

Thinking One Can (1906)

Original author unknown

The original story of 'The Little Engine That Could'



Lovingly compiled by:

Tina J Costello

A free gift from:

www.TheUniverseWithinUs.com

Bonus Free Activity Sheets:

Find The Shapes, Clowning Around, Matching Game, Build Your Own Train, Jigsaw Puzzle, Bingo, Make A 'I think I can' Cap, Count The Toys, Little Engine Maze, Connect The Dots.

The history of: 'The Little Engine That Could'.

(Ref. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Little_Engine_That_Could)

The little engine has a personality like Thomas the Tank Engine and Ivor the Engine. The best known incarnation of the story **The Little Engine That Could** is attributed to "Watty Piper", a pseudonym used by publishing house Platt & Munk. With illustrations by the esteemed Lois Lenski, this retelling of the tale **The Pony Engine** appeared in 1930. The first edition attributes Mabel C. Bragg as the originating author. However, Mabel C. Bragg, a school teacher in Boston, Massachusetts, never claimed to have originated the story. Indeed, **The Pony Engine**, which first appeared in the Kindergarten Review in 1910, was written by Mary C. Jacobs (1877-1970).

But a much briefer, prior version of the tale appeared under the title **Thinking One Can in 1906**, in Wellsprings for Young People, a Sunday school publication. This version reappeared in a 1910 publication by the Daughters of the American Revolution. Its text reads exactly as the text used for this book.

In 1954, Platt & Munk published a now familiar version of **The Little Engine That Could** (pictured in **The Law of Attraction** video created by **The Universe Within Us**), with slightly revised language and new, more colourful illustrations by George and Doris Hauman.

An early edition of this story appeared in the six-volume Bookhouse Books, which were copyrighted in the UK in 1920 and sold in the U.S. via door-to-door salespersons. Although this version contained no author attribution, it was edited by Olive B. Miller and published in Chicago. The Bookhouse version began, "Once there was a Train-of-Cars, and she was flying merrily across the country with a load of Christmas toys for the children who lived way over on the other side of the mountain."

Trivia

- In the Watty Piper retelling, the engine that breaks down and **The Little Engine That Could** are female, while all of the engines that refuse to help are male.
- The engine's chant of "I-think-I-can-I-think-I-can" was included in part of the train scene in *Dumbo*.
- This book was chosen by "Jumpstart Read for the Record" to be read worldwide to tens of thousands of children on August 24th, 2006.
- The first six words of the books are "Puff-puff-puff. Chug-chug-chug." has caused much dispute because of its subliminal message of smoking and drinking.
- The Little Engine is based on a locomotive with a 4-2-4 wheel arrangement.
- A full-size replica of **The Little Engine That Could** makes an annual circuit around the United States.

I hope that you enjoy reading this book to the children who bless your lives, and can relive the joy it once brought you. The message is timeless, and ageless. Always remember to 'think you can' and you will be amazed at the results.

Wishing you an abundance of everything you truly desire.

