

UNIT

2

THE WINGS OF DREAMS

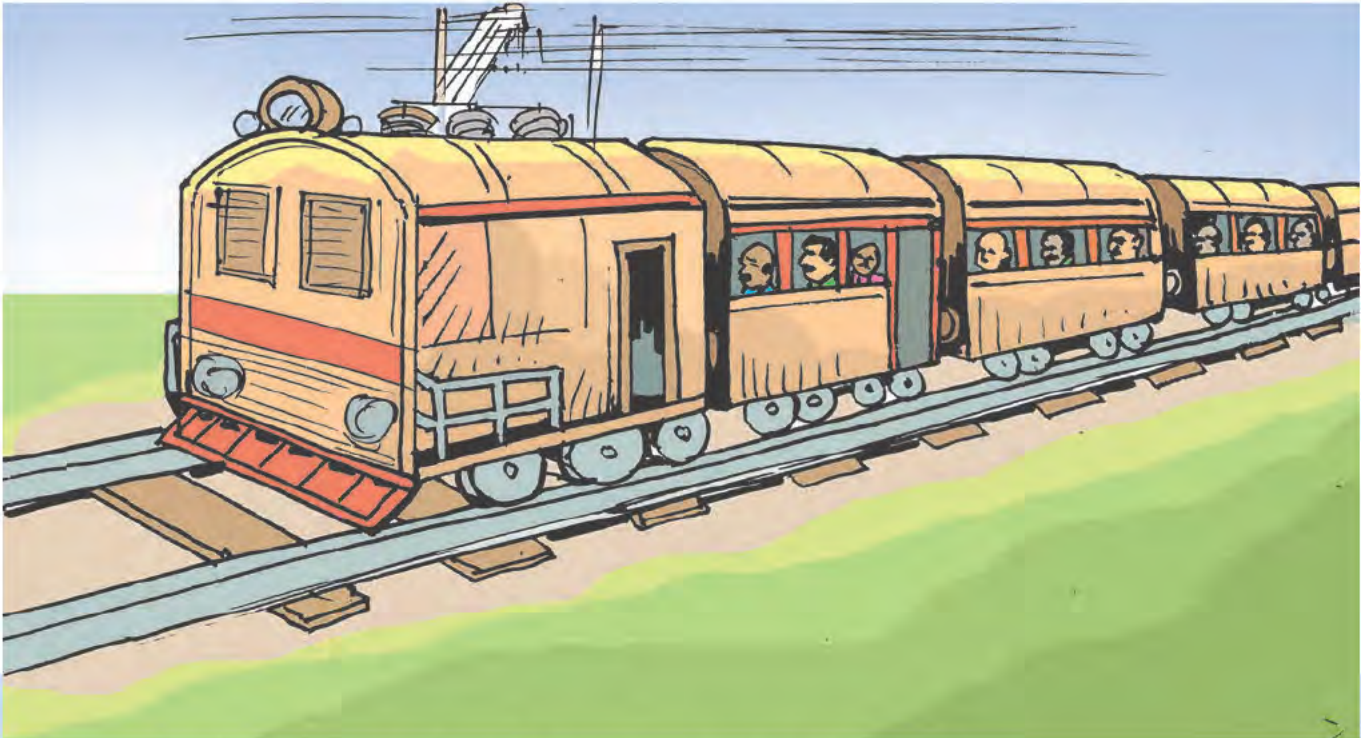
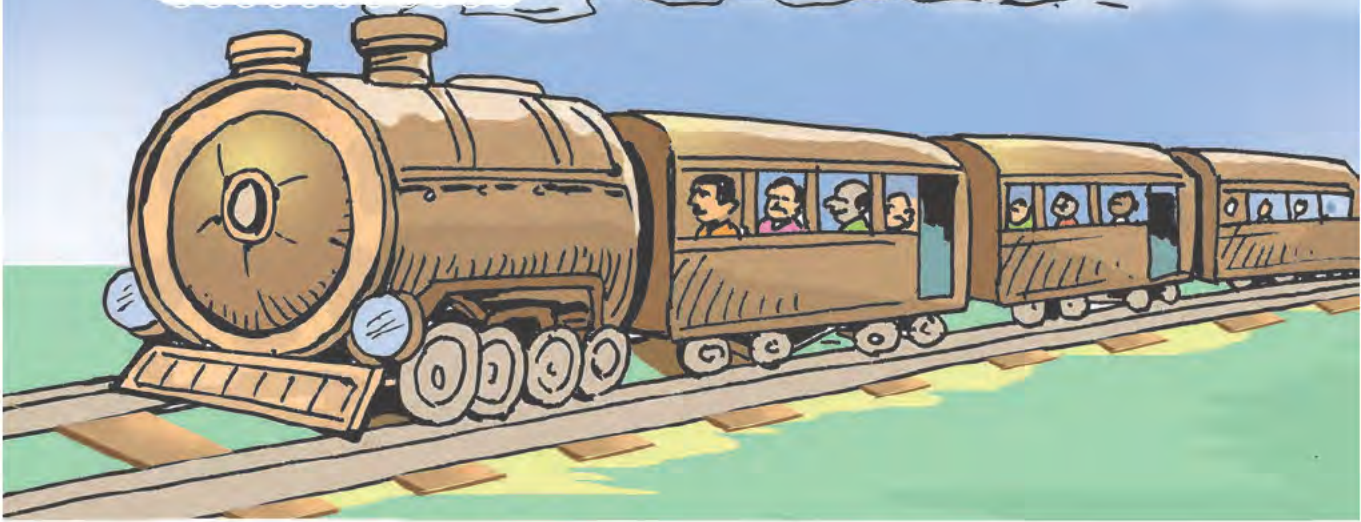


“Dreams transform into thoughts, and thoughts result in action.”

