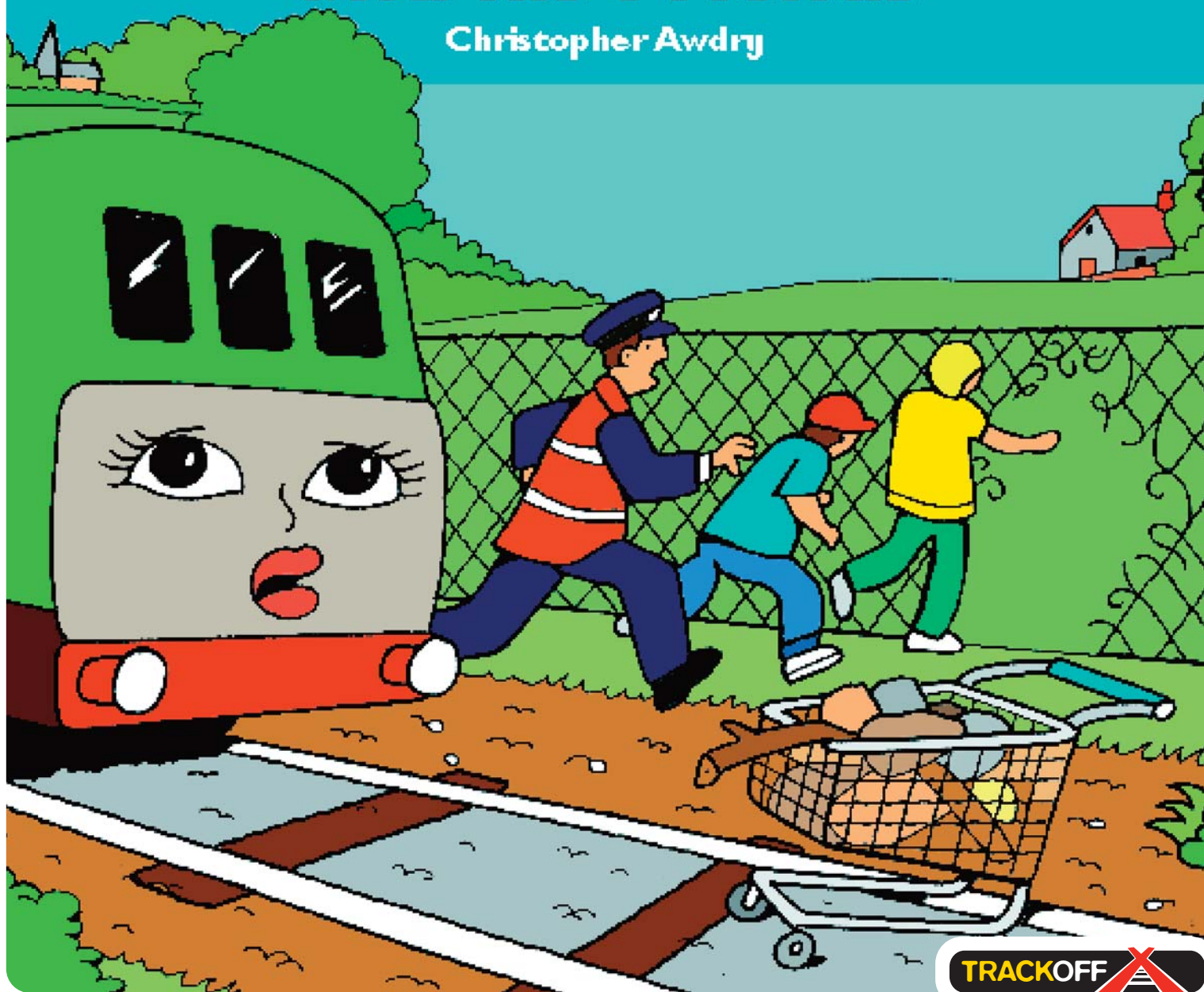


Bad Days for Thomas and his Friends

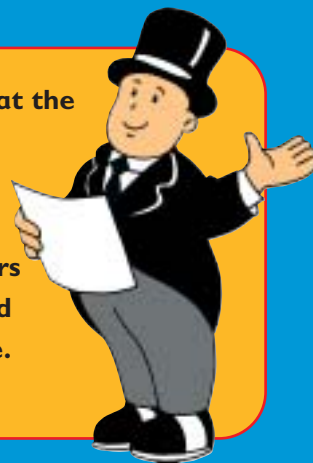
Christopher Awdry



TRACKOFF



Hello Everyone. I was going to get Thomas to write these words to go at the start of the book, but all the engines said that I must do it, so here we are. One thing we all agree about is that everyone should be told how to use the railway safely. Railways can be dangerous places if they are not used properly. So we hope that this book will show you what some of the dangers are. We want to help stop you from being one of the children who are killed or hurt each year on the railways as a result of misbehaviour or ignorance. Happy travelling. **The Fat Controller**



Hi everyone, my name is Alysha. I'd like you to remember the 5 golden railway rules.

Rule 1 Never climb over or through a fence by the side of the railway tracks.

Rule 2 Never climb on a bridge over the railway tracks.

Rule 3 Never play with a ball or any other toy on a railway station platform.

Rule 4 Never play with a kite or balloon near electric cables over the railway tracks.

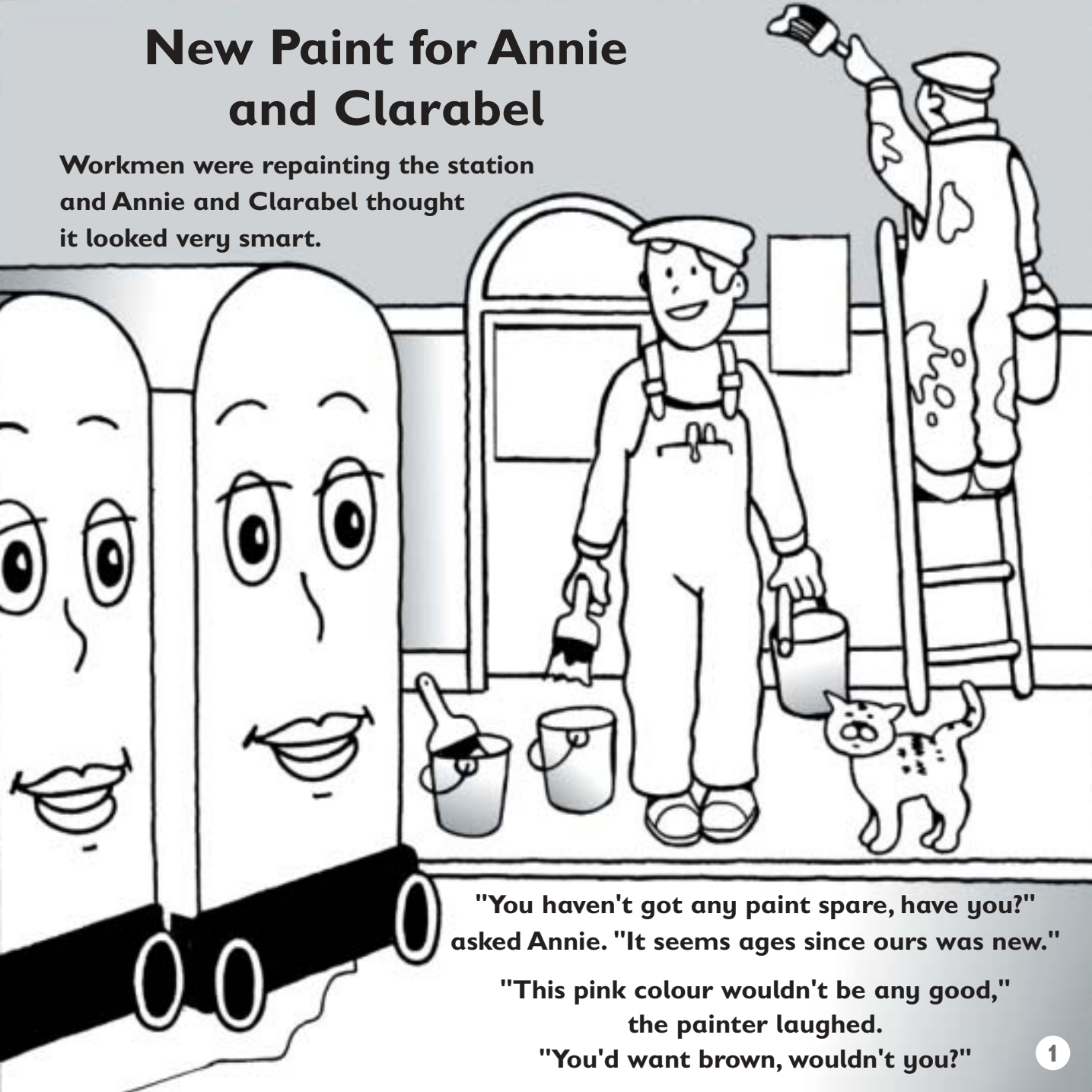
Rule 5 Never throw stones at a train or put anything on the railway tracks.



Message to teachers/parents Charlie the Crow appears on certain pages in the stories observing examples and consequences of dangerous behaviour on the railways. At the back of the book he gives information relevant to the activity he sees. You can use this to reinforce the message in the story.

