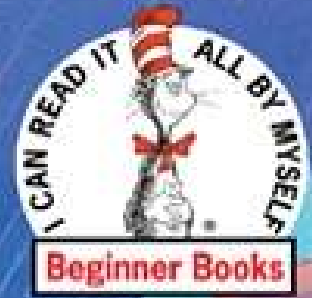
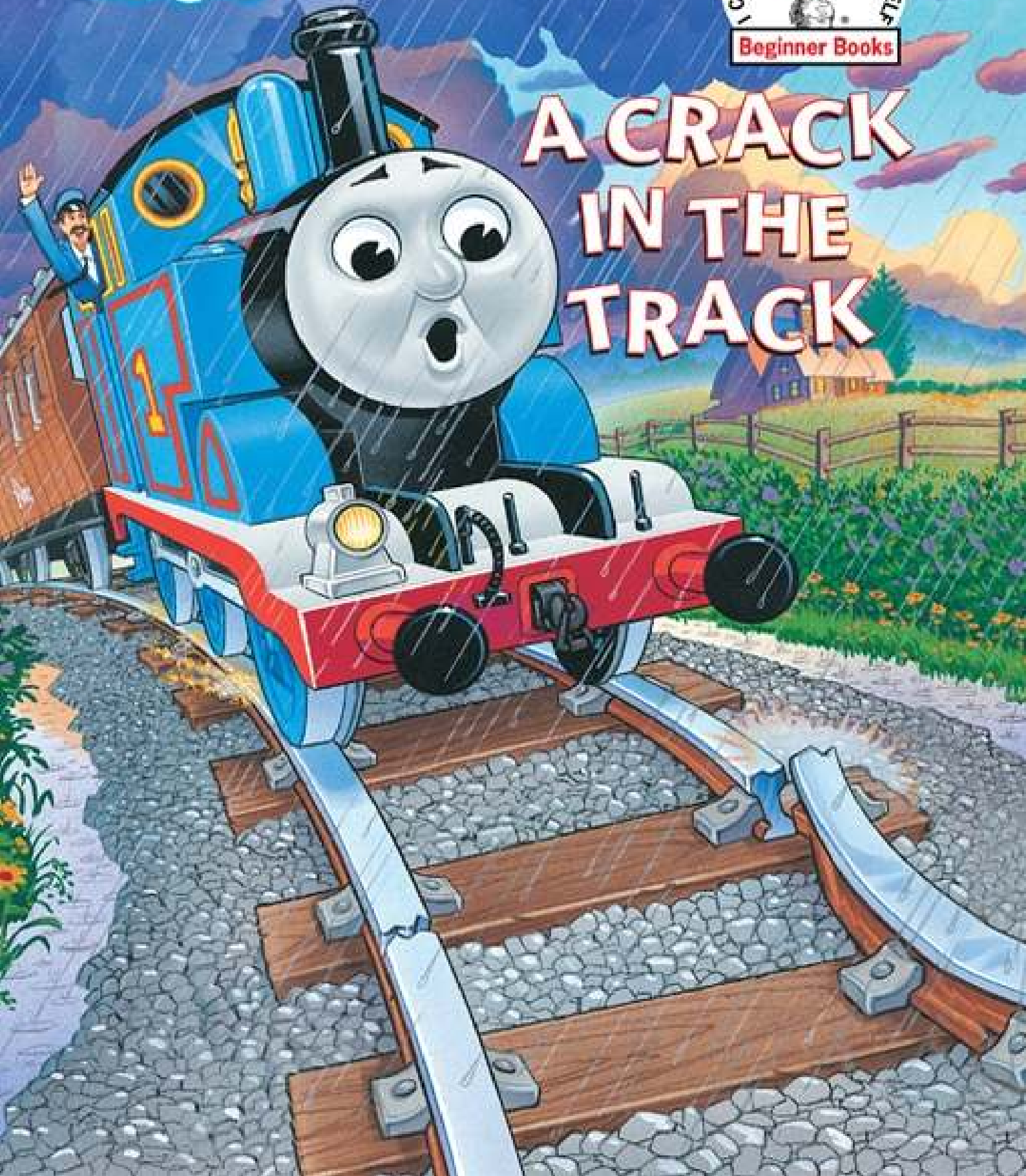