A.P.J Abdul Kalam



The Doorway

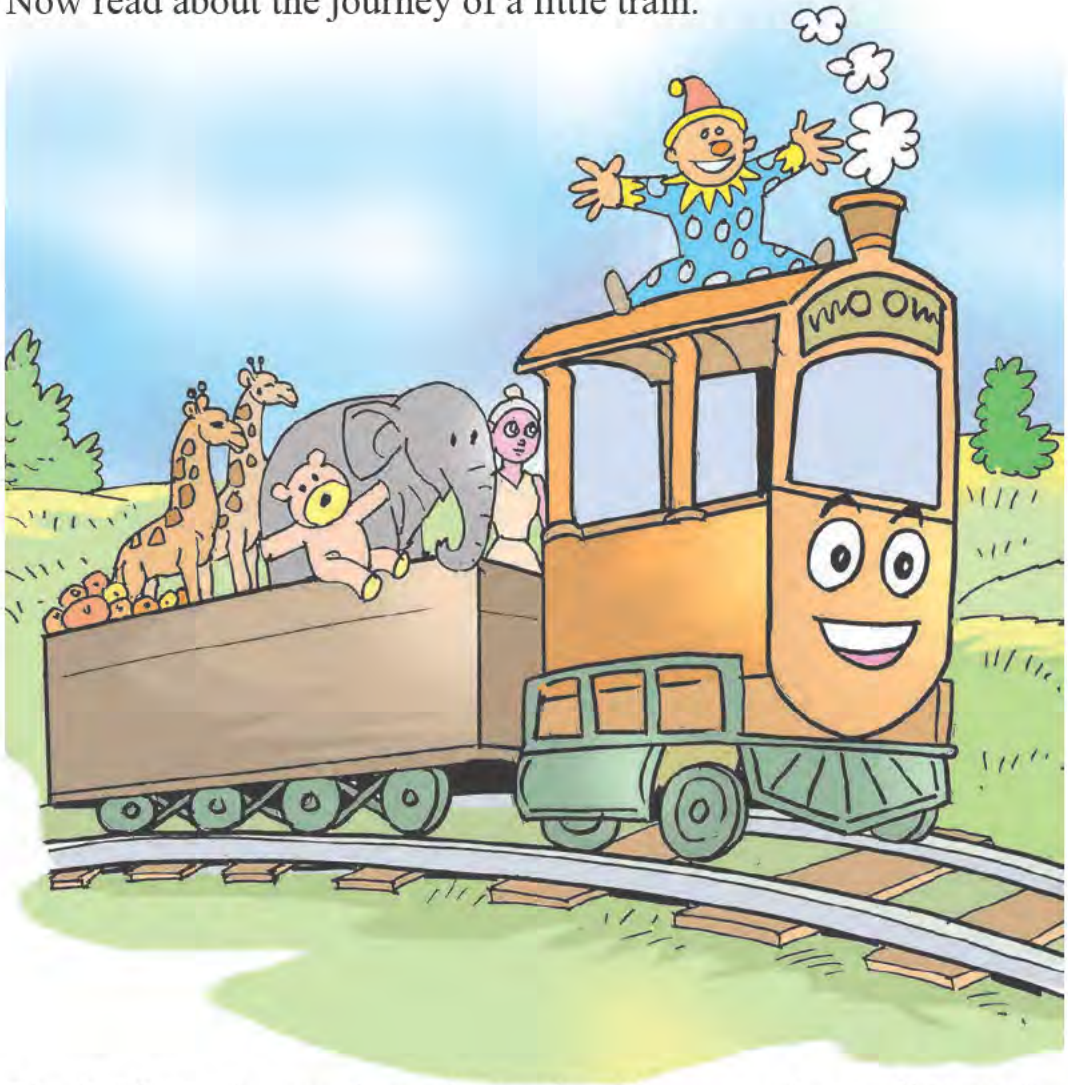


In the pictures given above, you can see two trains.

- ◆ Are these trains different in any way? How are they different?
- ◆ Have you ever travelled by train?
- ◆ What was your experience during your train journey?
- ◆ Share it with your friends.

The Little Engine That Could

Now read about the journey of a little train.

