

More Bad Days for Thomas and his Friends

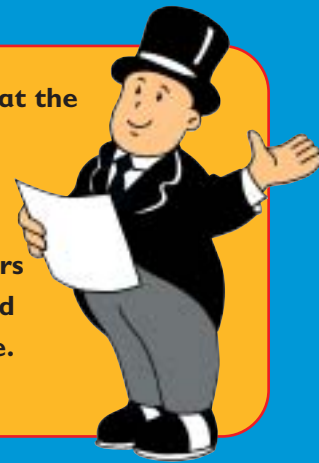
Christopher Awdry



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.

Toby and the skateboarders

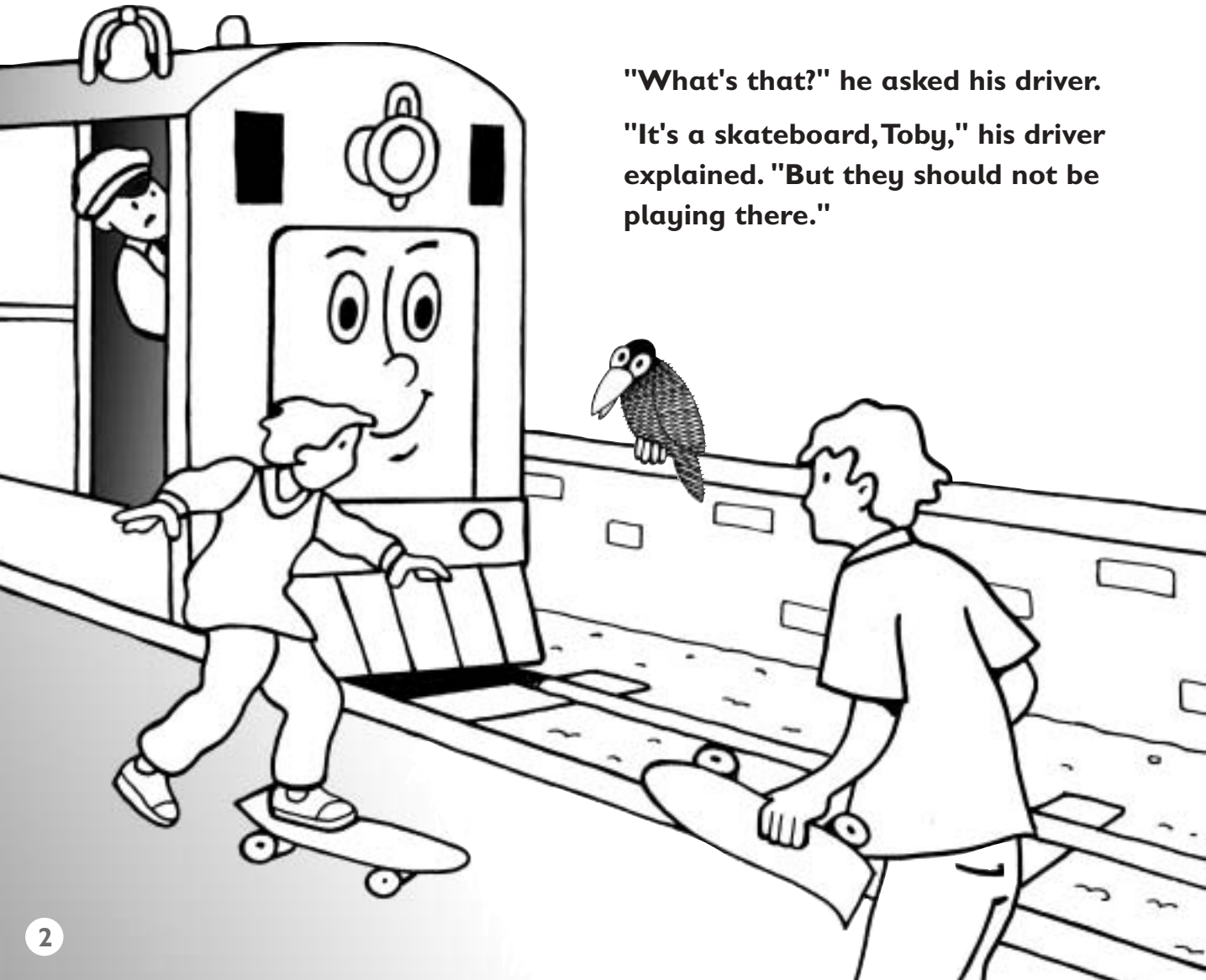
Toby the tram engine had brought some trucks down from the quarry through the station.