~



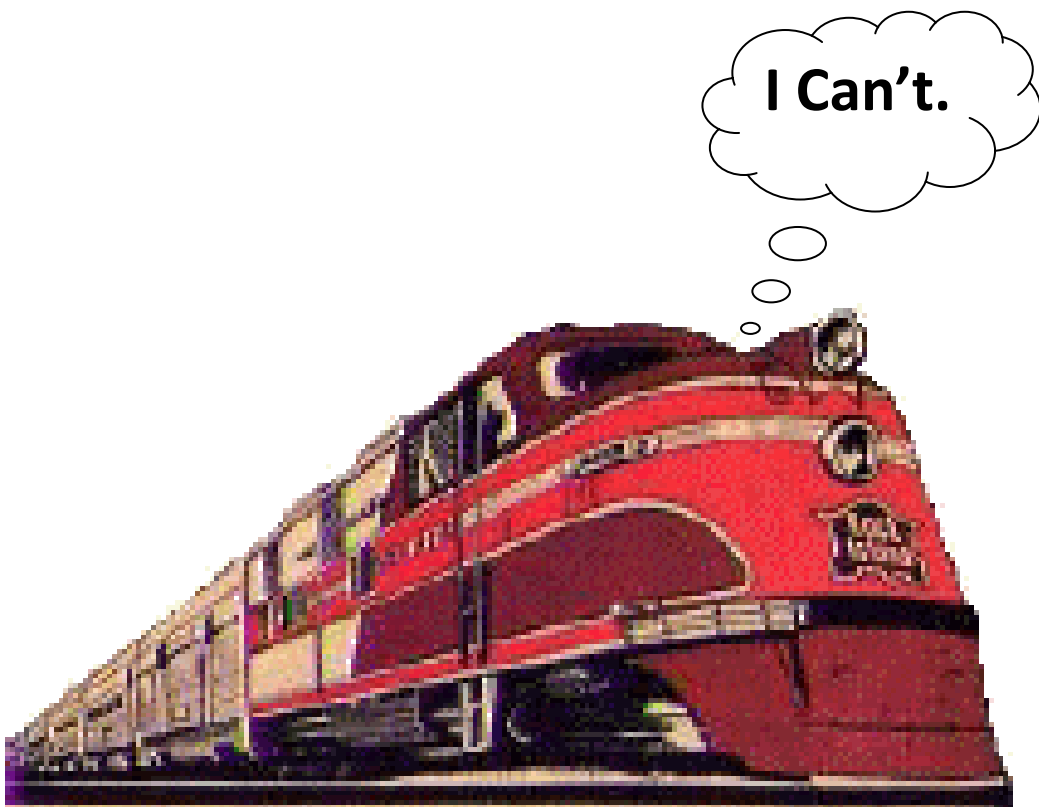

A little railroad engine was employed about a station yard for such work as it was built for, pulling a few cars on and off the switches.

One morning it was waiting for the next call when a long train of freight-cars asked a large engine in the roundhouse to take it over the hill.



"I can't; that is too much a pull for me," said the great engine built for hard work.

Then the train asked another engine,
and another, only to hear excuses
and be refused.