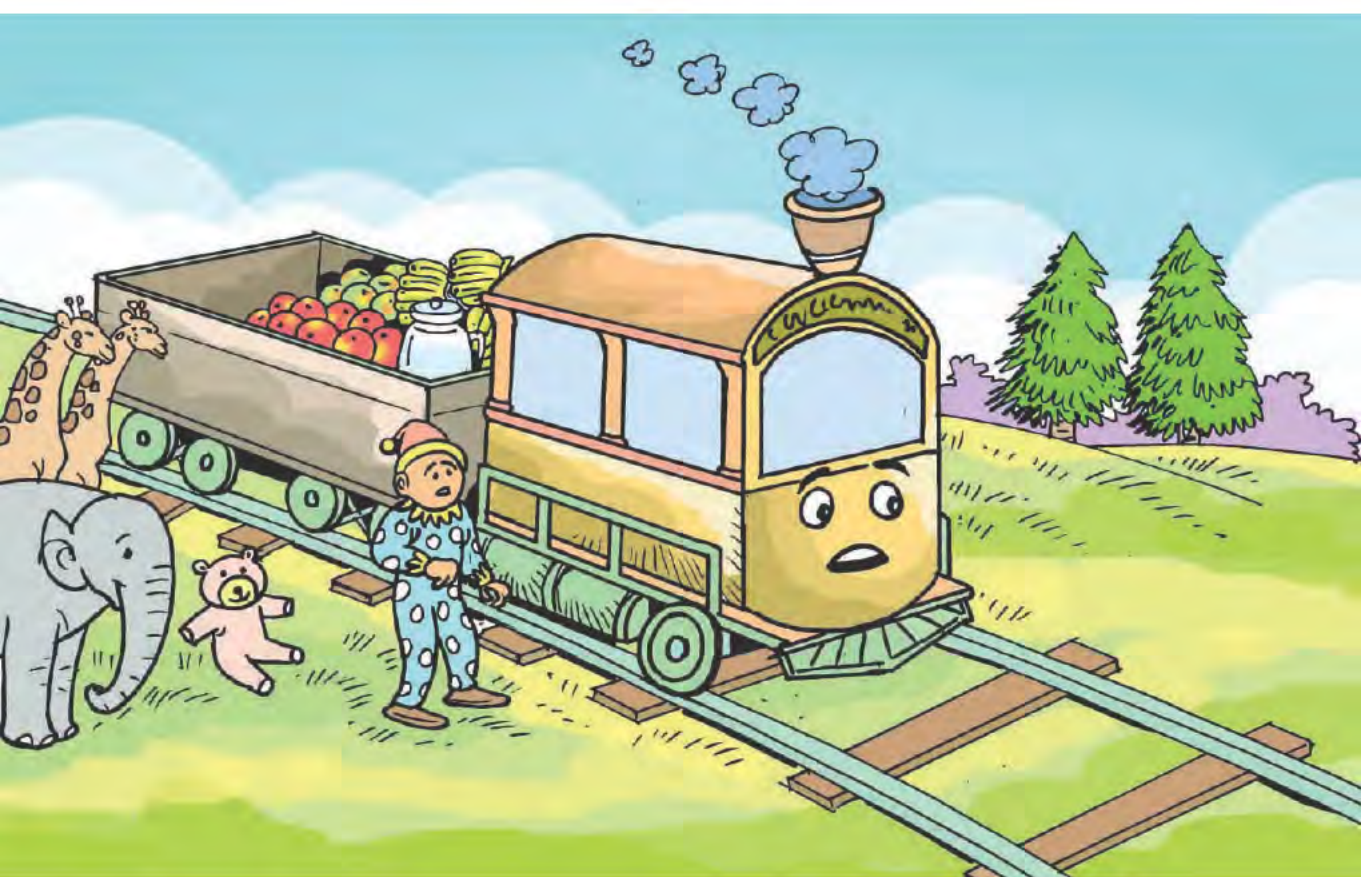


The Little Train ran along the tracks. She was a happy little train. Her cars were full of good things for boys and girls. There were all kinds of toy animals. Giraffes with long necks, teddy bears with no necks, and even a baby elephant. There were all kinds of dolls too. Dolls with blue eyes and yellow hair, dolls with brown eyes and brown hair, and the funniest toy clown you ever saw. There were toy trucks, airplanes, and boats. There were picture books, games, and drums to play.

The Little Train carried every kind of toy that boys or girls would play with. But that was not all. The Little Train carried good things to eat too. Big, round oranges. Fat, red apples. Long, yellow bananas. Fresh, cold milk and lollipops to eat after dinner.

The Little Train was taking all these good things to the other side of the mountain.

“How happy the boys and girls will be to see me!” said the Little Train. “They will like the toys and good food that I am bringing.” But all at once the train came to a stop. She could not move at all.