New Paint for Annie and Clarabel

Workmen were repainting the station
and Annie and Clarabel thought
it looked very smart.

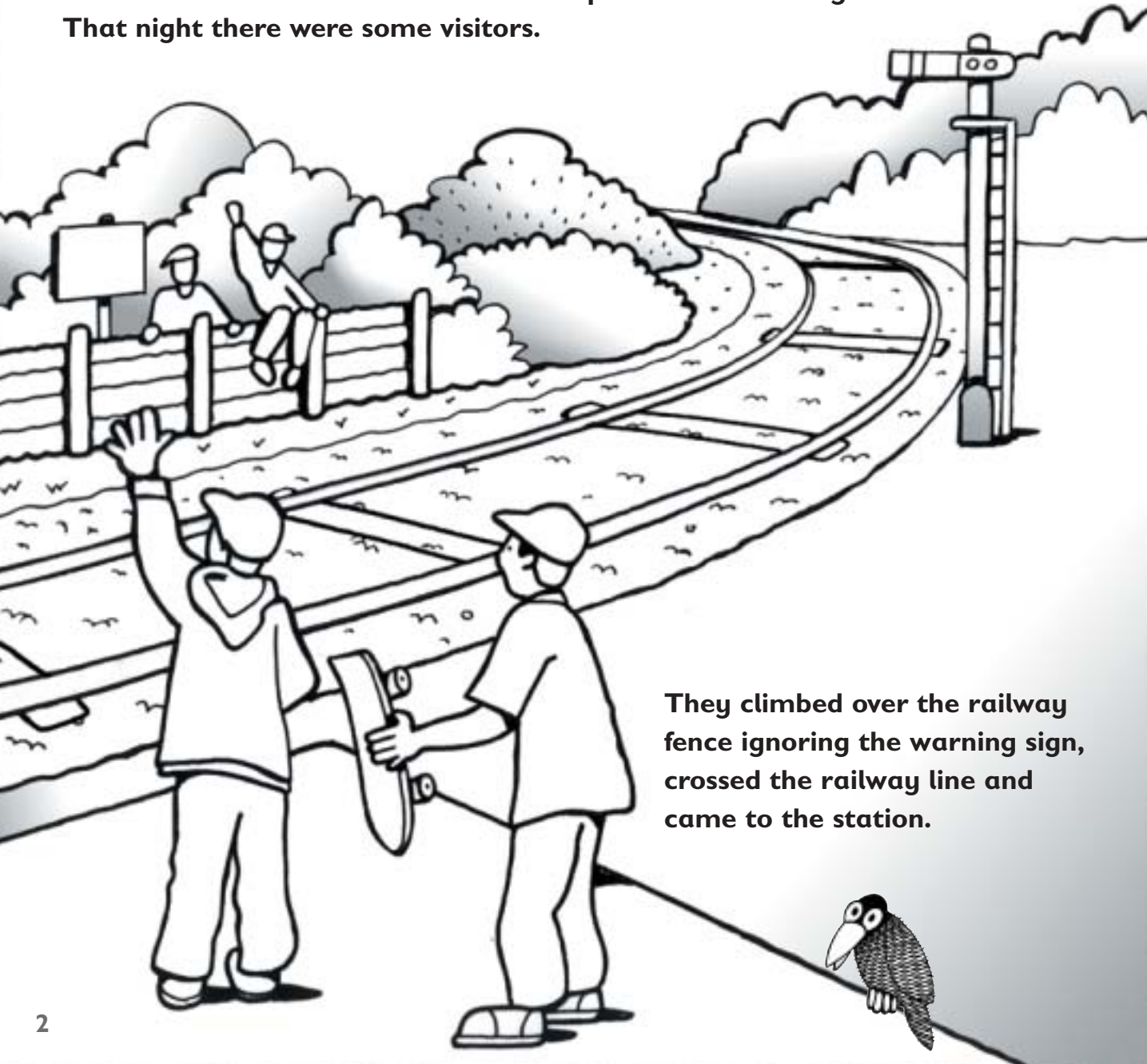


"You haven't got any paint spare, have you?"
asked Annie. "It seems ages since ours was new."

"This pink colour wouldn't be any good,"
the painter laughed.

"You'd want brown, wouldn't you?"

**At last the station was finished and the painters went away.
That night there were some visitors.**



**They climbed over the railway
fence ignoring the warning sign,
crossed the railway line and
came to the station.**

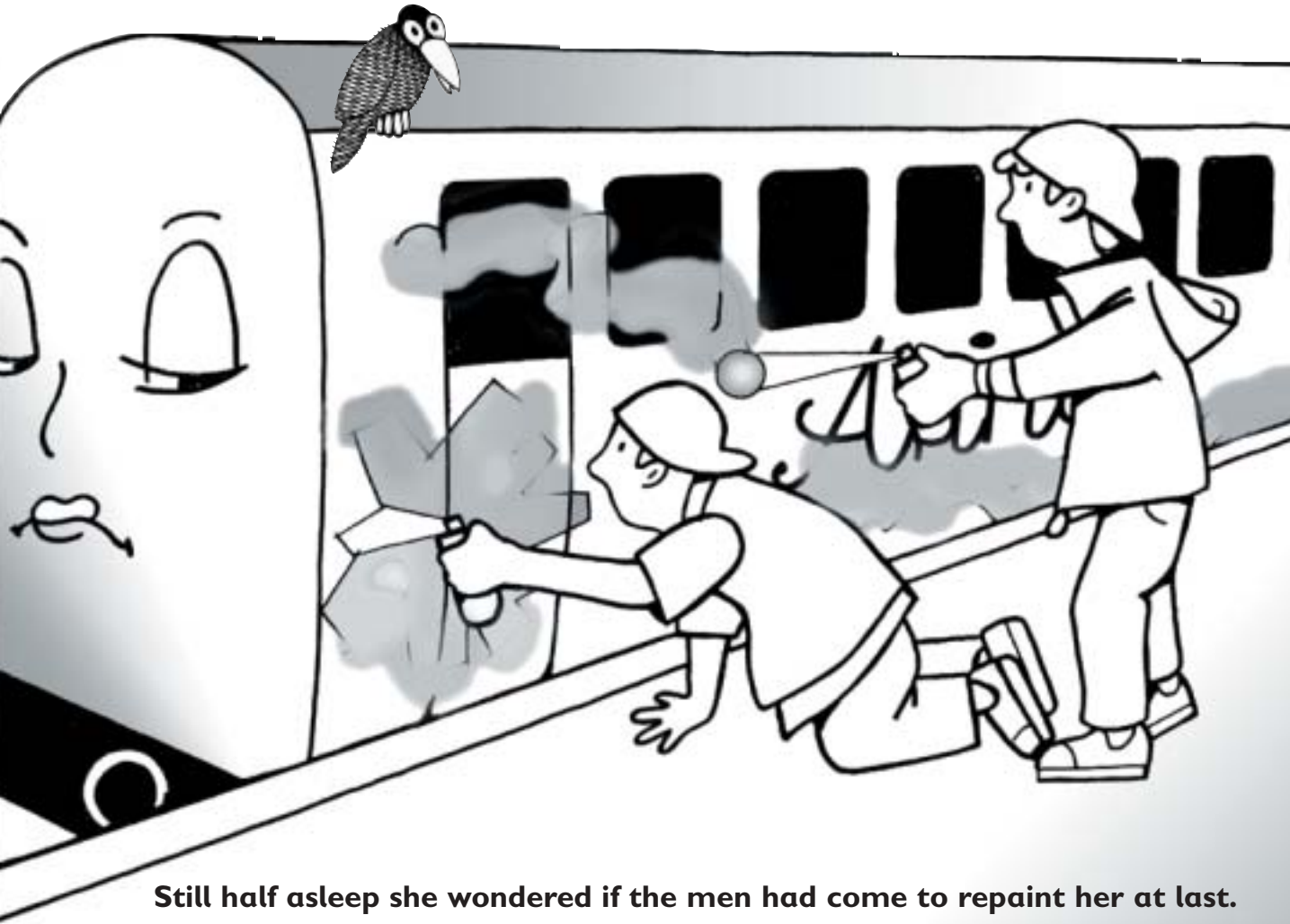


The next day The Fat Controller arrived to find red wavy lines sprayed on the seats and a large question mark on the waiting room door.



He immediately sent for Policeman Len, who said to everyone, "Please keep your eyes open and let me know if you find out anything about this."

That night Annie and Clarabel were alone in their shed.
Annie wakened suddenly when she heard a footstep, then a hissing noise
and felt a coolness on her side.



Still half asleep she wondered if the men had come to repaint her at last.
"What's happening?" demanded Clarabel loudly as she felt cool on one side too.