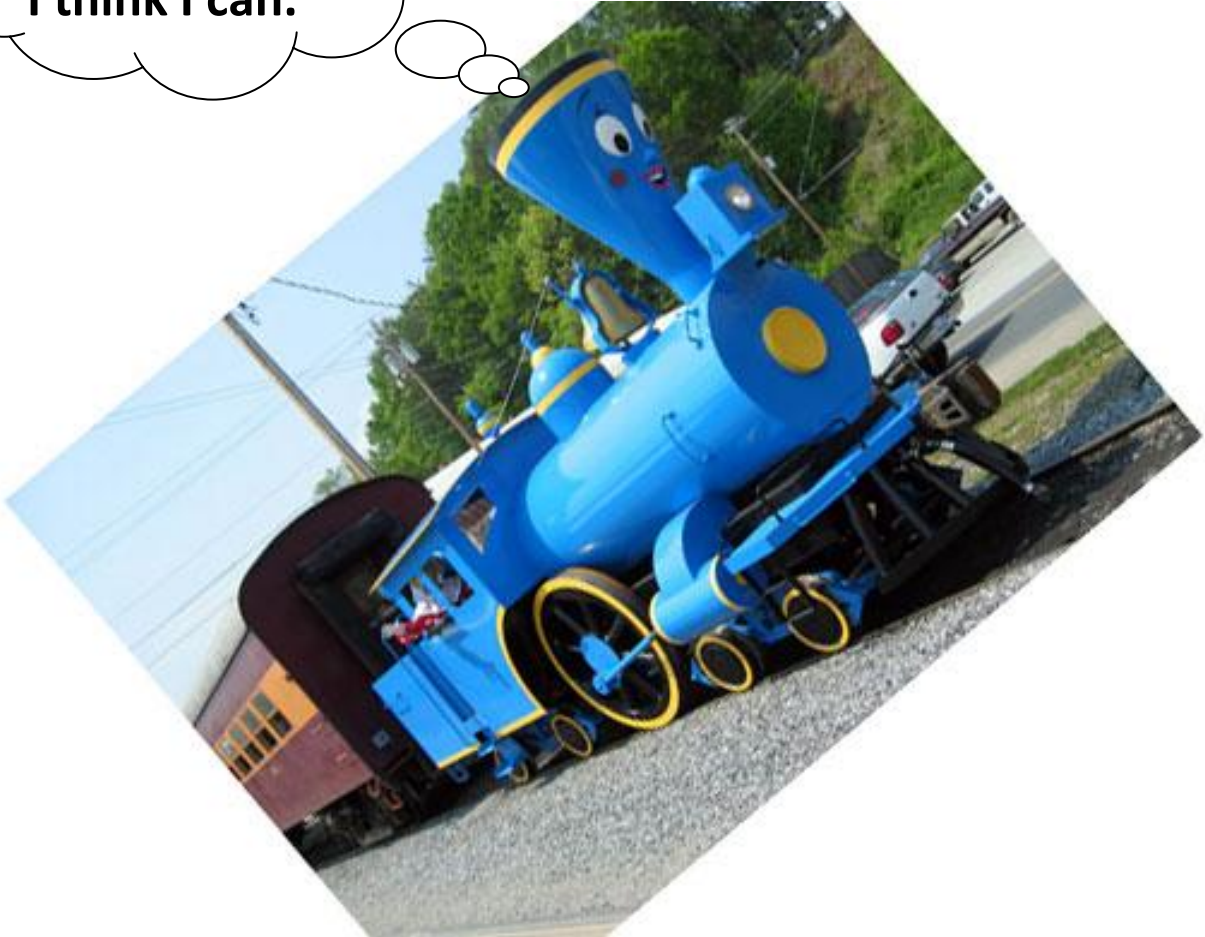


**I think
I can.**



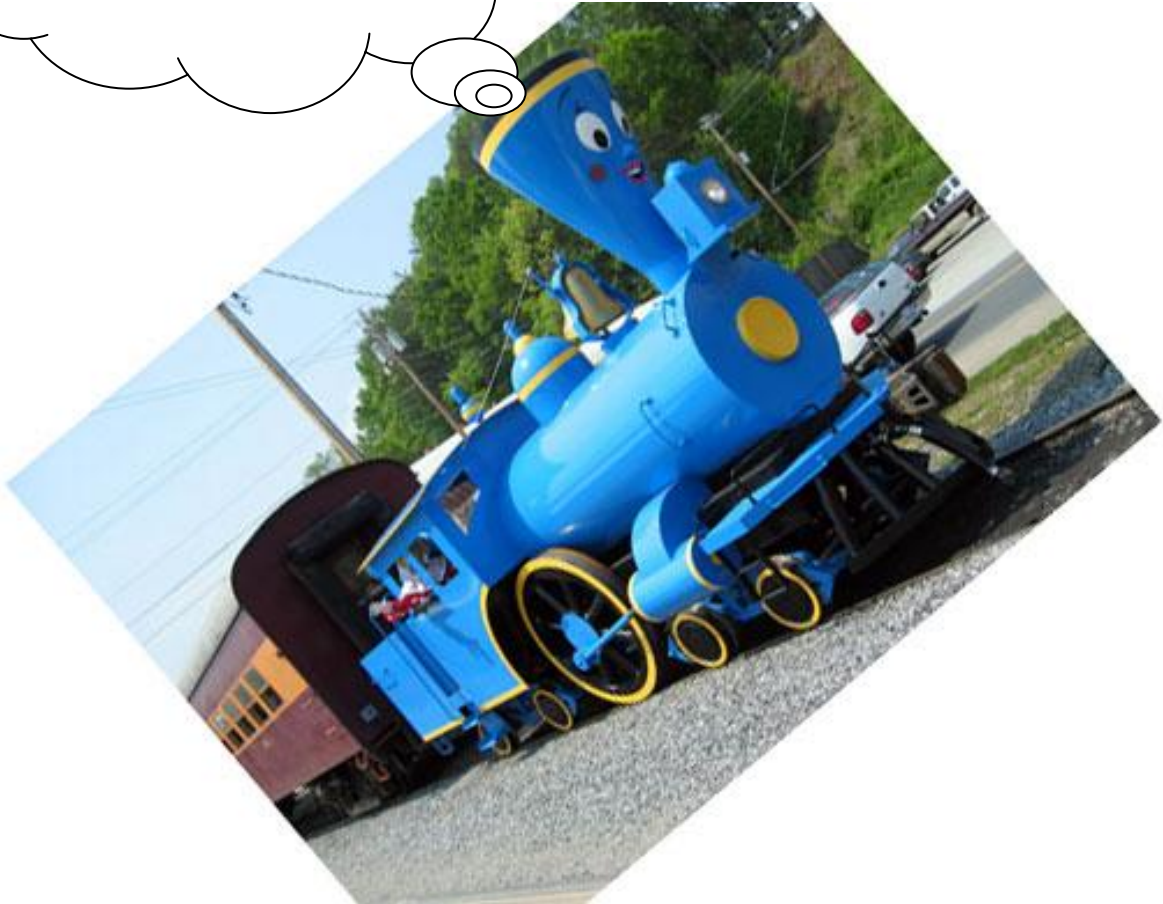
At last in desperation the train asked the little switch engine to draw it up the grade, and down on the other side. "I think I can," puffed the little locomotive, and put itself in front of the great heavy train.

I think I can,
I think I can,
I think I can.