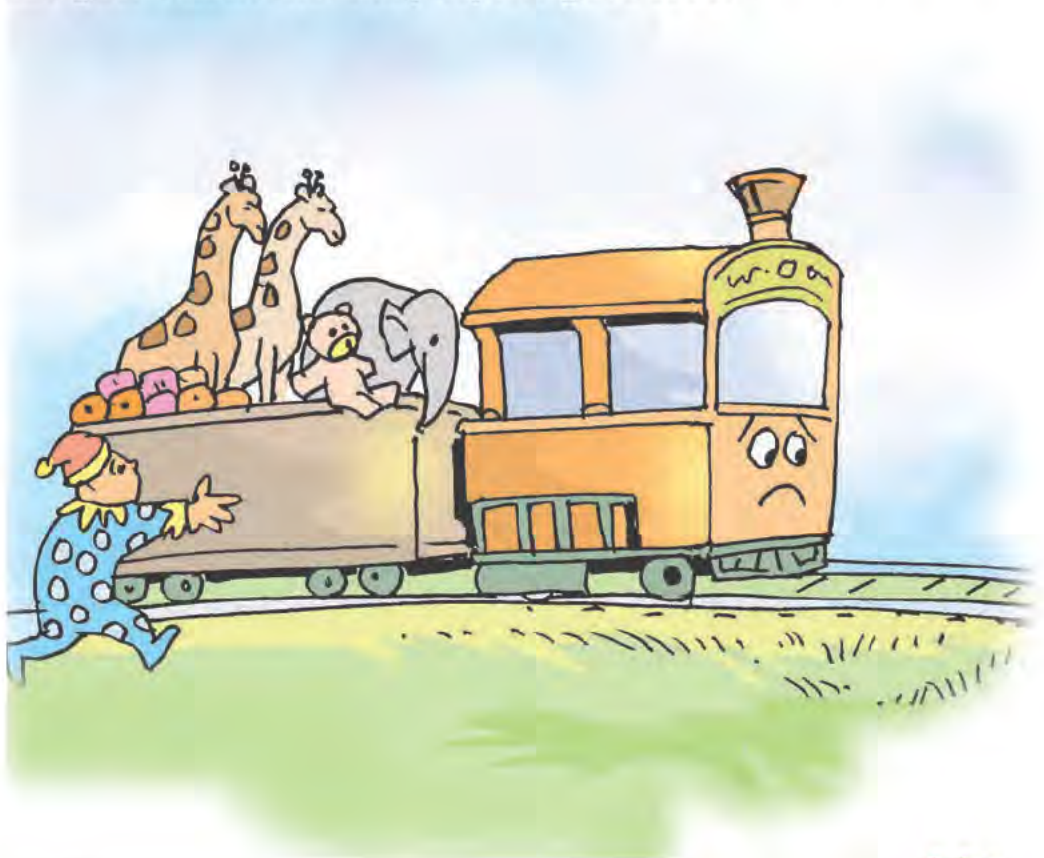


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- ◆ What happened to the Little Train?
- ◆ Why does the Little Train carry things to the other side of the mountain?

“Oh, dear,” said the Little Train. “What can be the matter?” She tried to start up again. She tried and tried. But her wheels just would not turn. “We can help,” said the toy animals. The clown and the animals climbed out of their cars. They tried to push the Little Train. But she could not move. “We can help, too,” said the dolls. And they got out and tried to push. Still the Little Train did not move. The toys and dolls did not know what to do.