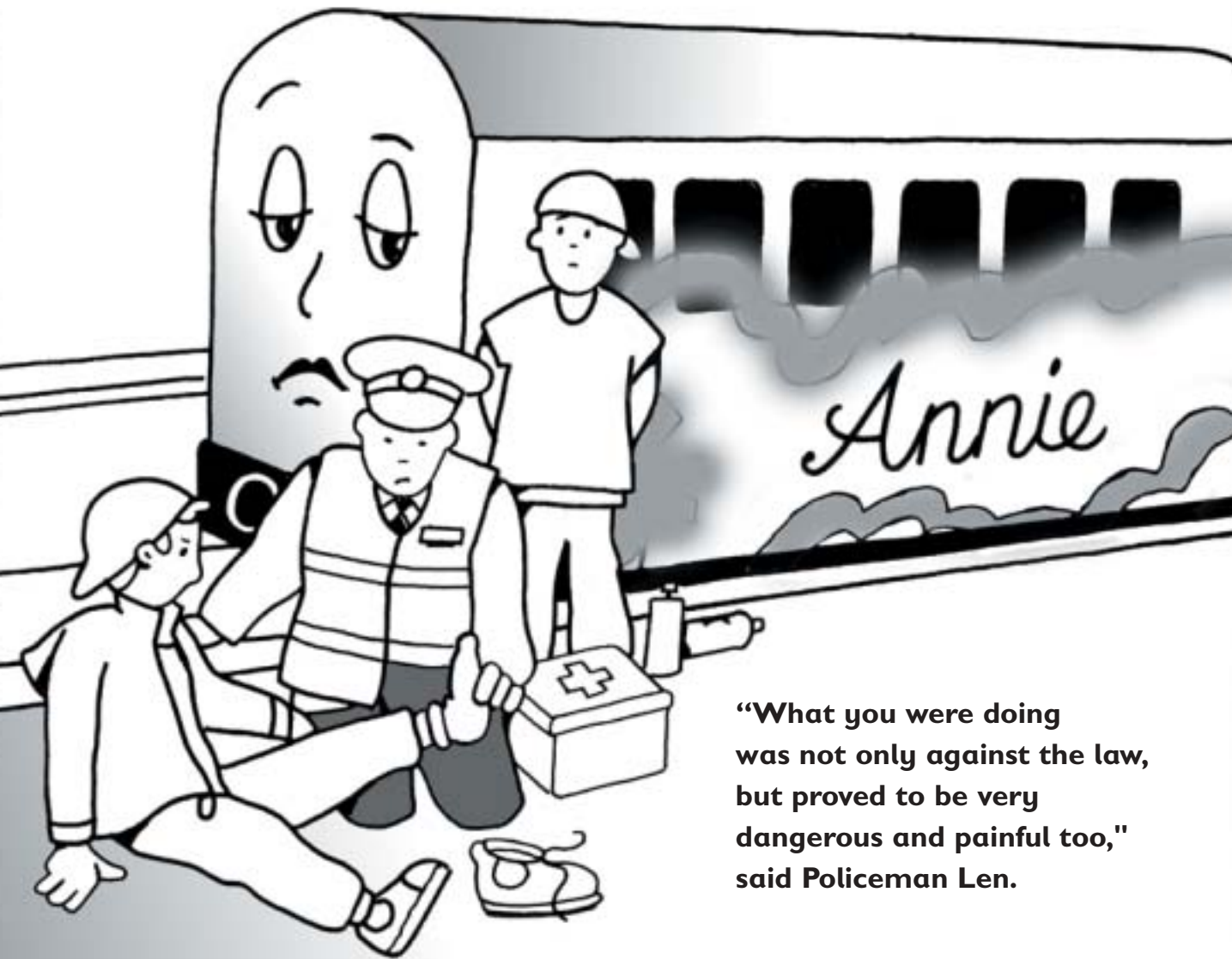
Then they heard quick footsteps, a sliding noise, a shout and then a thud.

The lights went on.



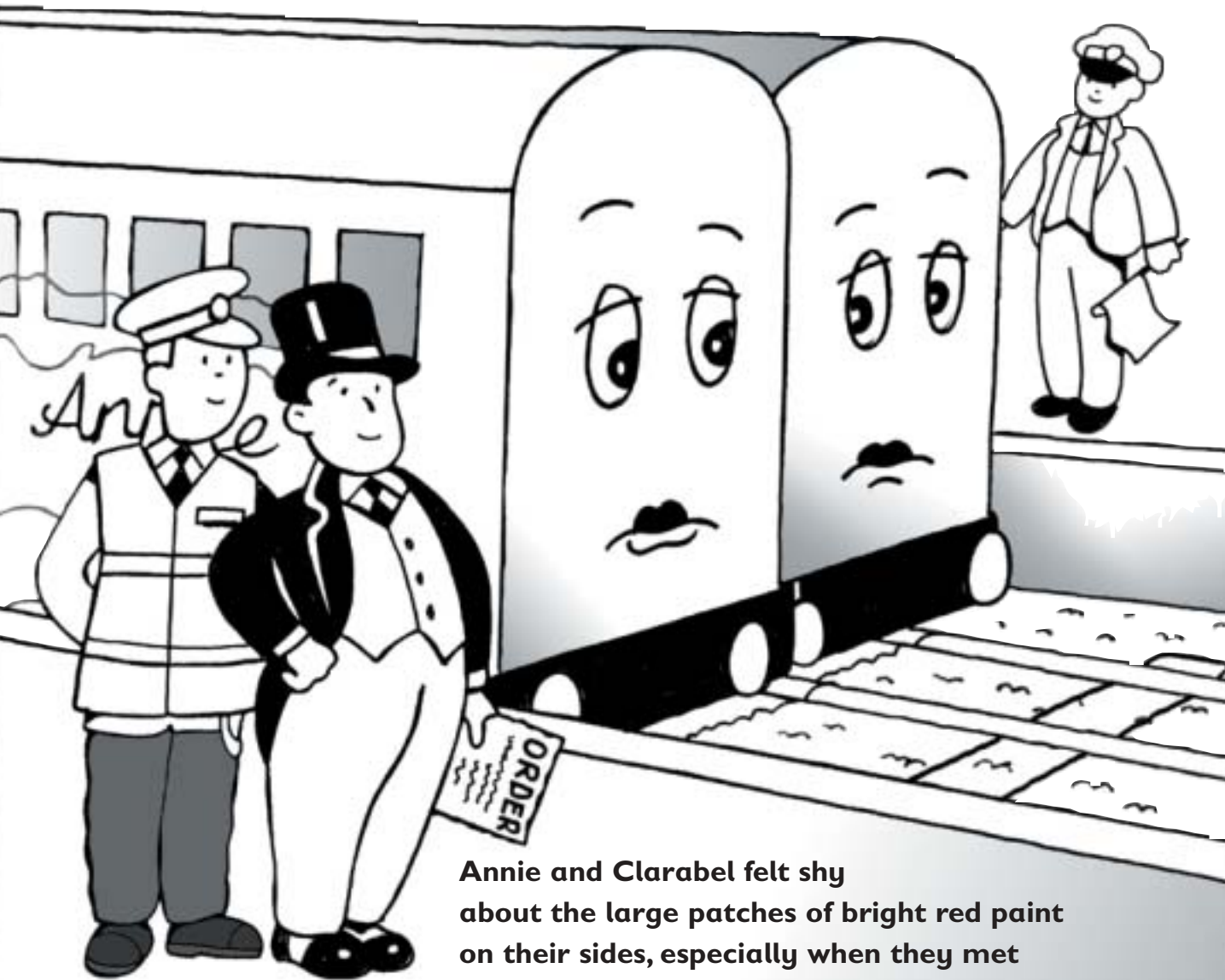
"Stay where you are!"
said Policeman Len, holding one boy.
There, sitting uncomfortably on the
floor, was another boy of about ten
years old who said, "I can't move,
I think I've broken my ankle."

Policeman Len looked at the boy's foot. "Badly sprained," he said. "Perhaps it will teach you a lesson."