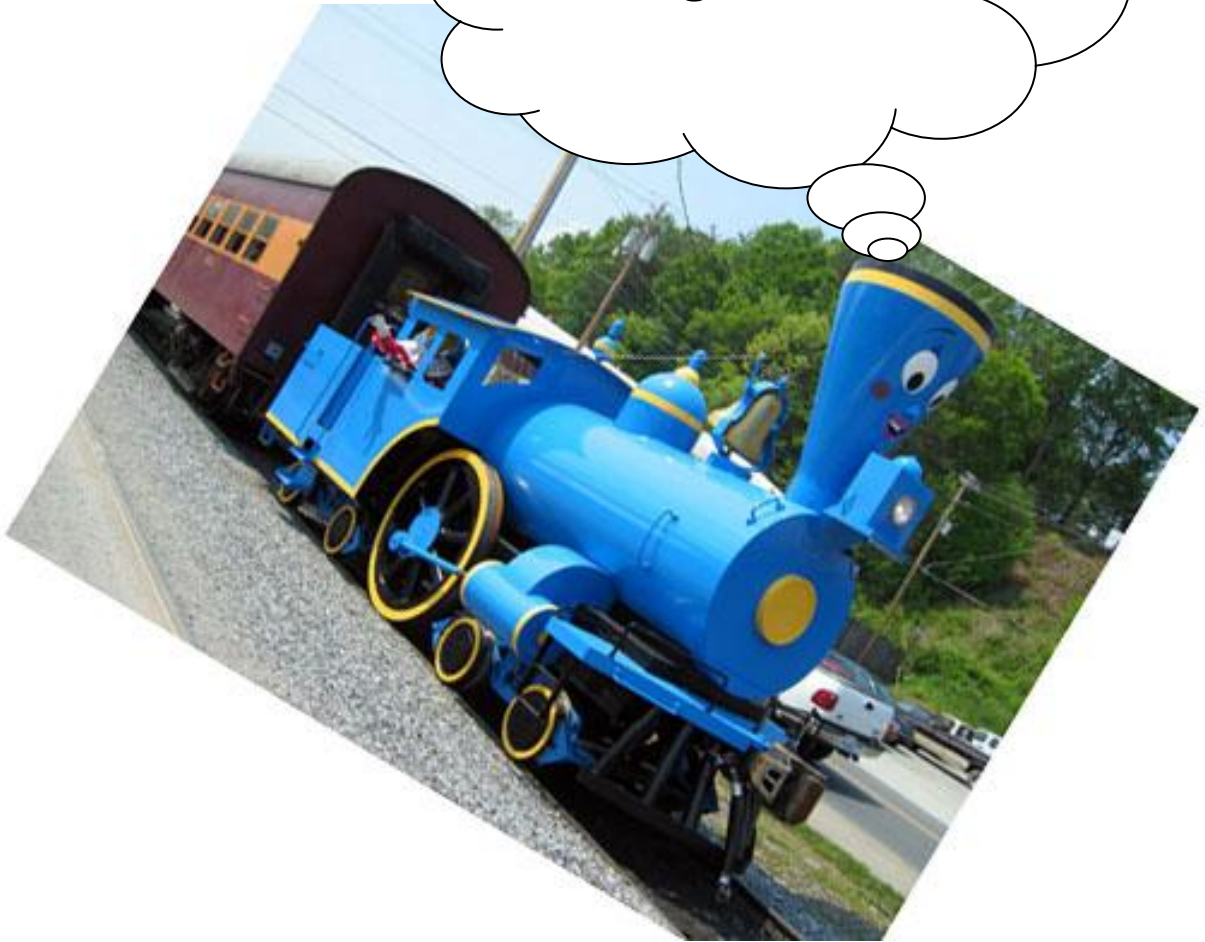
As is went on, the little engine kept bravely puffing faster and faster, "I think I can, I think I can, I think I can."

I think I can,
I think I can,
I think I can.



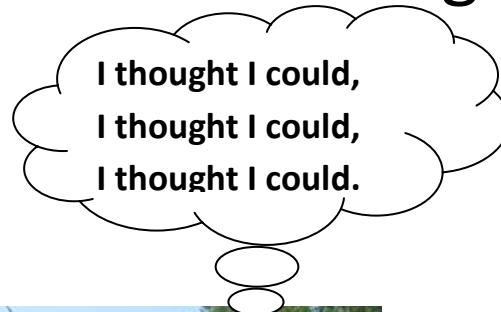
Then, as it neared the top of the grade, that had so discouraged the larger engines, it went more slowly, but still kept saying, "I--think--I--can, I--think--I--can, I--think--I--can."