**THOMAS
& FRIENDS**



A CRACK IN THE TRACK



A CRACK IN THE TRACK

A Thomas the Tank Engine Story
Based on *The Railway Series* by the Rev. W. Awdry
Illustrated by Tommy Stubbs



BEGINNER BOOKS
A Division of Random House, Inc.
New York

CREATED BY BRITT ALLCROFT

Based on The Railway Series by the Rev W Awdry

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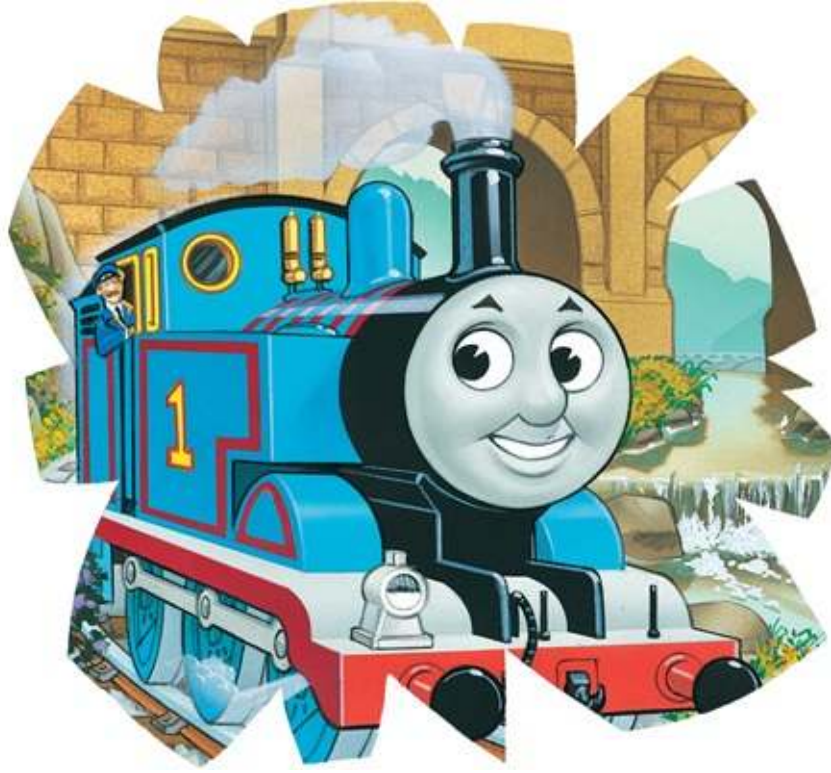
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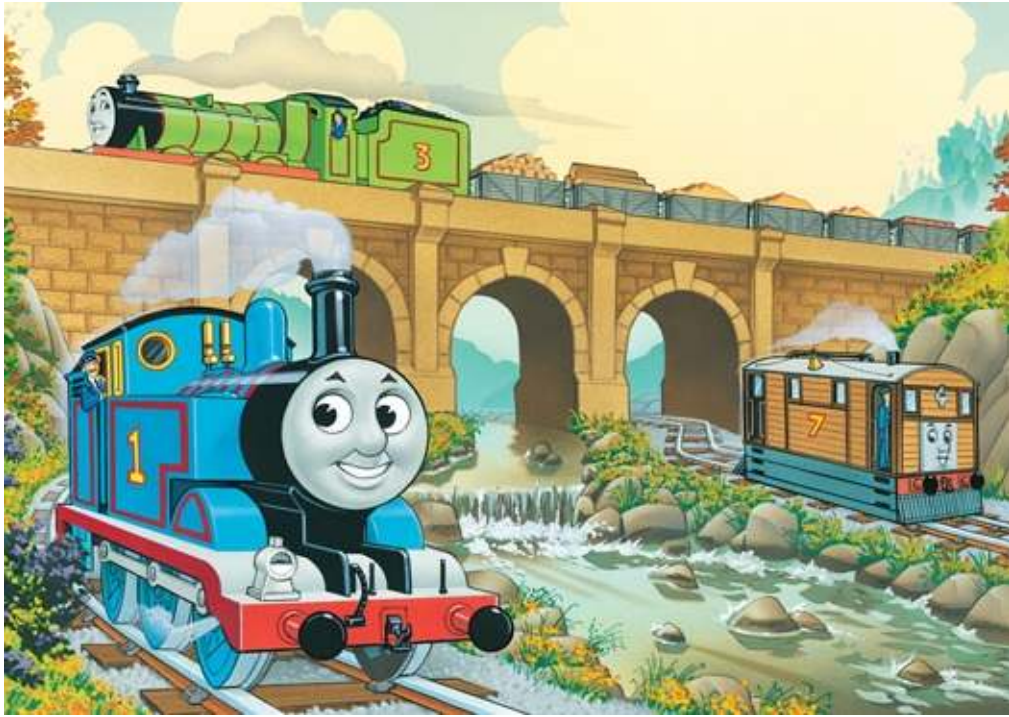
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Thomas was a little blue steam engine.