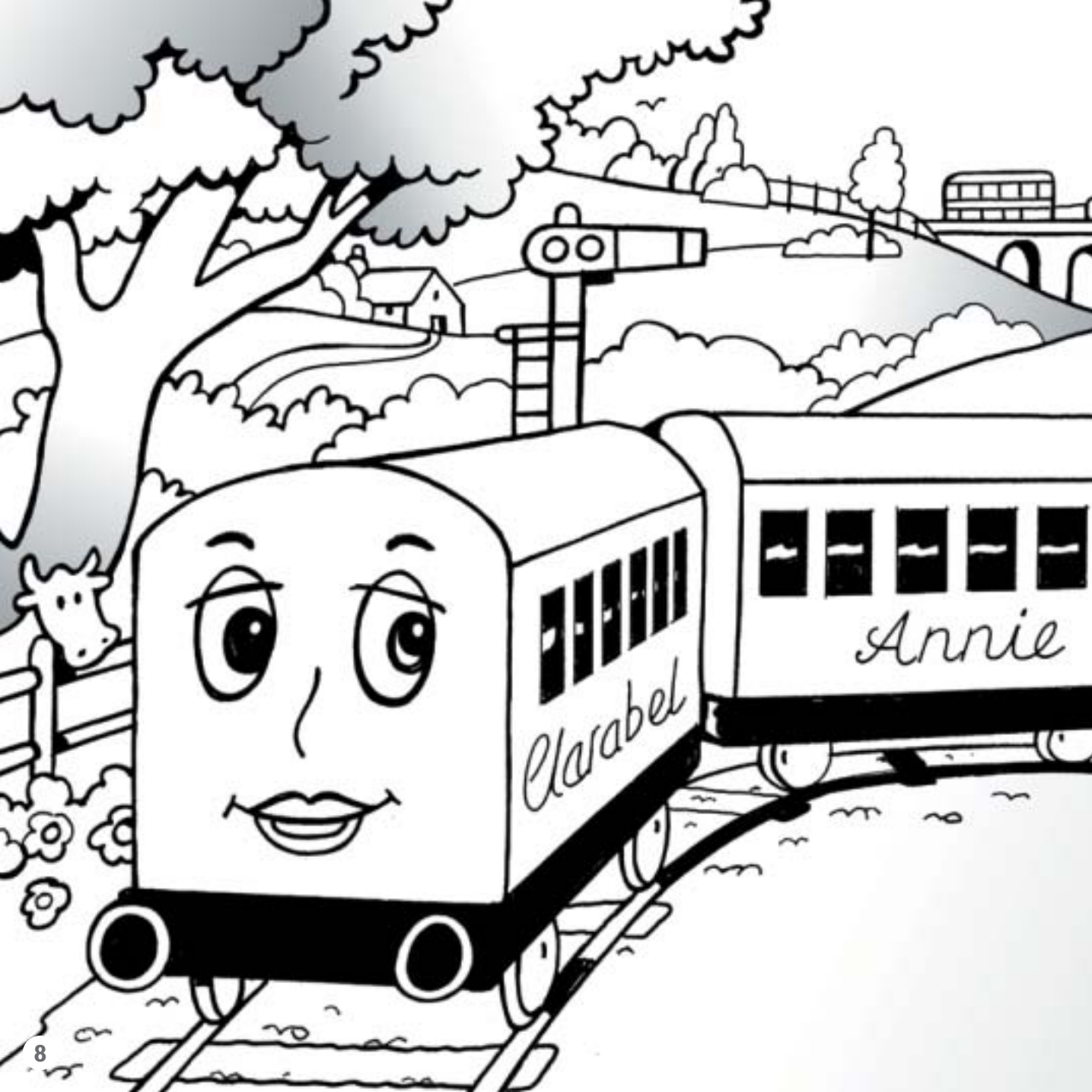
"What you were doing was not only against the law, but proved to be very dangerous and painful too," said Policeman Len.

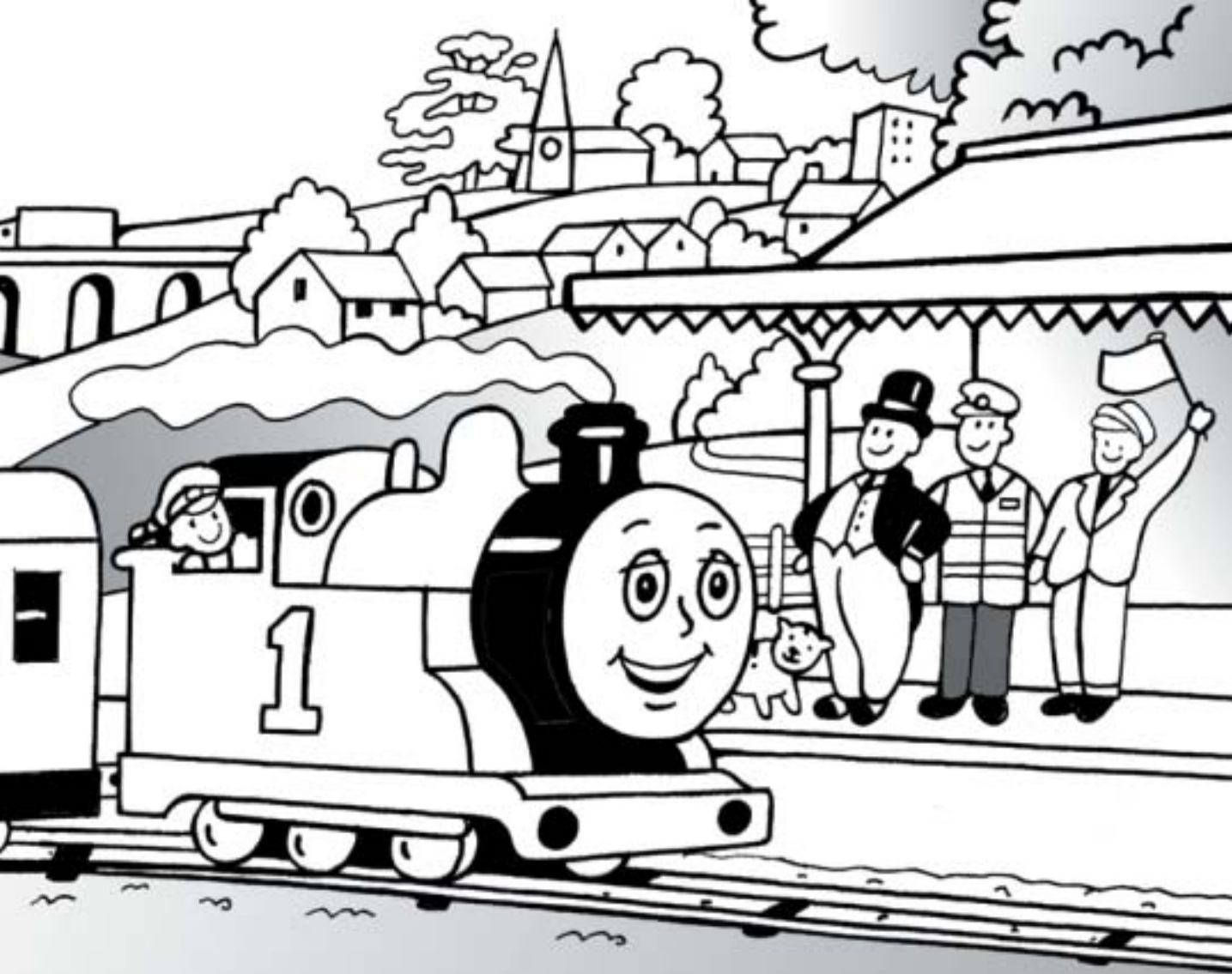
"Let's get you home, so I can speak to your parents about this."



Annie and Clarabel felt shy about the large patches of bright red paint on their sides, especially when they met The Fat Controller.

"Never mind," The Fat Controller said.
"I have given orders for you to be repainted properly and Policeman Len will make sure it doesn't happen again."





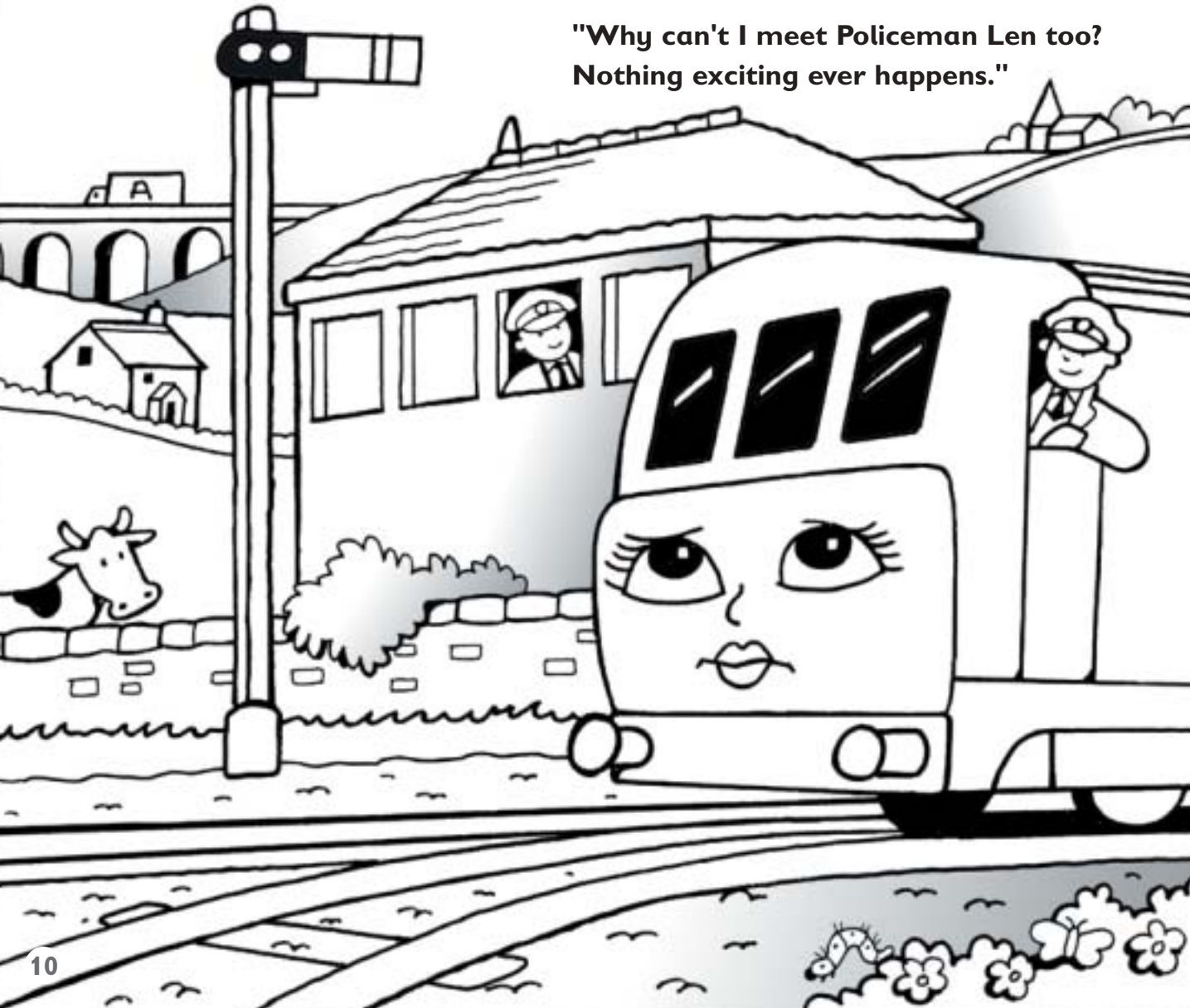
The Fat Controller kept his promise to have Annie and Clarabel repainted. They were very happy when they set off from the station with their shiny, new coats of paint.