I thought I could,
I thought I could.



It reached the top by dint of brave effort, and then went on down the grade, congratulating itself, "I thought I could, I thought I could."

To think of hard things and say, "I can't" is sure to mean "Nothing done."

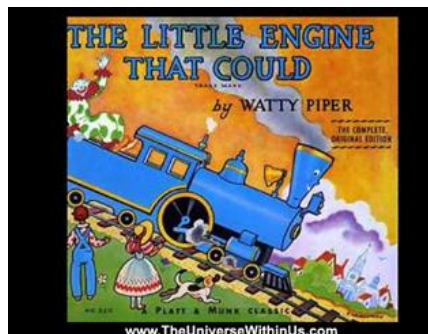


Whoosh!!!



To refuse to be daunted, and insist on saying, "I think I can," is to make sure of being able to say triumphantly by and by, "I thought I could, I thought I could, I thought I could."

The Universe Within Us



The Little Engine That Could was featured in a **free video** titled **'What Is The Law Of Attraction?'**, where I explain how our continuous thought vibrations impact the quality of our lives, and provide some simple techniques to assist you in designing the life you desire.



View the free video at: TheUniverseWithinUs.com

During the recording of the video, I recalled an example of a lesson I learned as a child. This led me back to the many happy hours I spent reading **The Little Engine That Could**, and I realised I could credit this little book in providing the foundation for the positive person I was to become. I concluded the video with a reading of the original 1906 version, **'Thinking One Can'**.

I hadn't given **The Little Engine That Could** a thought in many, many years. As soon as I rediscovered it, I immediately knew that I wanted to share it with as many adults, and children, as possible. That is how this free – print quality – version came into creation, and it is my hope that the brightly coloured graphics will make it enjoyable for the children you have in your lives. To add to their experience, I have included a series of **The Little Engine That Could fun activities** that they can enjoy as well. These activities can be printed many times for continued fun and learning. You will find them on the following pages.

TheUniverseWithinUs.com features authors who wrote about the power of our thoughts a hundred years ago. There we match select books with quality audio. We also provide a comprehensive array of **free gifts for our visitors**. What good is knowledge, if it can't be freely shared? **I think I can!**

I hope you will find the time to visit us at www.TheUniverseWithinUs.com soon.

Wishing you an abundance of everything you truly desire.

~
Gina

A free gift from: www.TheUniverseWithinUs.com

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SHAPE UP WITH THE LITTLE ENGINE

Can you find the different shapes that are hidden in this picture?



How many did you find of each shape?

CIRCLE

RECTANGLE

SQUARE

Use a marker to outline the shapes that you find.

Reproducible Activity

CLOWNING AROUND

Circle the clown that is different from the rest.



What is different about this clown?

MATCHING GAME

The Little Engine works up an appetite chugging up the big mountain. Help her and her animal friends get something to eat by matching their pictures with their favorite food.



Horse



Coal



Monkey



Hay



Train



Peanuts



Elephant



Banana

BUILD YOUR OWN TRAIN!

The Little Engine is chock full of toys.