Just then a Shiny New Engine came puffing down another track. “Maybe that engine can help us!” cried the clown. He began to wave a red flag. The Shiny New Engine slowed down. The dolls and toys called out to him. “Our engine is not working,” they said. “Please pull our train over the mountain. If you do not, the boys and girls will not have any toys or good food.”



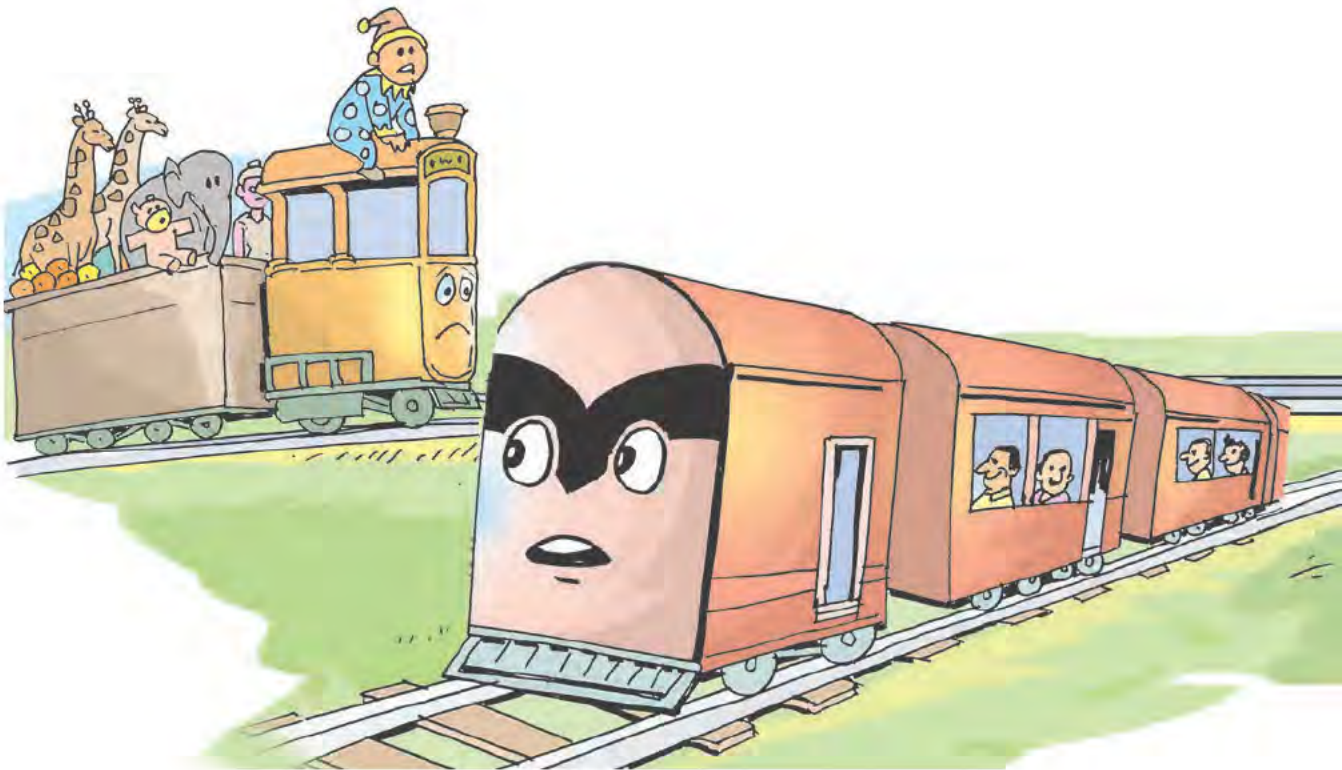
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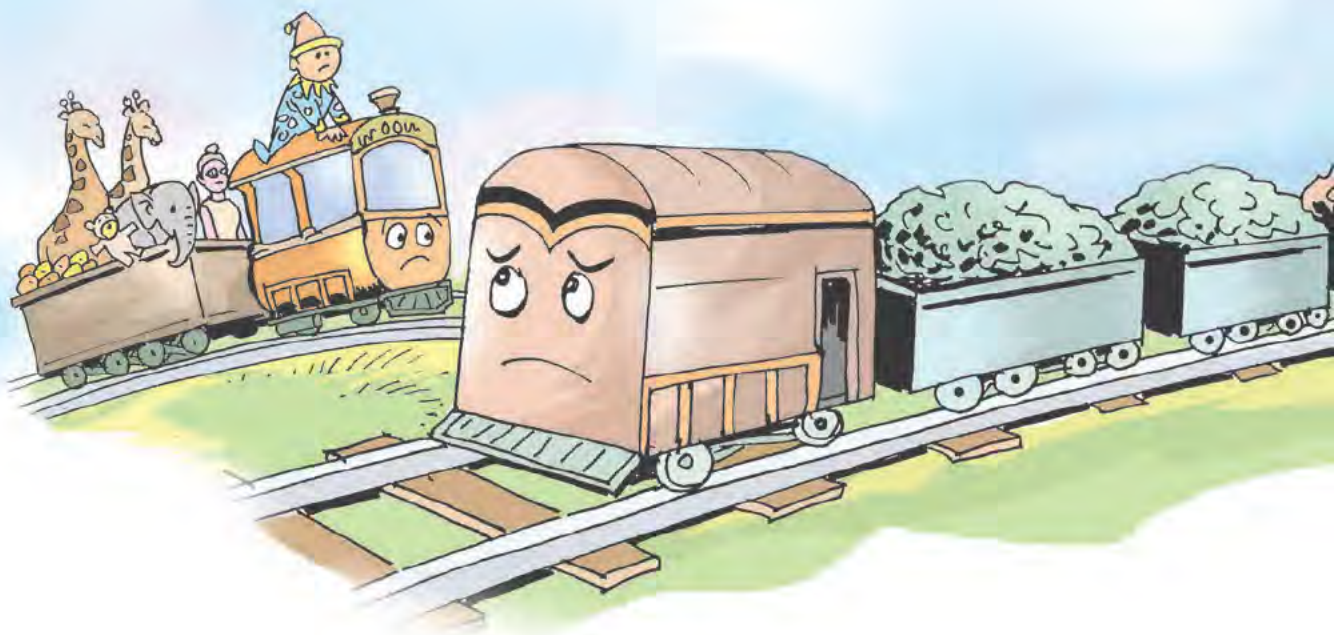
◆ Will the Shiny New Engine help the Little Train?

