ The Big Engine told her to

Up, Up, Up



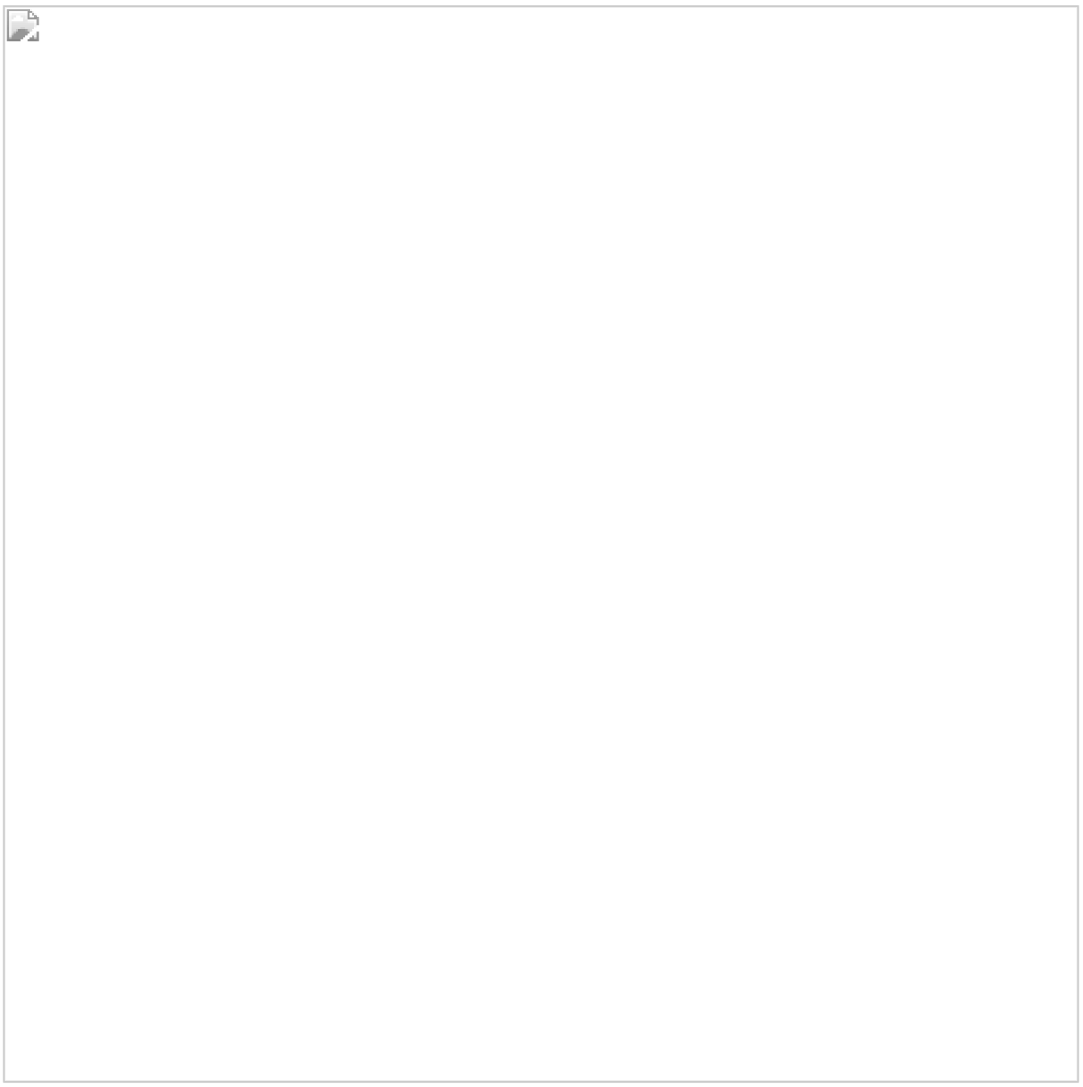
She tugged and pulled and pulled and tugged, and slowly, slowly, slowly, they started off.

The toy clown jumped aboard, and all the dolls and toy animals began to smile and cheer.

Puff, puff, chug, chug, went the Little Blue Engine. “I think I can, I think I can, I think I can, I think I can.” Up, up, up. Faster and faster and faster the little engine climbed, until at last they reached the top of the mountain.

TALK ABOUT IT

Say it with her, slowly at first and then faster: “I think I can, I think I can!” How does it sound when everyone says it together?