As he passed the platform he saw some boys playing with a flat board, bent up at one end, with small wheels underneath.

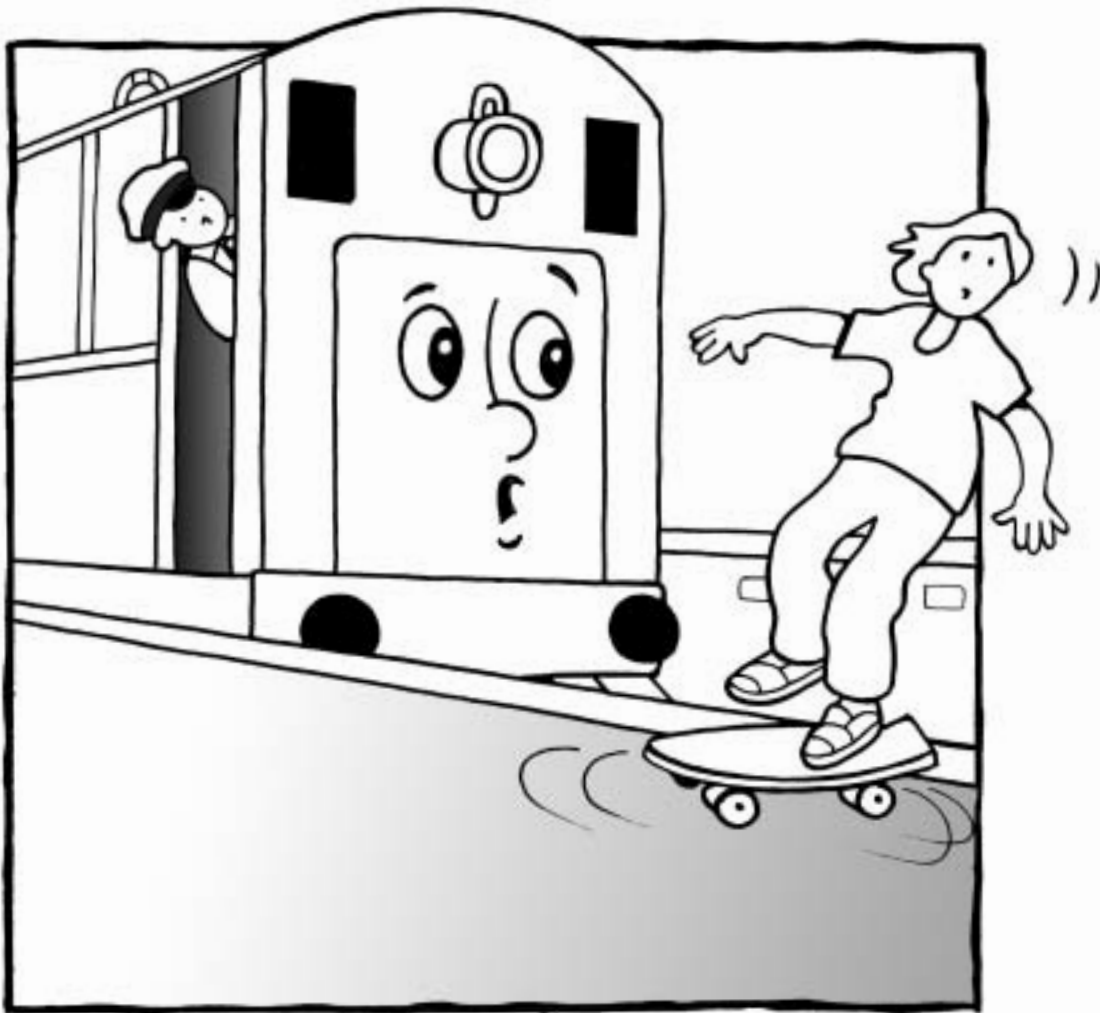
"What's that?" he asked his driver.

"It's a skateboard, Toby," his driver explained. "But they should not be playing there."



Next day the boys were there again.