The Stationmaster said, "I think you both look very smart."

A Near Miss for Daisy

Daisy the diesel railcar was upset. "It's not fair," she grumbled as she ran towards the Junction where Thomas' branch joined the main line.

"Why can't I meet Policeman Len too? Nothing exciting ever happens."





"Think yourself lucky,"
laughed her driver.
"You don't want anything
nasty to happen to you, do you?"
"Well no," admitted Daisy,
"but why doesn't anything
interesting ever happen to me?"



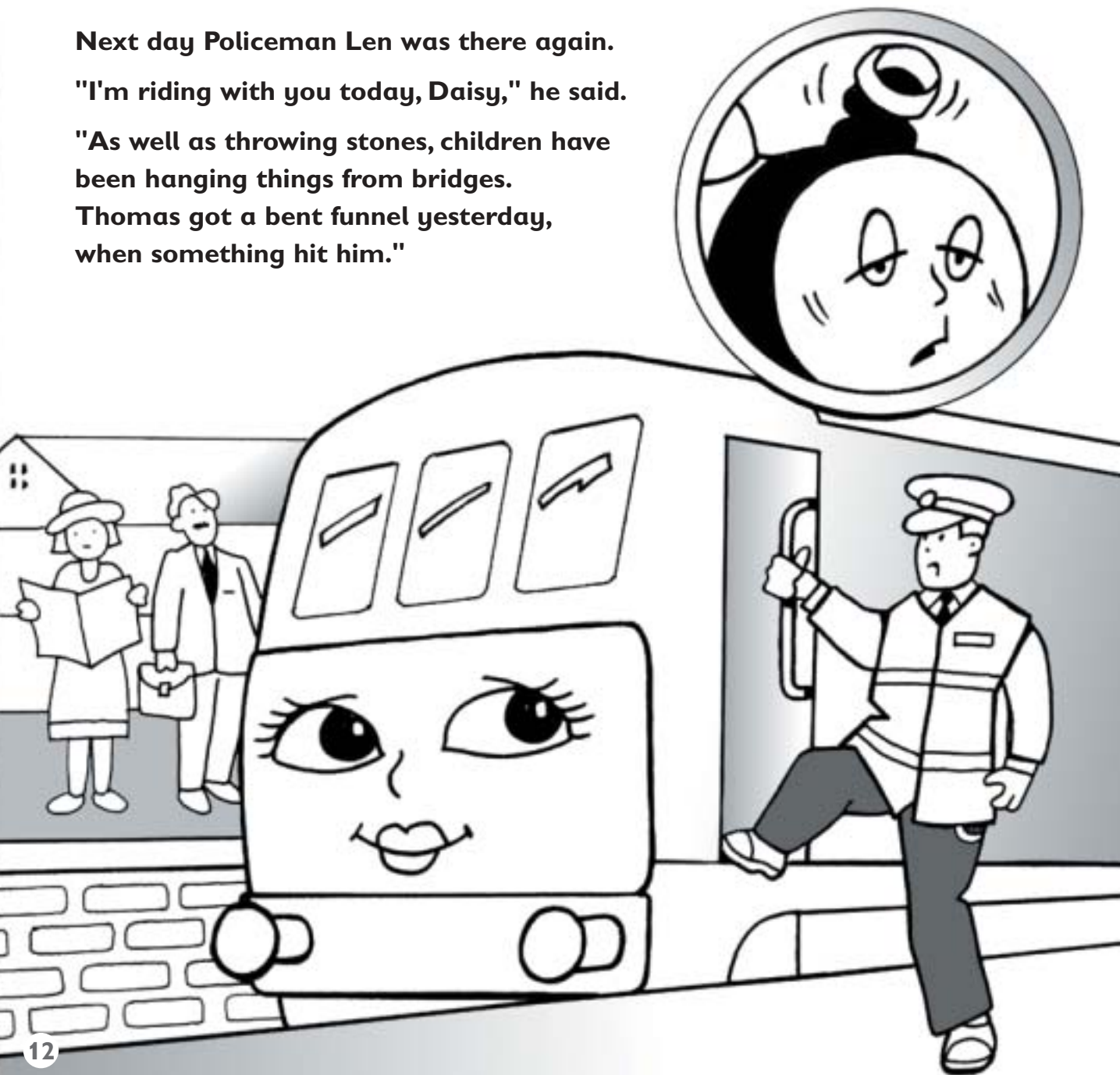
At the Junction
they found
Policeman Len.

"Children have
been throwing
stones at Thomas,"
he said.

"We must stop it."

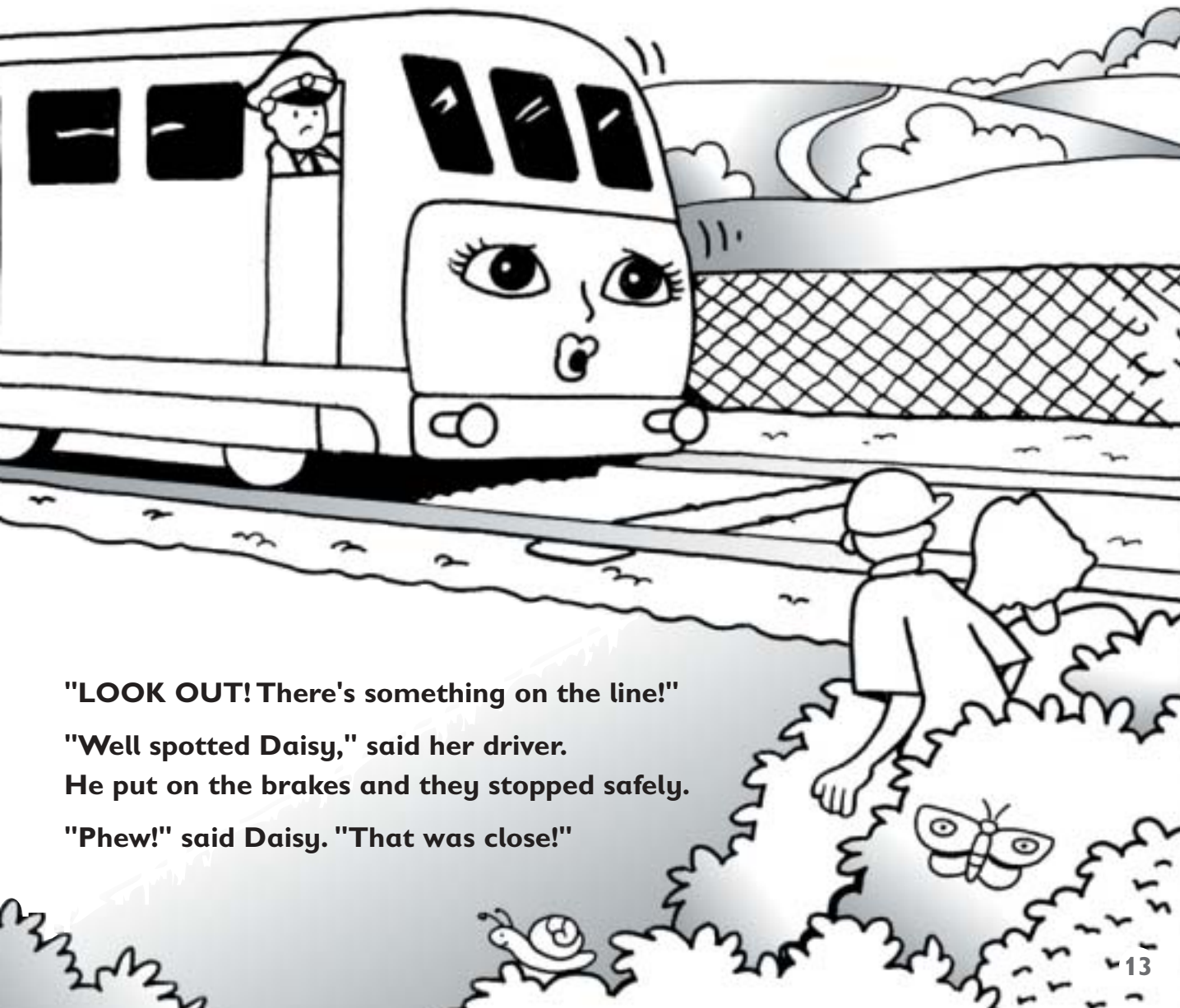


Next day Policeman Len was there again.
"I'm riding with you today, Daisy," he said.
"As well as throwing stones, children have
been hanging things from bridges.
Thomas got a bent funnel yesterday,
when something hit him."



Daisy told Policeman Len that the evening before she had seen two children on the railway.