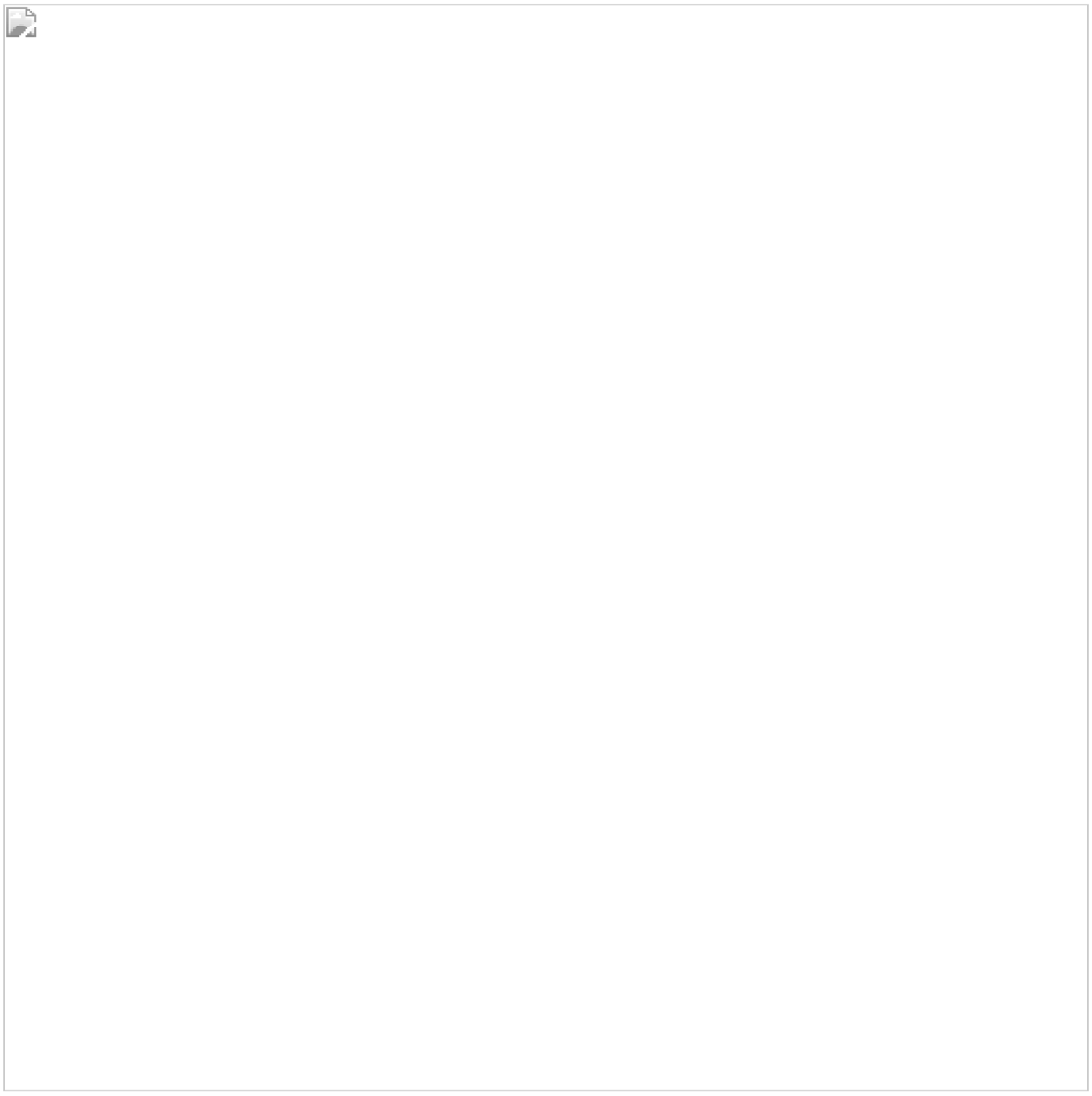


Think about it

1. How did the train start up the mountain?

- ○ Very fast
- ○ Slowly, slowly, slowly
- ○ Backwards

Down in the Valley



Down in the valley lay the city, where the children were still asleep.