Toby was standing in the station and watched them.



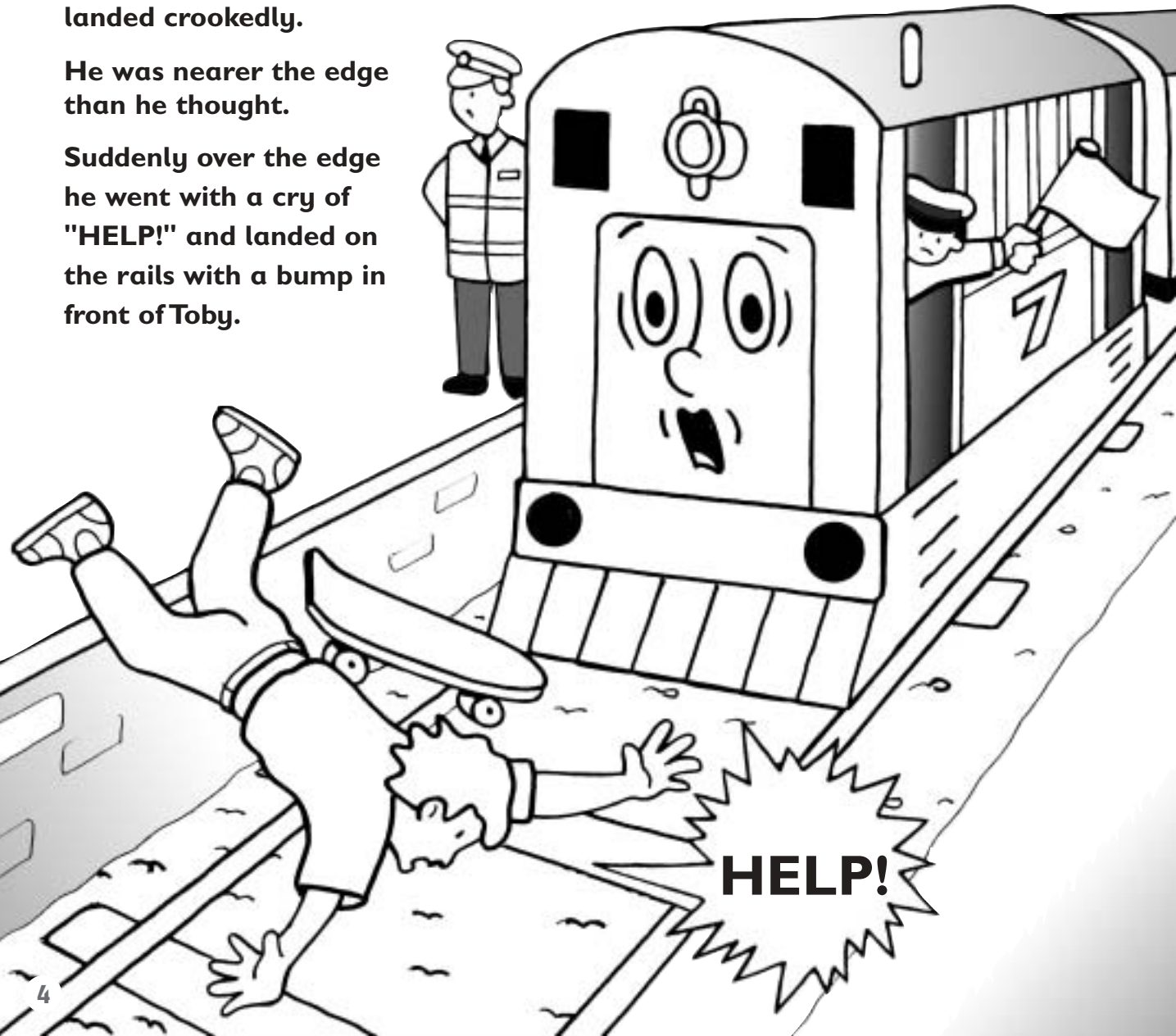
The tallest boy, with one leg on the board, pushed himself along with the other leg. He went fast along the platform. Then he put both feet on the board and twisted his body.

Just then Policeman Len came into the station.

As the boy tried to turn, something went wrong, and the skateboard landed crookedly.