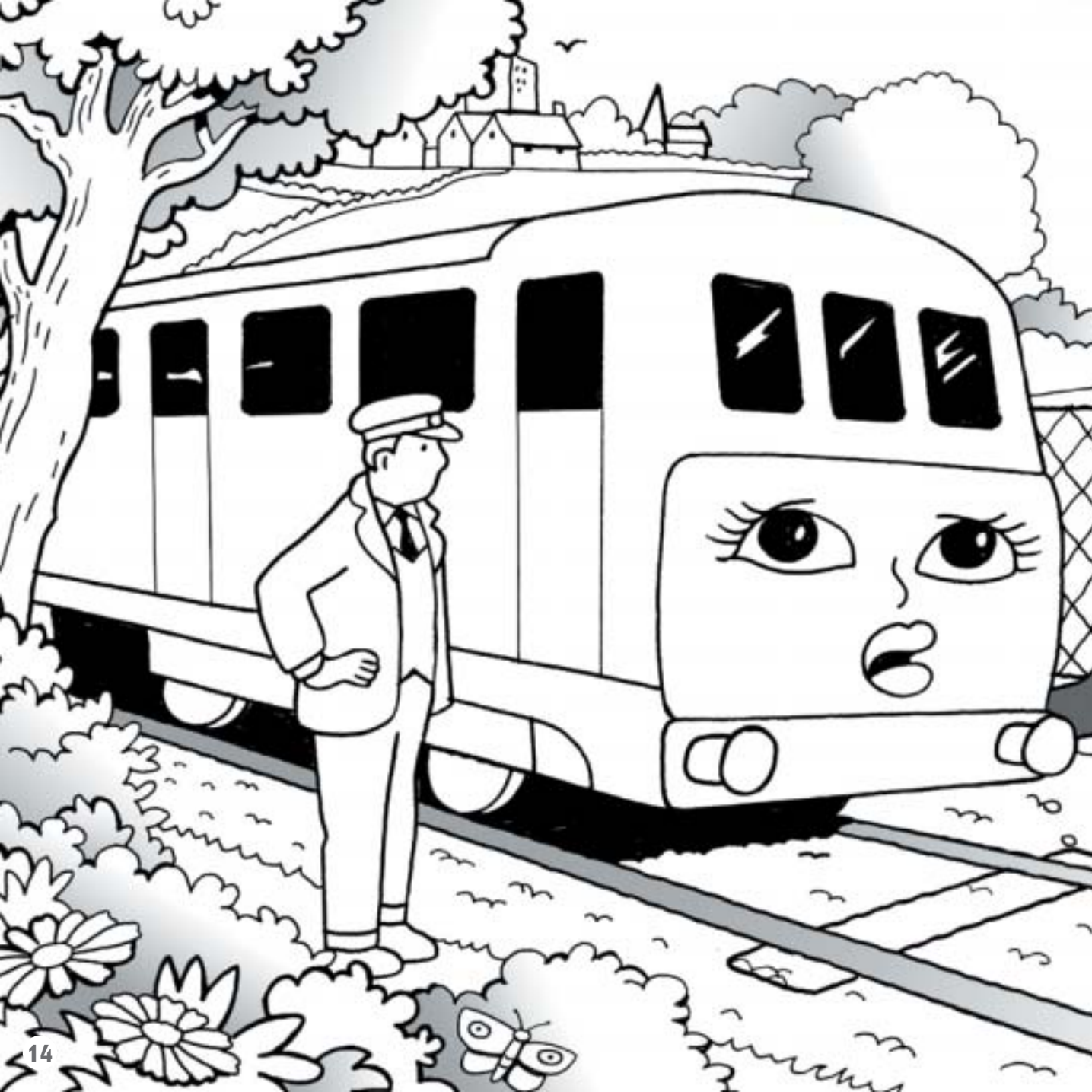
"There they are again!" exclaimed Daisy.



"LOOK OUT! There's something on the line!"

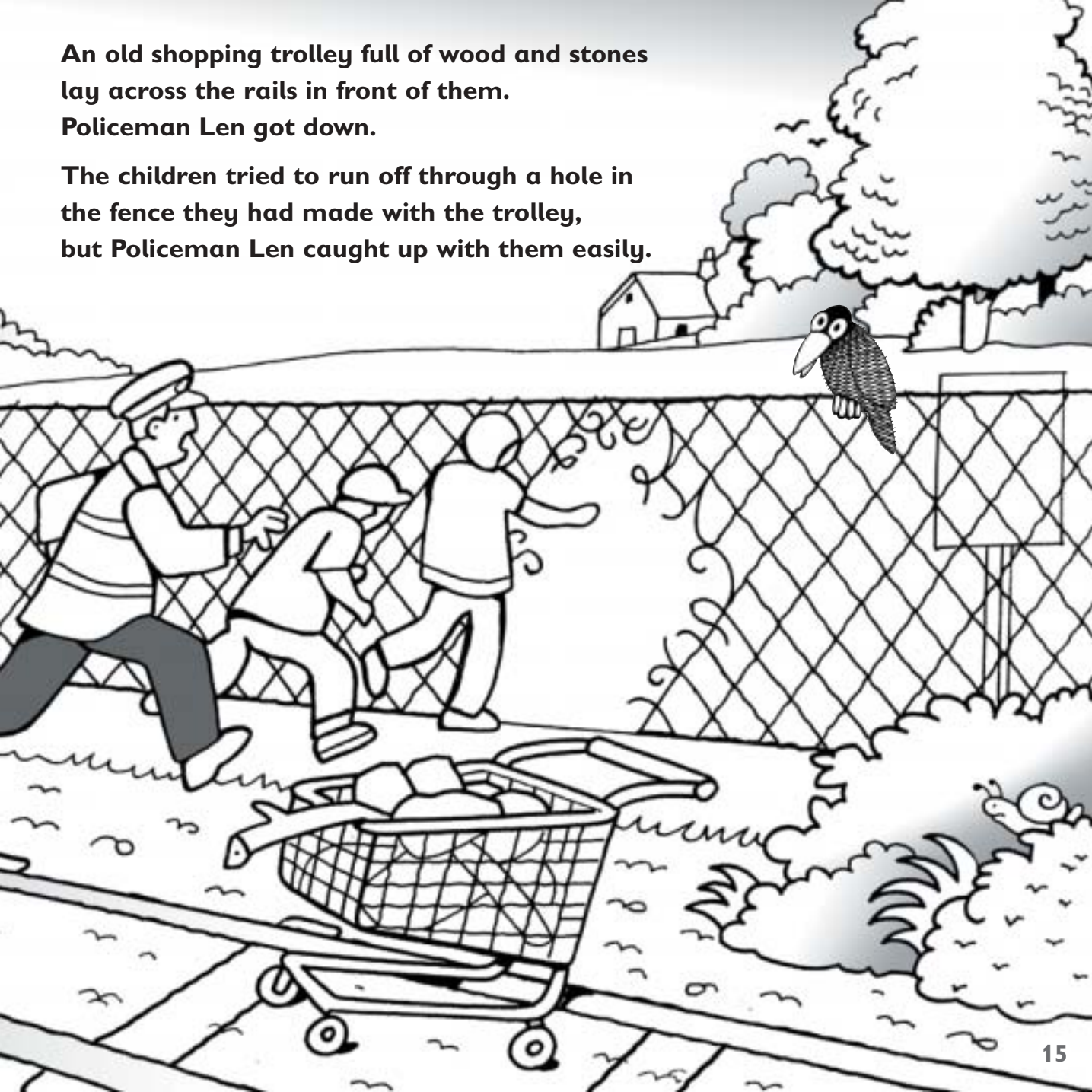
"Well spotted Daisy," said her driver.
He put on the brakes and they stopped safely.

"Phew!" said Daisy. "That was close!"



An old shopping trolley full of wood and stones lay across the rails in front of them.
Policeman Len got down.

The children tried to run off through a hole in the fence they had made with the trolley, but Policeman Len caught up with them easily.