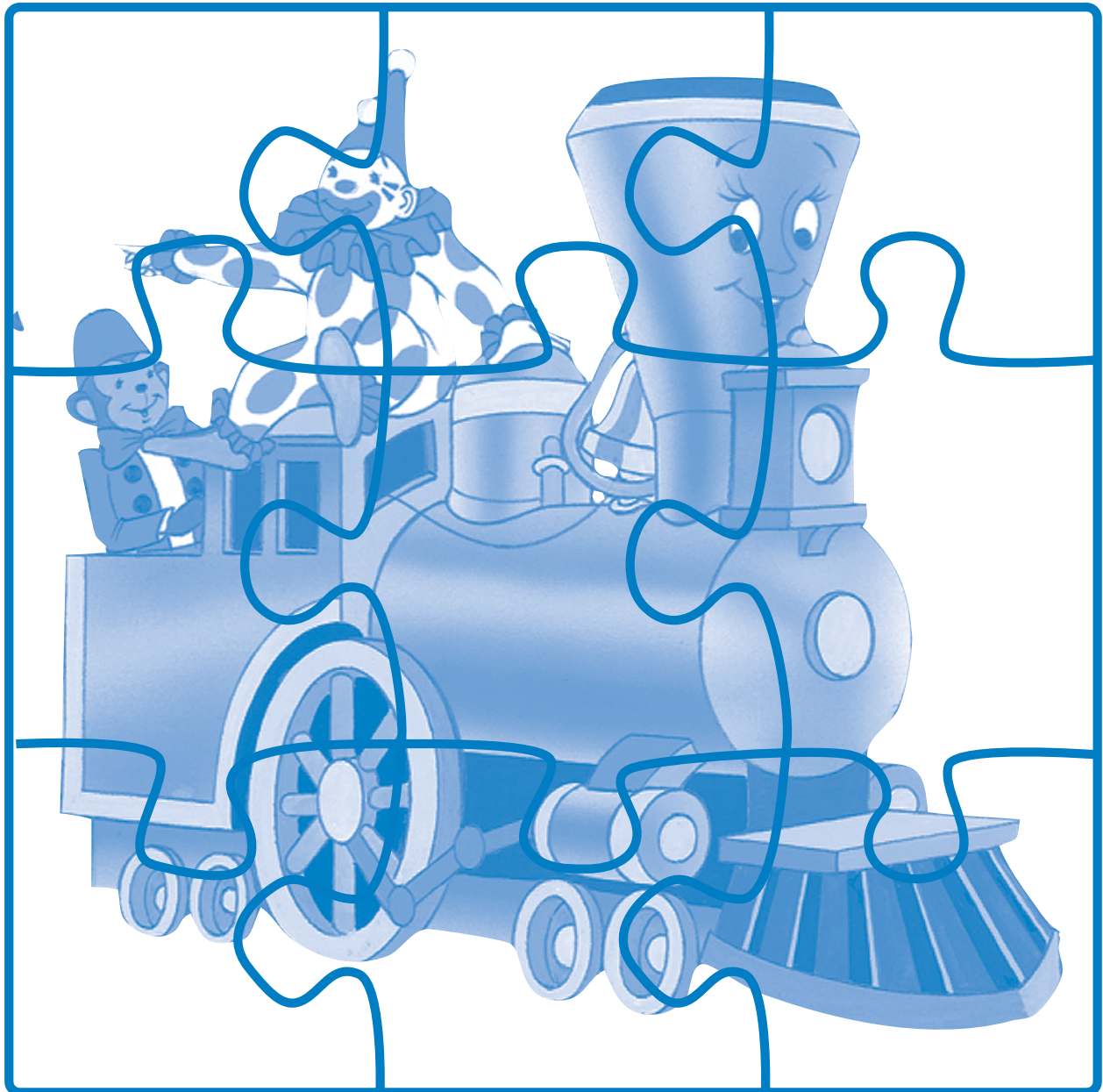
If you were a train, what sorts of things would you want to carry? Use the space below to draw train cars filled with your favorite things!



JIGSAW PUZZLE

Color in and cut out the
jigsaw puzzle pieces below.
The first person to put the pieces
back together wins a prize!

Great
Take-Home
Activity!



BINGO!

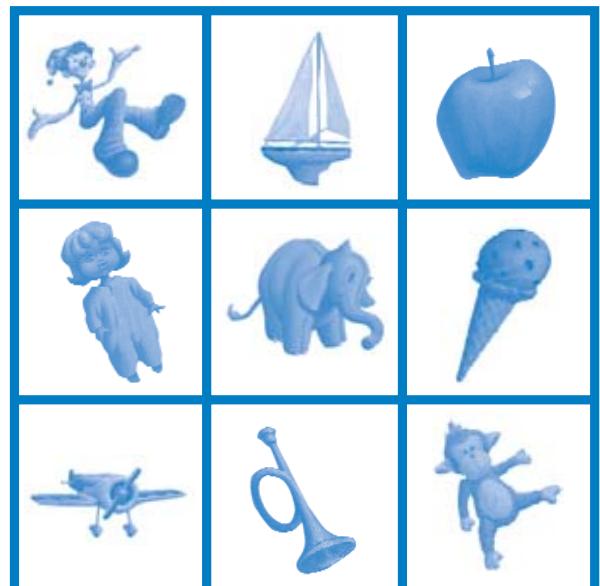
Photocopy the bingo boards below and hand out to your guests with a pencil or a marker (1 bingo board and 1 pencil/marker per player).

Make a copy of the boards for yourself. Cut your boards into individual tiles.

As the leader of the game, you will draw these tiles from a hat.

To play:

Draw the tiles from the hat one at a time. As you draw the tiles, tell the players the image that is on each one. They will mark that image with an x on their bingo boards. The first player to ex-out an entire row on their board (vertically, horizontally or diagonally) wins!