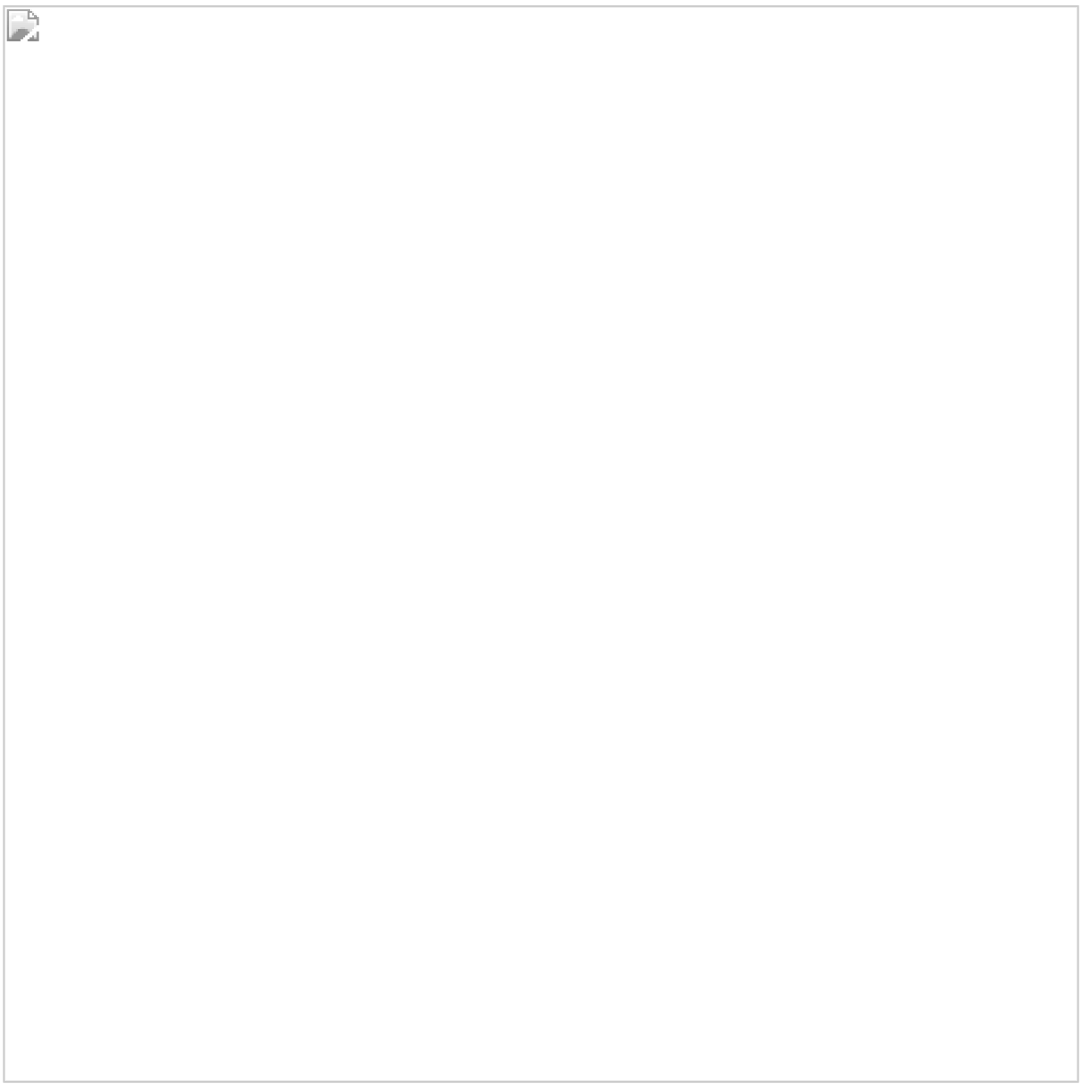
“Hurrah, hurrah!” cried the jolly little clown and all the dolls and toys. “The good little boys and girls in the city will be happy, because you helped us, kind Little Blue Engine.”

And the Little Blue Engine smiled. As she puffed steadily down the mountain, she seemed to say, “I thought I could. I thought I could. I thought I could. I thought I could.”

TALK ABOUT IT

The toys called her “kind” Little Blue Engine, not “strong” or “fast.” Why do you think they chose that word?

Down in the Valley · another picture



Think about it

1. What did the Little Blue Engine seem to say on the way down?

- ○ “I can not.”
- ○ “I thought I could.”
- ○ “Never again.”

2. Who in your life is like the Little Blue Engine? What did they do?

“There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

— Yeshua HaMashiach

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