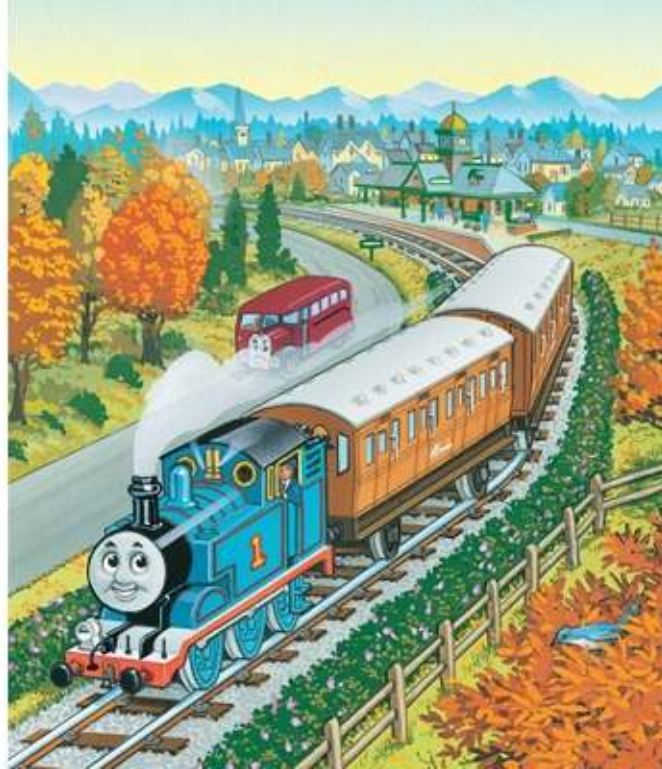
He lived on the Island of Sodor
with many other engines.



Sometimes Thomas pulled his coaches,

Annie and Clarabel.

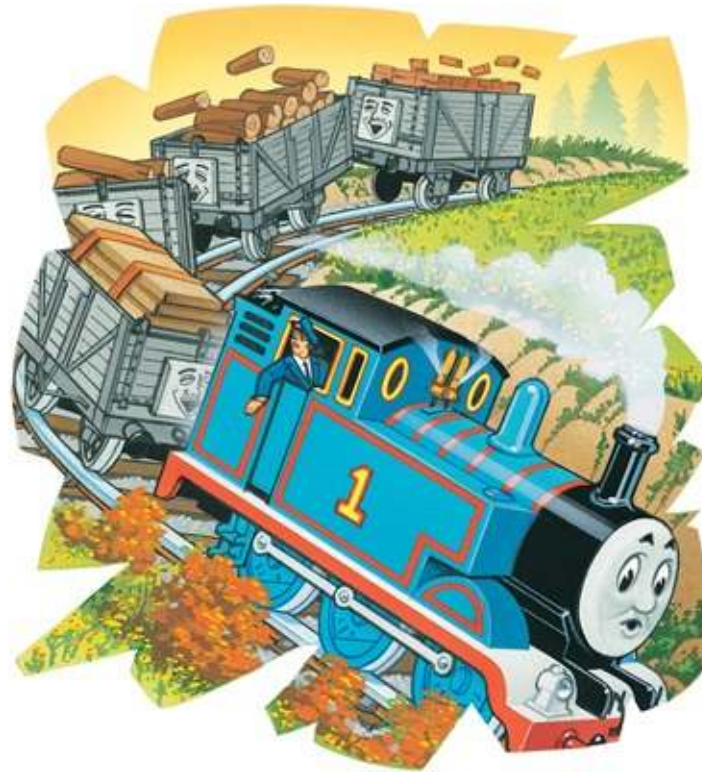
“Hurry, hurry!” said the coaches.