PUT ON YOUR I THINK I CAN™ CAP

Using the instructions below, create your very own “I Think I Can” Conductor’s cap. Wear it whenever you need a little bit of inspiration!

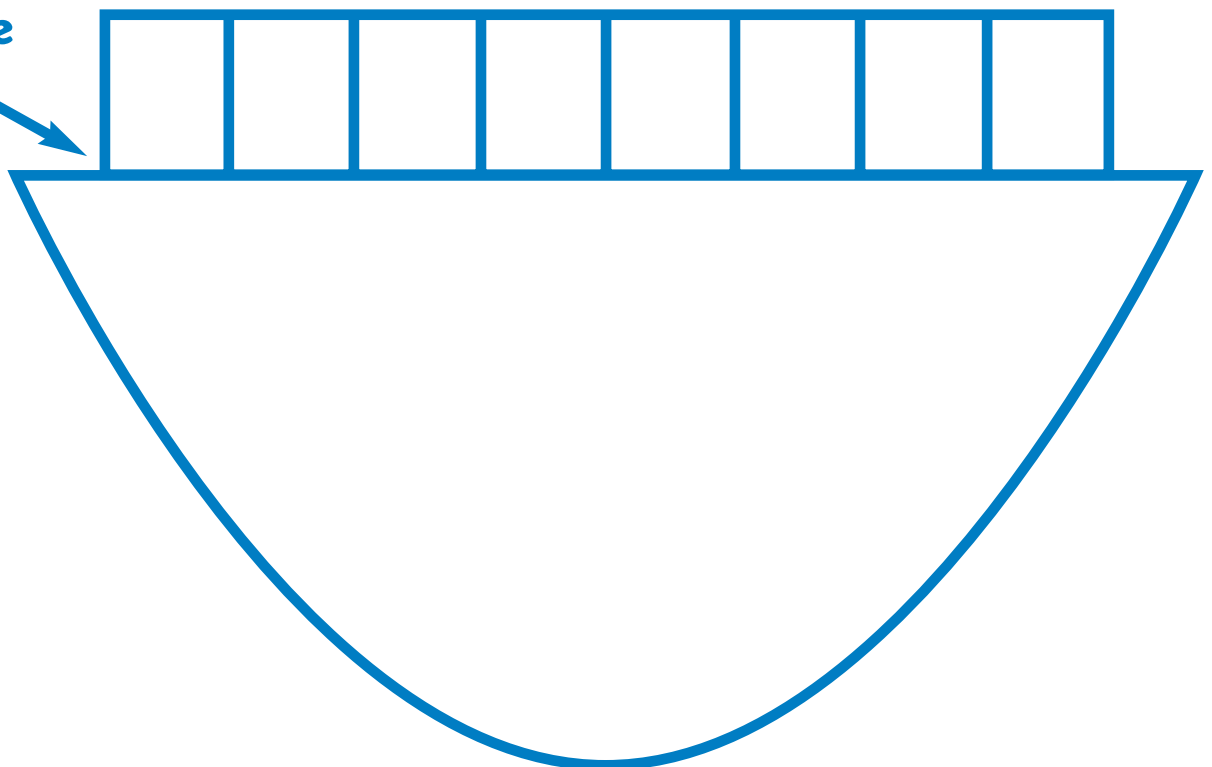
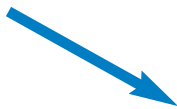
Materials needed:

- Safety scissors
- Tape
- I Think I Can™ Conductor’s Cap template (below and at right)
- Crayons/markers to decorate your cap

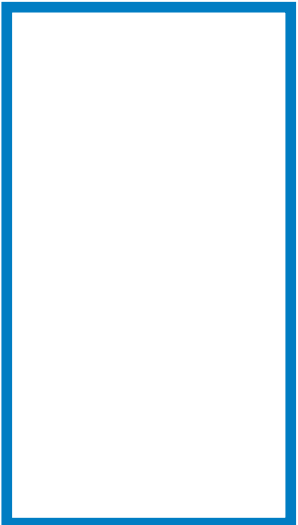
Instructions:

- Cut out the wedge shape. This will be the brim of your cap.
Be sure to score the edge of the brim as indicated. This will help your cap fit better when you wear it.
- Cut out the 2 rectangles. This will form the sides of your cap.
- Write your name in the square shown on one of the rectangles
- Tape the rectangles together so that they form one long strip.
- Tape the wedge shape below the square on the strip.
- Using crayons or markers, decorate your hat.
You can add stripes to make it look like an official conductor’s cap or draw pictures of your favorite things that inspire you (like your mom, tigers, or flowers)
- To finish, tape the ends of the strip together so that you can wear your cap!