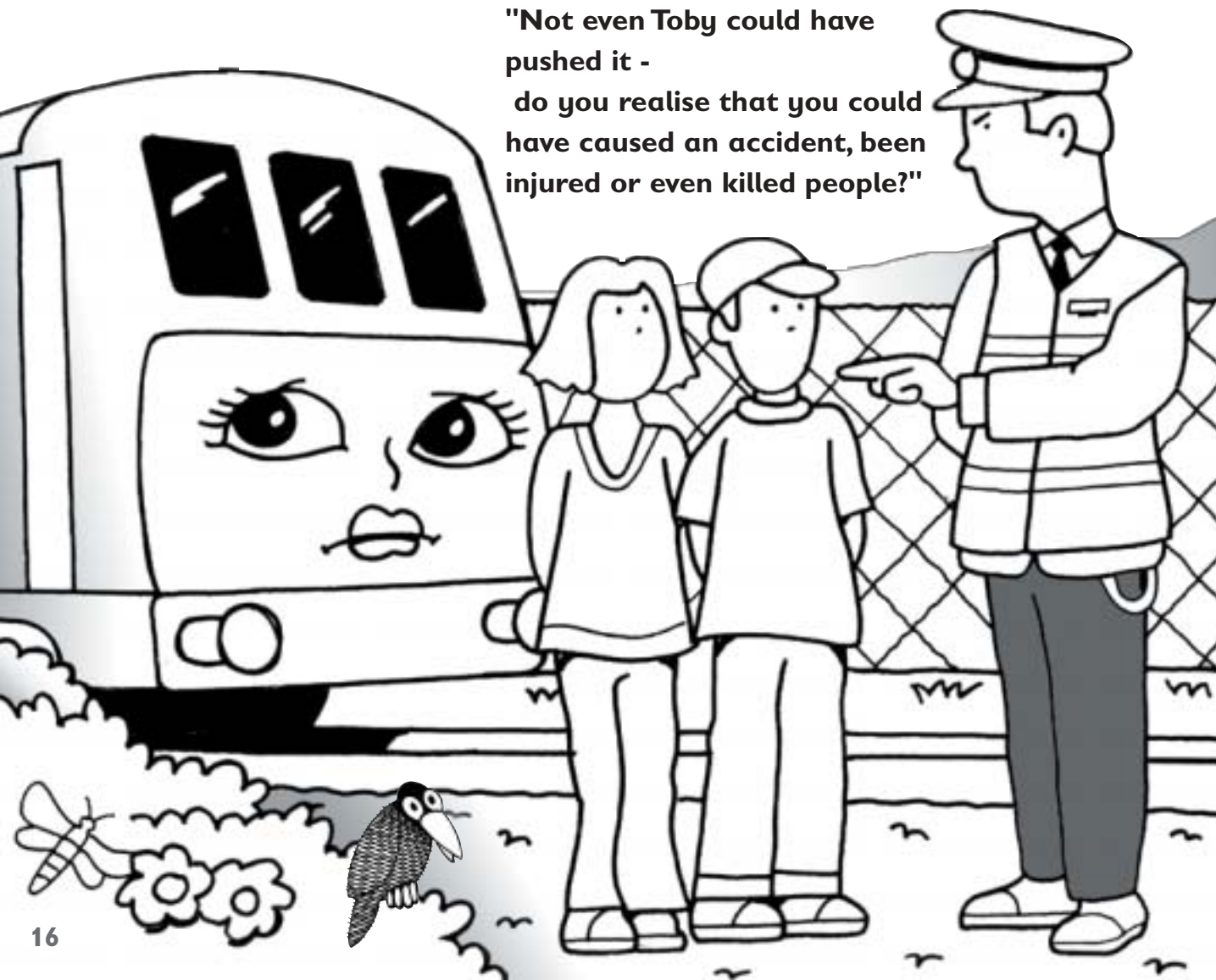
"Did you put that trolley on the rails?" Policeman Len asked.

"We found it dumped by the side of the fence," the children said.

"We thought the engine would be Toby. We wanted to see if he could push it with his cowcatcher thing."

**Policeman Len said angrily,
"Not even Toby could have
pushed it -**

**do you realise that you could
have caused an accident, been
injured or even killed people?"**



"You are in a lot of trouble," said Policeman Len.

"You deliberately made a hole in the fence and put something on the line.

He then said in a stern voice, "This is very serious indeed and you will have to be reported."

The children were in a lot of trouble with the police, their parents and their school.

Daisy never saw the children near the railway line ever again.



Lucy to the Rescue

One fine morning during the school holidays
Andrew was out for a bike ride.

In a basket on the front of his
bike was his dog, Lucy.

Andrew turned down the farm lane.
Lucy didn't like the lane -
it bumped and woke her up.
She barked disapprovingly.





"Sorry Lucy," apologised Andrew. "Oh look, what's this?"

'This' was the railway.

Andrew held the bike steady while Lucy jumped down.

She gave a pleased "wuff", and began to sniff at the hedge.

"Come on Lucy," said Andrew.

"I'm going to see where this goes."

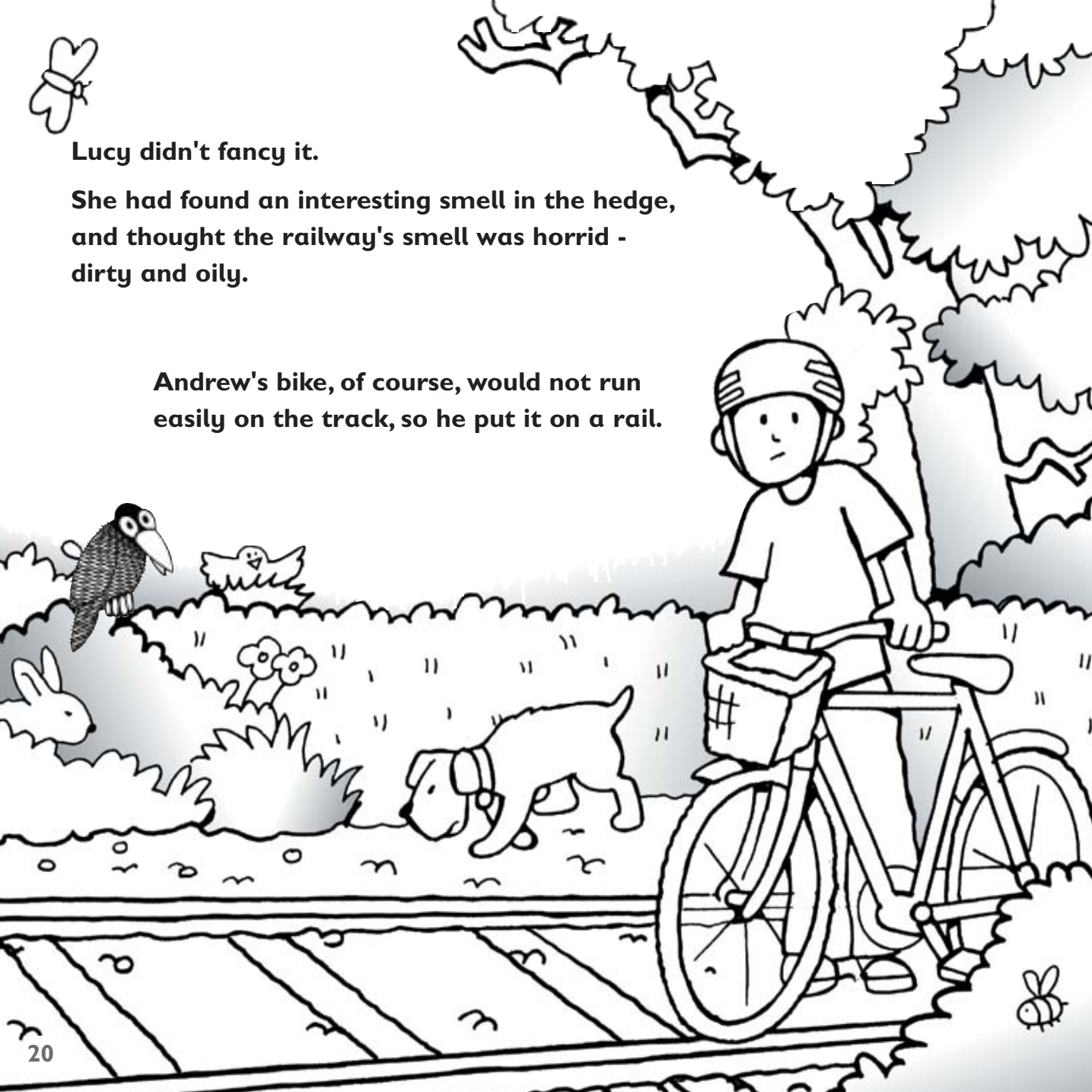




Lucy didn't fancy it.