Sometimes Thomas pulled freight cars.

“Faster, faster!” said the foolish freight cars.

They would try to push Thomas down the hill.



And sometimes Thomas traveled
all by himself across the island.



He chugged in the rain.



He huffed in the sun.

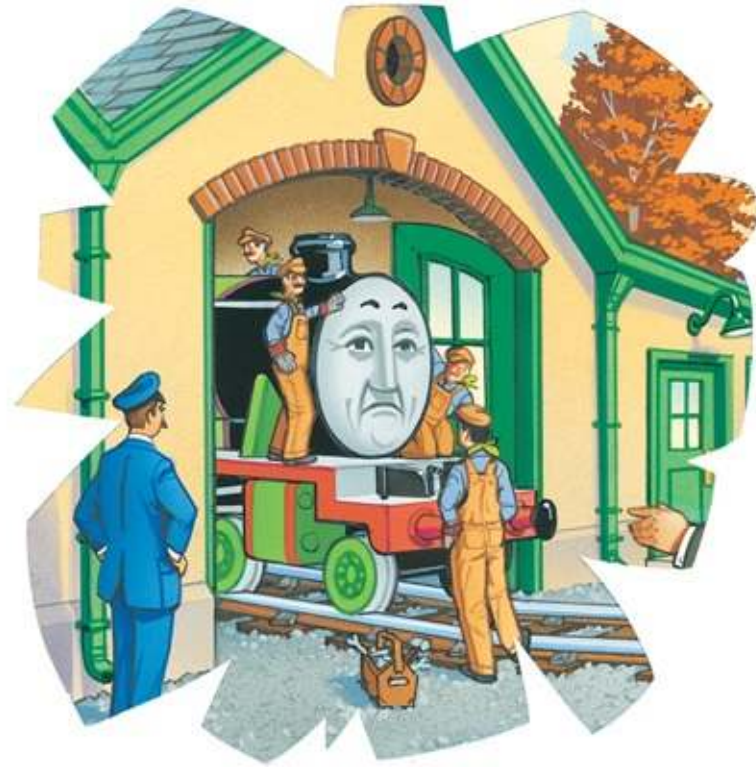


And he puffed in the snow.



“There is nothing a train cannot do!”
Thomas said proudly.

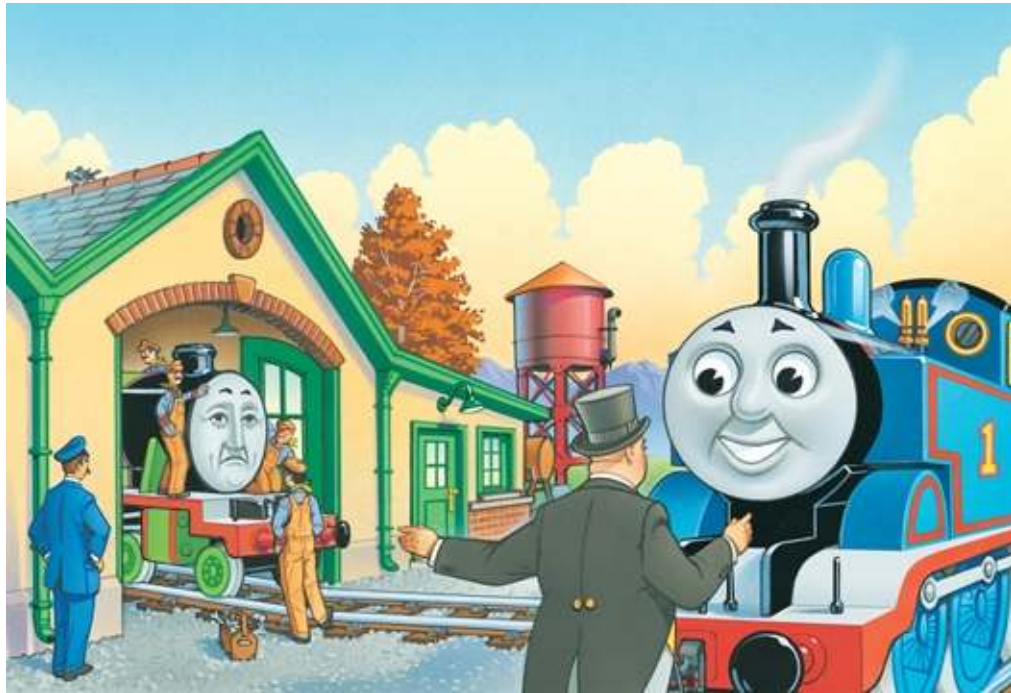
One morning, Henry the Green Engine
would not come out of his shed.
He had boiler ache.