The Shiny New Engine was a bit friendly. “You want me to pull you?” he asked. “That is not what I do. I carry people. They sit in cars with soft seats. They look out of the windows. They eat in a nice dining car. They even sleep in a fine sleeping car. How dare you ask me?” The Shiny New Engine went without another word. How sad were all the toys and dolls!

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◆ The Shiny New Engine was a bit friendly. But he did not help the Little Train. Why?



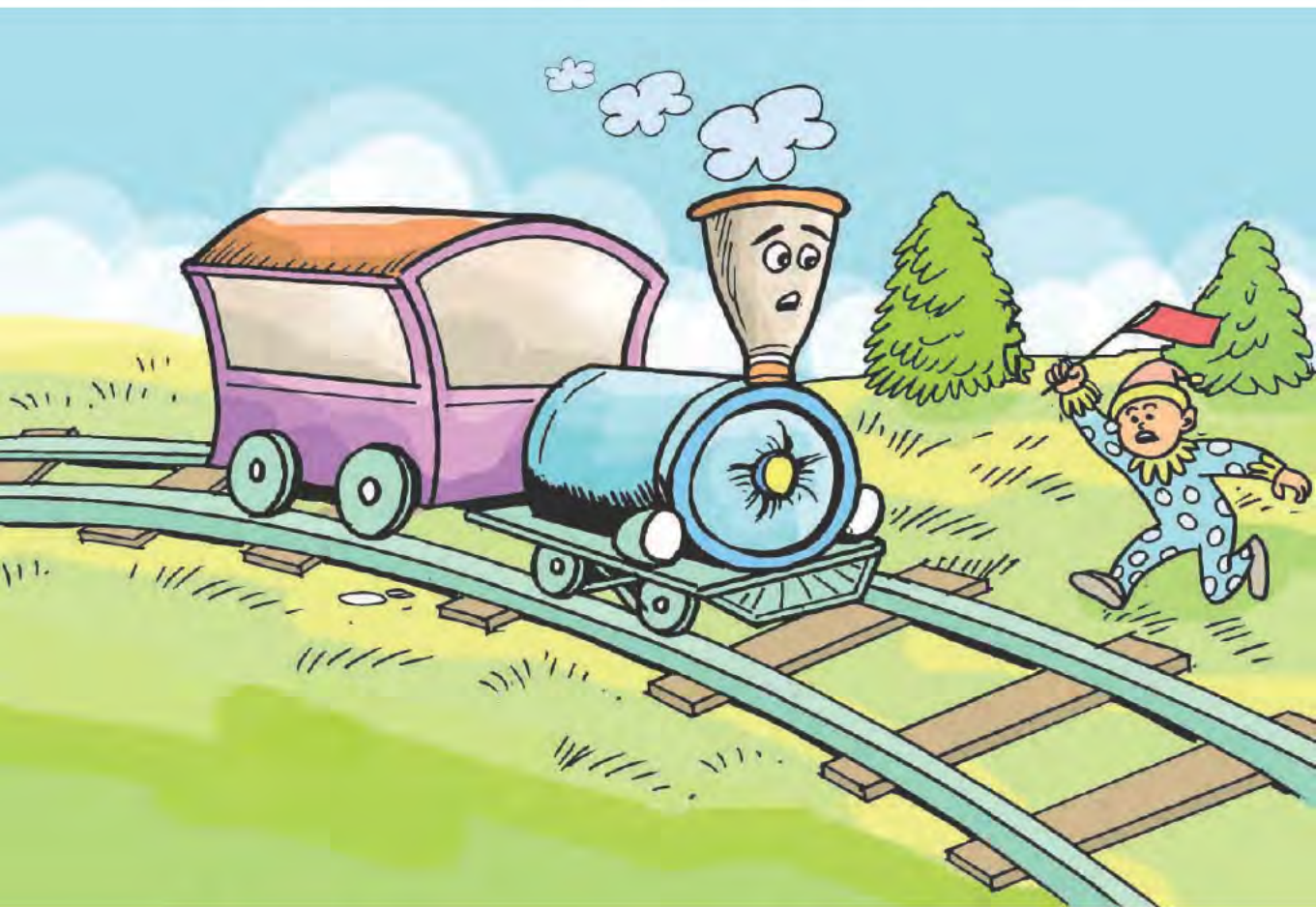


Then the toy clown called out, “Here comes another engine. A big, strong one. Maybe this engine will help us.” Again the clown waved his flag. The Big Strong Engine came to a stop. The toys and dolls called out together, “Please help us, Big Strong Engine. Our train is not working. But you can pull us over the mountain. You must help us. Or, the boys and girls will not have any toy to play with or good food to eat.” But the Big Strong Engine did not want to help. “I do not pull toys,” he said. “I pull cars full of heavy load. I pull big trucks. I have no time to help you.” And away puffed the Big Strong Engine without a word.

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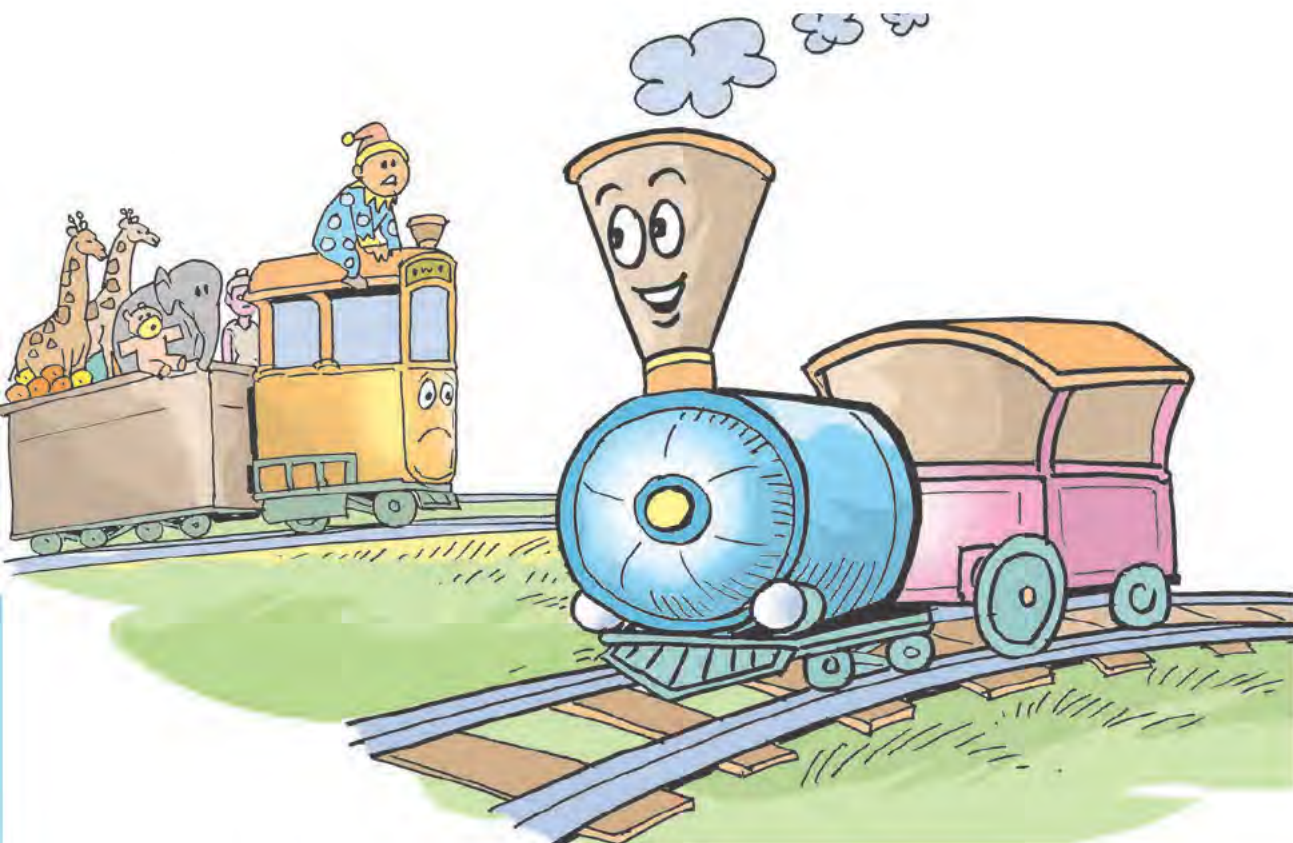
◆ The Big Strong Engine puffed away without a word. What was the reason?