Fold Here



I think I can . . . I think I can . . . I think I can . . .



I think I can . . . I think I can . . . I think I can . . .



CHUG CHUG CHUG. PUFF PUFF PUFF.

The Little Engine is a happy little train.
Her cars are full of good things for boys
and girls. Can you count how many
of each toy she is bringing?



CLOWN



AIRPLANES



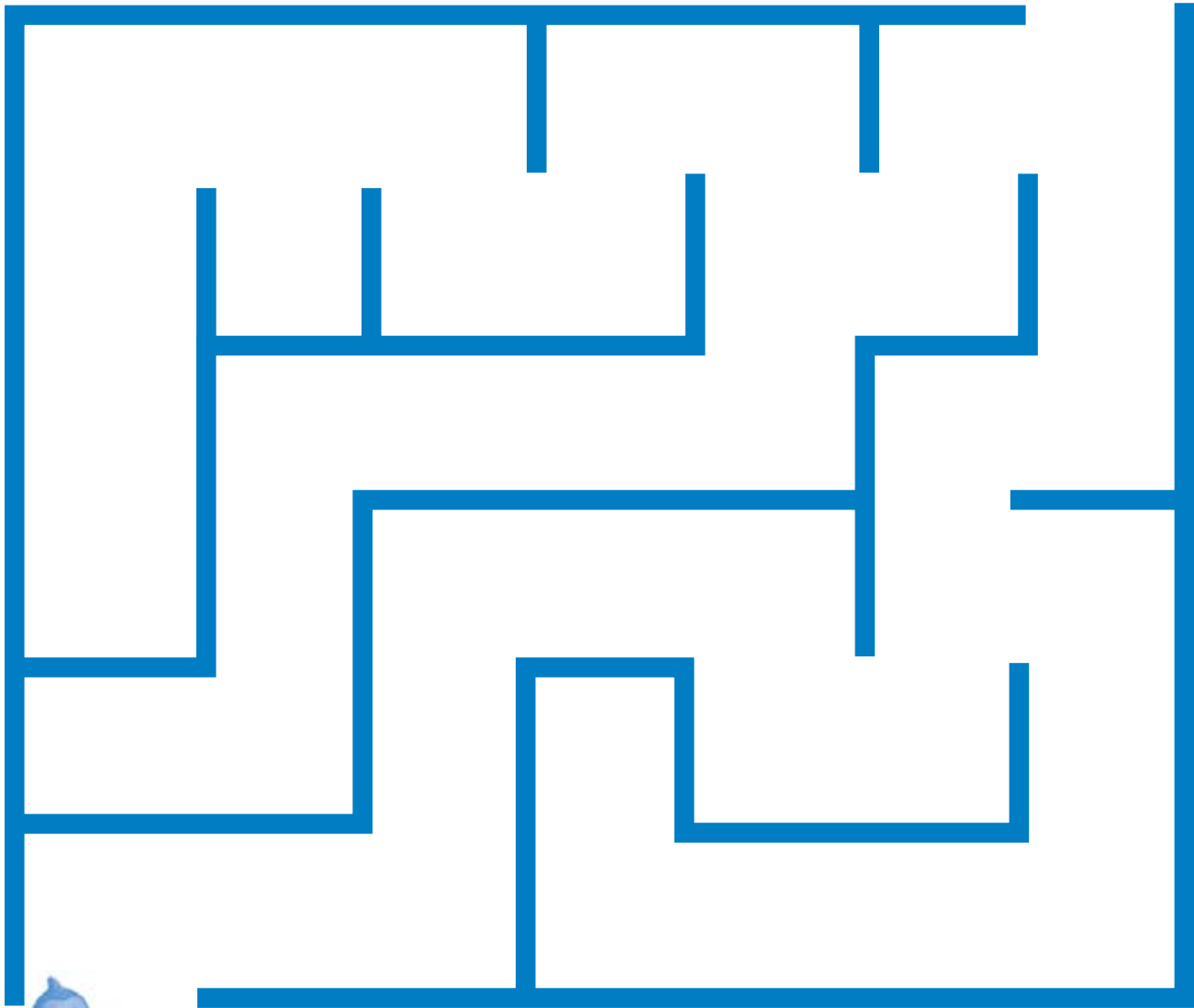
MONKEYS

ON THE RIGHT TRACK

Help the Little Engine get on the right track back to the train depot.



Start



Finish



CONNECT THE DOTS

Connect the dots below to reveal one of the Little Engine's friends!