So Sir Topham Hatt asked Thomas to help.

“Peep, peep,” Thomas said to the people.

“I can take you where you want to go!”



Soon clouds gathered.

The sky grew dark.

Thunder rumbled.

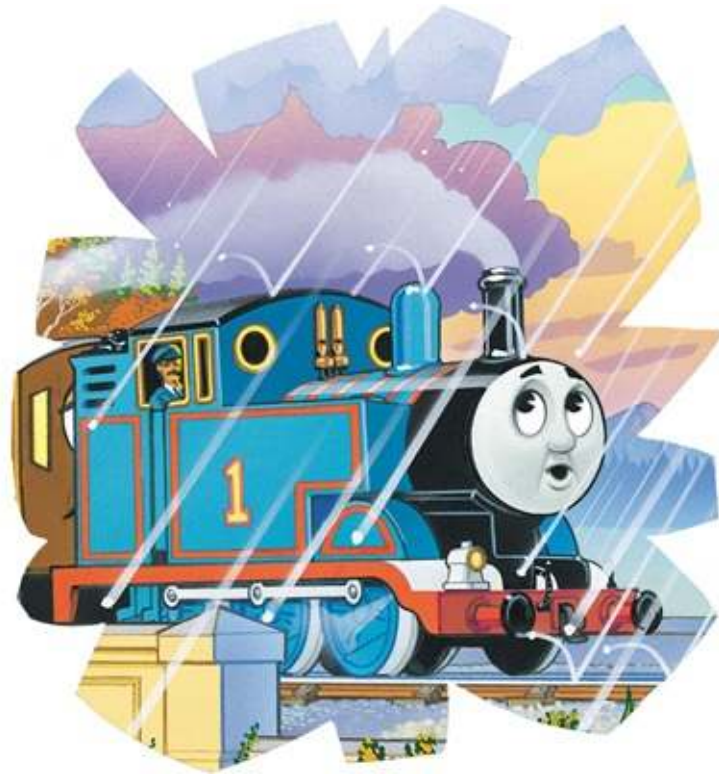


Plip. Plop. CLUNK.

Hail began to fall!

It fell on Thomas.

It fell on the tracks.



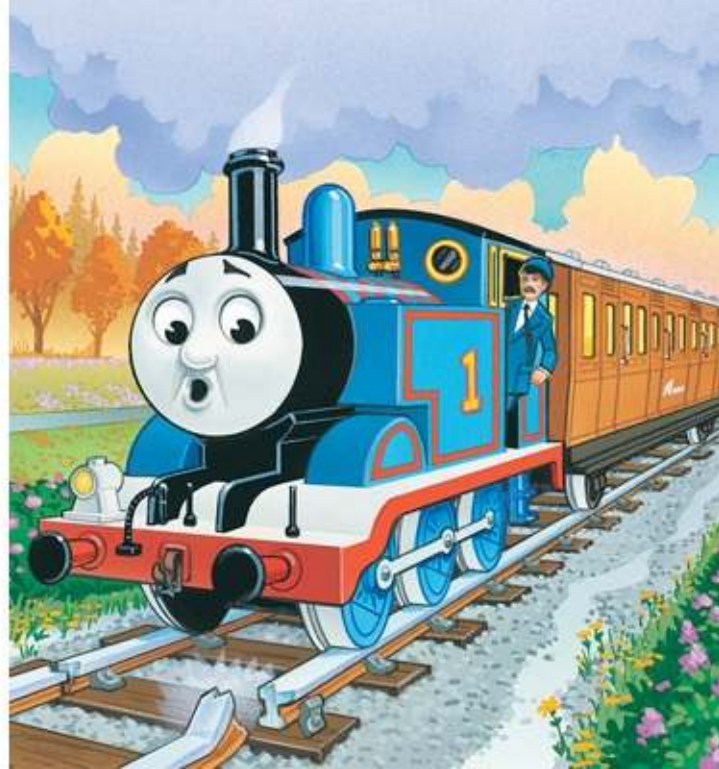
Suddenly, Thomas' driver

saw trouble ahead.