The Little Train was no longer happy. And the dolls and toys were ready to cry. But the clown called out, “Look! Look! Another engine is coming. A Little Blue Engine. A very little one. Maybe this engine will help us.” The Little Blue Engine was a happy engine. She saw the clown waving his red flag and stopped at once. “What is the matter?” she asked kindly. “Oh, Little Blue Engine,” cried the dolls and toys. “Will you pull us over the mountain? Our engine is not working. If you do not help, the boys and girls will have no toys or good food. Just over the mountain. Please, please help us.”



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- ◆ Will the Little Blue Engine help the Little Train?
- ◆ What would happen if the Little Blue Engine did not help the Little Train?



“Oh, my dears,” said the Little Blue Engine. “I am not very big. And I do not pull trains. I just work in the yards. I have never been over the mountain.”

But we must get there before the children wake up,” said the toys and dolls. “Please?” The Little Blue Engine looked at the dolls and toys. She could see that they were not happy. She thought about the children on the other side of the mountain. Without toys or good food, they would not be happy either. The Little Blue Engine pulled up closer. She took hold of the Little Train. The toys and dolls climbed back into their cars.

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- ◆ How does the Little Blue Engine differ from the other engines?
- ◆ What are the qualities that you find in the Little Blue Engine?

At last the Little Blue Engine said, “I think I can climb up the mountain. I think I can. I think I can.” Then the Little Blue Engine began to pull. She tugged and she pulled. She pulled and she tugged. “I think I can. I think I can,” she said. Slowly... slowly..., the train started to move. The dolls and toys began to smile and clap. Up the mountain went the Little Blue Engine. And all the time she kept saying, “I think I can, I think I can, I think I can...” Up, up, up. The little engine climbed and climbed.



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- ◆ Why did the dolls and toys start smiling and clapping?
- ◆ Why does the Little Blue engine say ‘I think I can’?

At last, she reached the top of the mountain. Down below lay the city. “Hurray! Hurray!” cried the dolls and animals.

“The boys and girls will be so happy. All because you helped us Little Blue Engine,” said the toy clown.

The Little Blue Engine just smiled. But as she puffed down the mountain, the Little Blue Engine seemed to say...

“I thought I could, I thought I could, I thought I could.”

?

- ◆ Which character in this story do you like the most? Why?
- ◆ Suggest another title for the story.

About the author



Arnold Munk (1858-1957) was born in Hungary. This story is his first published version of the fairy tale. He chose the pen name Watty Piper.



Glossary

- clown : a performer who makes people laugh
puff : sound made when an engine releases steam
teddy bear : a stuffed animal that looks like a bear



Activity 1

The Little Blue Engine helped the Little Train reach the other side of the mountain. Have you ever helped someone in trouble? Write a short paragraph about your experience.

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Activity 2

The little train carried many things. List them below.

Things to eat and drink

Things to play with

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Activity 3

The Little Train tried hard. But her wheels just would not turn. The clown and the animals climbed out of their cars. They tried to push the Little Train. But she could not move. What would the Little Train think then?

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Activity 4

The Little Blue Engine helped the Little Train and she continued the journey. On the way, the Little Train happened to meet the Shiny New Engine. He was surprised to see the Little Train. What could be the conversation between the Little Train and the Shiny New Engine?

Shiny New Engine :

Little Train :

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Activity 5

Read the following sentences from the story and note the words underlined.

The Little Train carried good things to eat too. Big, round oranges. Fat, red apples. Long, yellow bananas. Fresh, cold milk and lollipops to eat after dinner.

Look at the word pyramid and make more such word pyramids.



Orange

Flower

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Activity 6

In the story, the Little Blue Engine says, **I think I can...**
Ask your friends if they can do what they see in the pictures given. Write down your questions and the possible responses.



Questions

Possible responses

1. Can you swim?

1. Yes, I can. / No, I can't.

2.

2.

3.

3.

4.

4.

5.

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6.

6.



Activity 7

Shall we enact the story in the form of a skit?
Discuss in groups how to perform the skit. The following questions will help you.

What are the events in the story?
Where do the events take place?
Who are the characters?
What do they say?
Write them in the boxes below.

Events

Characters

Dialogues

Watch the presentation of each group and comment on it.



Rain in Summer

Here's a poem that tells you about the beauty of rain.
Read and appreciate.

How beautiful is the rain!
After the dust and heat,
In the broad and fiery street,
In the narrow lane,
How beautiful is the rain!

How it clatters along the roofs,
Like the tramp of hoofs
How it gushes and struggles out
From the throat of the overflowing spout!

Across the windowpane
It pours and pours;
And swift and wide,
With a muddy tide,
Like a river down the gutter roars
The rain, the welcome rain!



About the poet



Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882) was an American poet and educator. He was the first American to translate Dante's '*Divine Comedy*' into English.