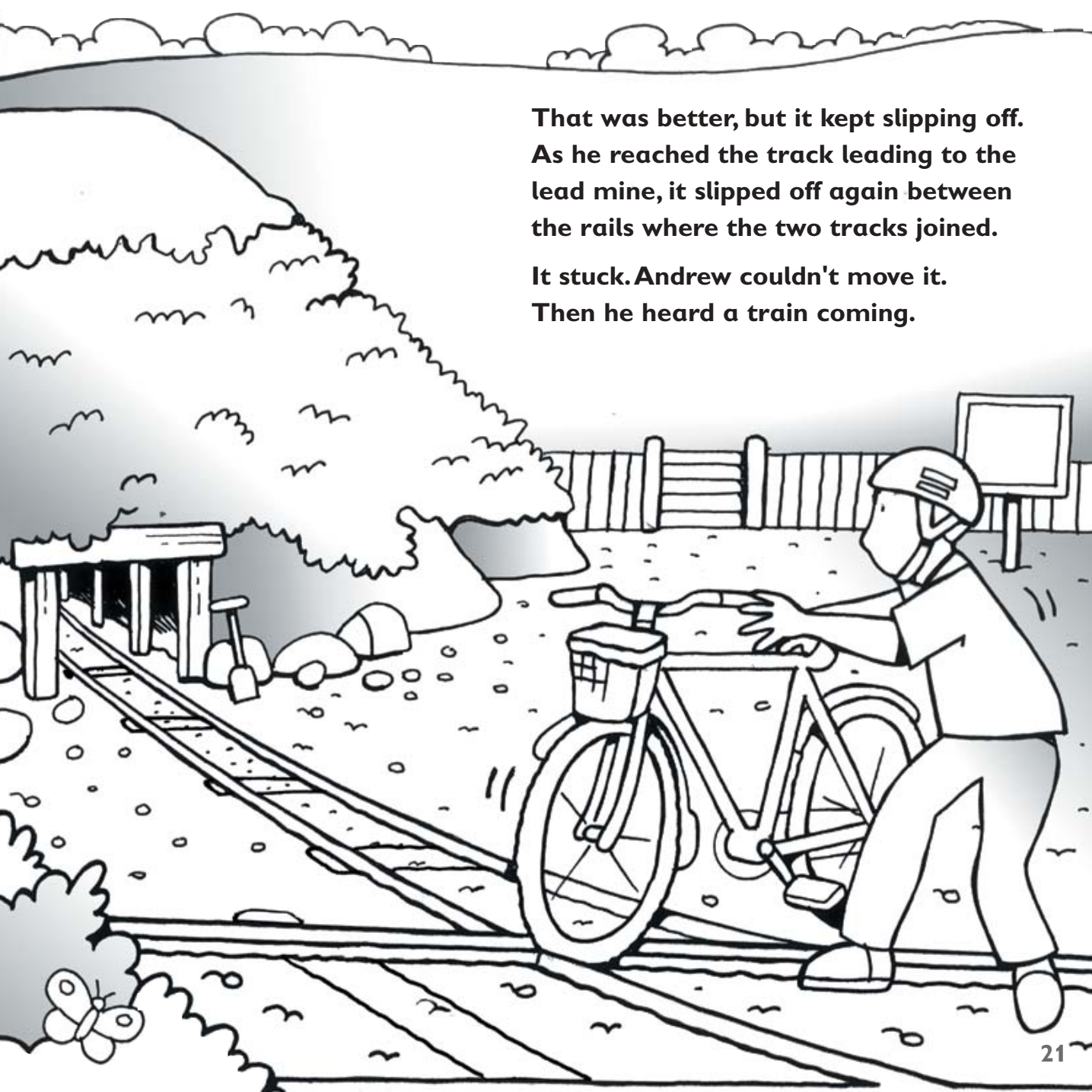
**She had found an interesting smell in the hedge,
and thought the railway's smell was horrid -
dirty and oily.**

**Andrew's bike, of course, would not run
easily on the track, so he put it on a rail.**



That was better, but it kept slipping off. As he reached the track leading to the lead mine, it slipped off again between the rails where the two tracks joined.

It stuck. Andrew couldn't move it. Then he heard a train coming.



"HELP!" "HELP!" he shouted.

Lucy was some distance behind him, but she pricked up her ears as she heard the alarm in her master's voice.



HELP!

She heard the train too.

Sensing that something was wrong, she ran towards the tunnel, barking as she went.

Inside the tunnel
Thomas was feeling
very happy.

His train was on time,
and he was looking forward
to a rest at the lead mine.

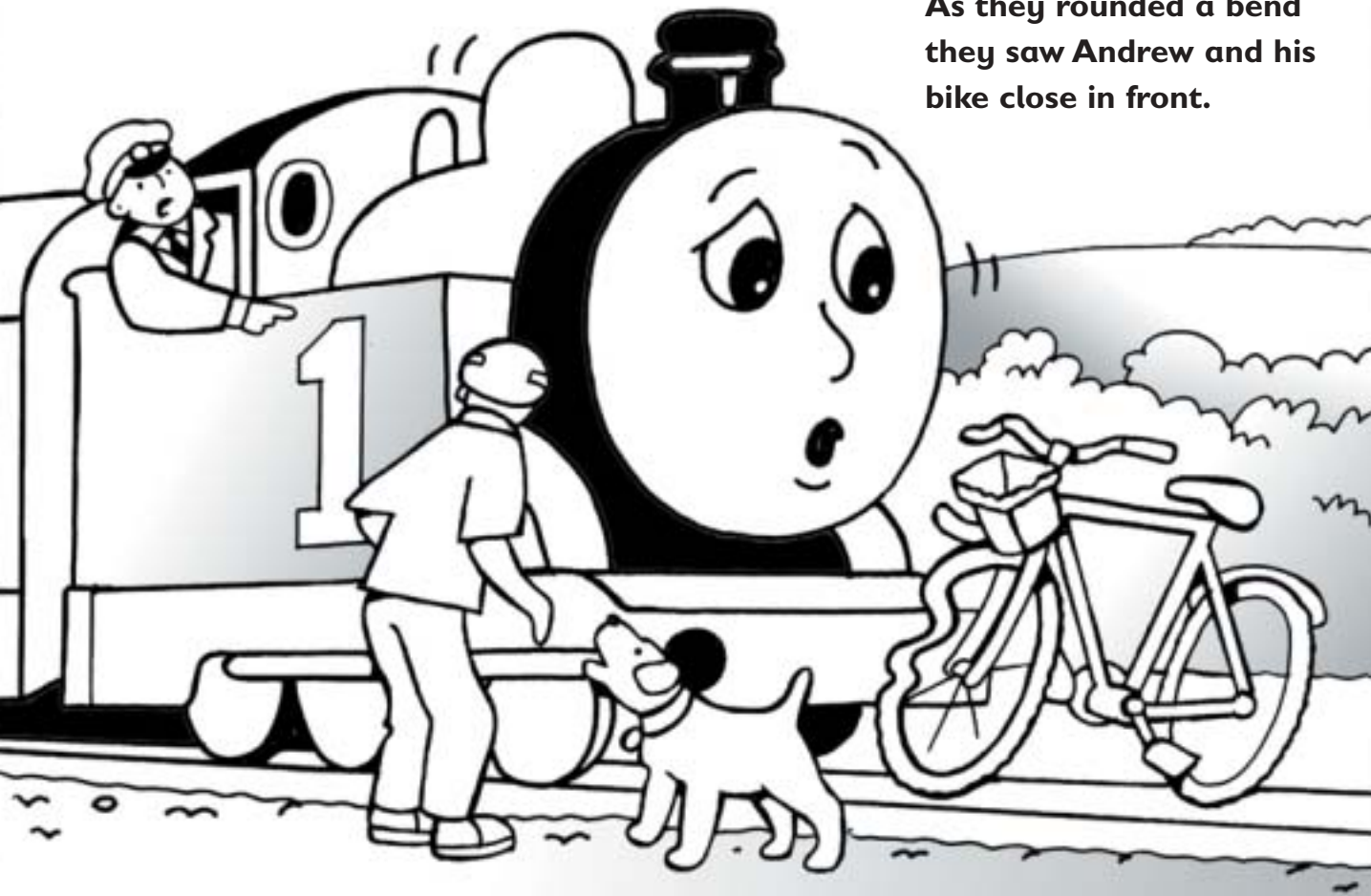


Suddenly a small dog appeared, barking loudly.

Thomas' driver put on the brakes. "Let's not hurt the dog," he said.

But Lucy ran in front of them, still barking, and Thomas slowed down further.

As they rounded a bend they saw Andrew and his bike close in front.



Thomas stopped as quickly as he could, but he couldn't avoid bending the bike a little. Thomas was very upset.

The Guard freed the bike and heaved it into Clarabel.
He took Andrew and Lucy back to the Junction and went to
Policeman Len's office.



"Right young man,"
said the policeman.
"Never go on
railway lines -
if you had got your
foot stuck it may
have been you who
was hurt rather
than your bike."



"If it hadn't been for Lucy, there could have been a very nasty accident,"
said Policeman Len.



Trespass

Children as young as five years old have been caught trespassing on the railways, including playing games of 'chicken' in front of high-speed trains. If the driver puts on his emergency brakes when a train is travelling at 125 mph, it takes up to 2,000 metres (1¼ miles) for the train to stop.

Pages 2, 15, 20



Vandalism

Each year there are thousands of reported incidents of objects being placed on tracks, thrown at trains or dangled from bridges in front of trains. Most of these crimes are committed by young people - children as young as five years old have been caught putting objects on the tracks.

Pages 11, 15

Dumping rubbish

Each year there are thousands of reported incidents of rubbish being dumped near railway tracks. This is often used by vandals to damage or obstruct trains or by children to build dens by the side of the tracks, leaving them vulnerable to serious injury or death.

Page 16



Graffiti

Spraying paint on trains or railway property is not only unsightly and costly to remove but such activity often involves trespass and leads to more serious criminal behaviour. Painting over railway warning signs can result in innocent lives being lost if the message cannot be read.

Page 4

It's not worth it!

British Transport Police may visit the parents of young children who have been caught trespassing, committing criminal damage or misbehaving generally on the railways. Older children may be prosecuted.

The transport police make regular patrols and, in partnership with the railway industry, use security cameras, helicopters and other initiatives to catch anyone committing acts of railway crime.

Please remember what happened to Thomas, his friends and the children in the story.

PLAY SAFE and STAY SAFE - DON'T PLAY ON THE RAILWAY!

Bad Days for Thomas and his Friends

Thomas and his friends were having some bad days
on the Island of Sodor.

Who was doing various naughty things on the
railway and upsetting the engines, carriages and
The Fat Controller?

Policeman Len was going to be very busy



The Track Off education campaign is funded by Rail Safety and Standards Board
on behalf of the rail industry and associated organisations

www.trackoff.org

Written by Christopher Awdry

Illustrated by David Anderson

Designed by Graphic Ad



Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends



Based on The Railway Series by The Rev W Awdry

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www.thomasthetankengine.com