"Slow down!" said the driver.



The hail had made a crack
right there in the track!
Thomas came to a stop.



His driver called out,
“We cannot go forward,
and we must not go back.”



“Everyone off!” the conductor said.



“Now what shall we do?”
said the people.



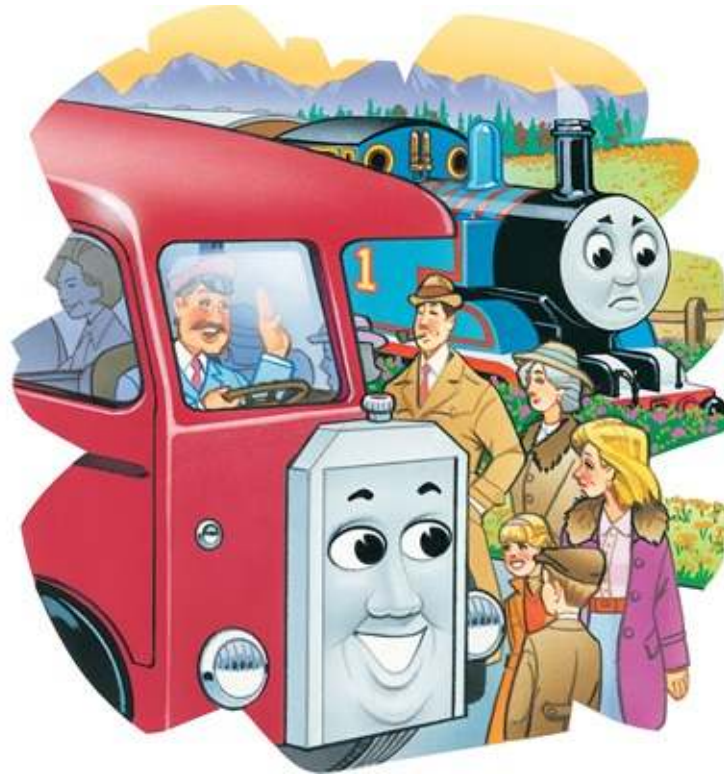
They climbed down from the coaches
and climbed up to the road.
Bertie the Bus was just passing by.



Bertie beeped his horn merrily.

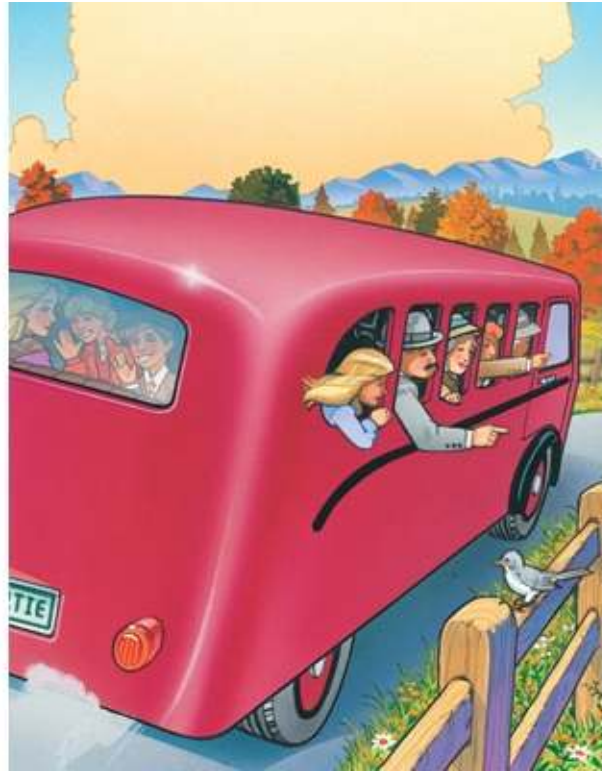
“A bus is as good as a train!” he said.

“I can take you where you want to go!”



All the people climbed on board Bertie.

Bertie scooted down the road.



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