Glossary

clatter	: to make a loud, rattling sound
gutter	: a channel on the edge of a road for draining rainwater
hoof	: the foot of a horse
muddy	: full of mud
overflow	: to spill over the edge of a container
pour	: to flow steadily and continuously
roar	: to make a deep, loud sound
swift	: moving quickly
tide	: a surge of water, especially in the ocean
window-pane	: a sheet of glass in a window
wide	: covering a large area



Let's explore the poem



1. When does the rain look beautiful ?

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2. How does the rain affect the people and places?

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3. Write some changes that you have seen after a heavy rain.

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4. What are the things you would like to do on a rainy day?

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5. Pick out the lines that describe the sound of rain.

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6. Pick out the rhyming words from the poem.

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Activity 1

You might have experienced the rain in different ways.

Write your experience below.

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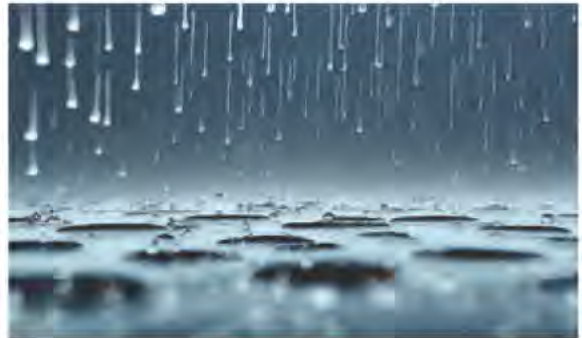
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Activity 2

Riddle Round

I come from the sky, but
 I'm not a bird.
 I can make you wet, but
 I'm not a pool.
 I come in drops, but
 I'm not a tear drop.
 What am I?



Riddle

Draw your answer here

You open me,
 When the clouds pour down.
 You fold me,
 When the rain stops.
 What am I?



Write down two more riddles.

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Activity 3

Look at the pictures and note the words under each picture. Match the words with their meaning and write them in the space provided.



drizzle



showers



downpour



rainstorm



sunshower



hailstorm

A sudden heavy fall of hail stones

hailstorm

A very light rain falling slowly and steadily

Heavy and intense rainfall

Light fall of rain while the sun shines

A sudden rain along with strong wind

Light rain that comes and goes

Let's read the story of a girl who dreamt of becoming a Pilot.

Arya in the Cockpit



Arya always wanted to fly.

When she was four years old, she wanted to be Rosamma.

Arya saw her at the circus. Rosamma was a trapeze artiste.

Arya wanted to fly in the air from swing to swing. Her clothes would glitter like Rosamma's. Hundreds of people would clap for her. She would eat cotton candy every day. Her best friend would be a clown.

?

Who did Arya want to be when she was four years old and why?

When Arya was eight years old she wanted to be Kalpana Chawla. She made herself an orange space suit. She wore it day and night.

“Arya, aren’t you feeling hot in that suit?”

“Astronauts have to get used to the suit, Amma. Space is not as safe as the Earth is. My suit will protect me.”

When Arya was twelve years old, she wanted to be Amelia Earhart. She built a model plane for her school project. It couldn’t fly, but she still got the second prize.

Arya even got a haircut like Amelia!

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Why did the eight-year-old Arya want to be Kalpana Chawla?



Soon, Arya heard of Angulia Bai, Kumudammal, and SarlaThakral, the first Indian women to fly a plane.

Angulia Bai was just sixteen years old!

“I can’t wait till I’m a teenager!”

“So you can drive?”

“No.”

“So you can vote?”

“No.”

“Then what?”

“So I can fly.”

When Arya was eighteen years old, she wanted to become a fighter pilot.

“Who are they, Chechi?” asked her little brother Raju, seeing a poster on her wall.

“They are Bhawana, Avani and Mohana, the first women to fly fighter planes in India.”

“Are they your friends?”

Arya laughed. “Maybe someday, Raju...”

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What did Raju ask Arya about the poster on her wall, and how did Arya respond?



Arya saved up money to attend flying school.

She spent years studying. She sat along with pilots to learn from them. She worked hard and ate a lot of carrots! Amma always said carrots are great for the eyes.

Finally, she is ready to sit in the cockpit herself.

Today is a special day for Arya. That's her in the cockpit. She's very excited because there are two special passengers on her plane this morning.

"Ladies and gentlemen, this is your Captain, Arya. Welcome aboard!"

"Chechi!" Raju was thrilled.

"Yes, my daughter!" Raju's mother hugged him.

About the author



Nandita Jayaraj is an independent science journalist and author who co-founded the media platform *thelifescience.com*. She is also an author/co-author of many books such as *Anna's Extraordinary Adventures with Weather*, *31 Fantastic Adventures in Science* and most recently, *Lab Hopping: A Journey to Find India's Women In Science*.



Glossary

astronaut	: a person trained to travel and work in space
cockpit	: the cabin or control room of an aircraft
fighter pilot	: a military pilot trained to fly combat aircraft
glitter	: shine
space suit	: special clothing designed to protect astronauts
trapeze artiste	: a performer who uses a trapeze



Activity 1

You have read about Arya's dreams. Do you have dreams? What do you want to become in your life? Write about your dream.

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Activity 2

Here is a timeline of Arya's aspirations and dreams. Complete the timeline and write a few sentences about it.

- 4 years old - a trapeze artiste
- 8 years old -
- 12 years old -
- 18 years old -

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