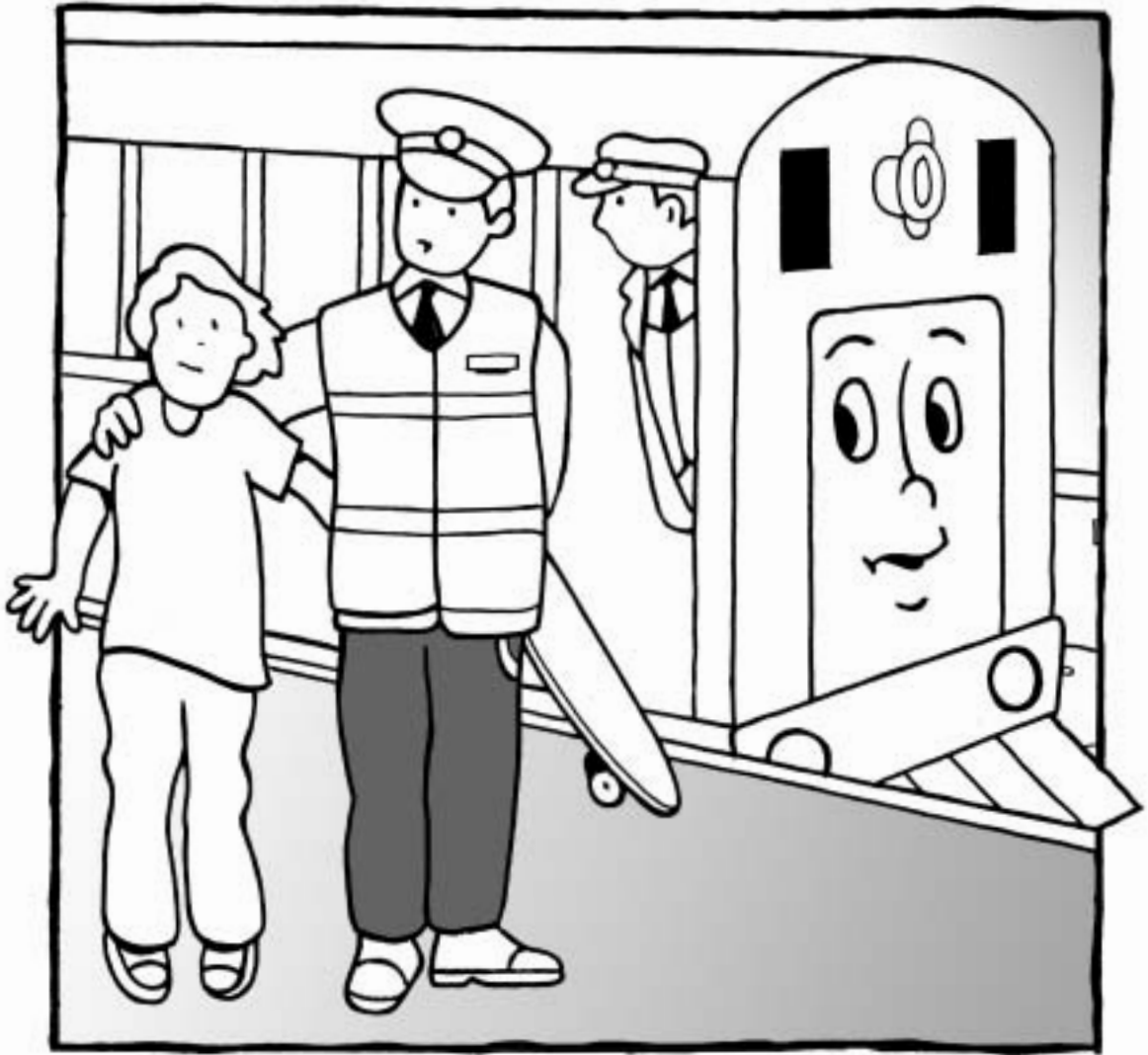
He was nearer the edge than he thought.

Suddenly over the edge he went with a cry of "HELP!" and landed on the rails with a bump in front of Toby.



Policeman Len helped a very shaken boy back to the safety of the platform.

"Think yourself lucky, young man," the policeman said.



"What would have happened if Toby had been moving, eh?"

Toby knew, but tried not to think about it.

Policeman Len wrote down the boy's name in his notebook.

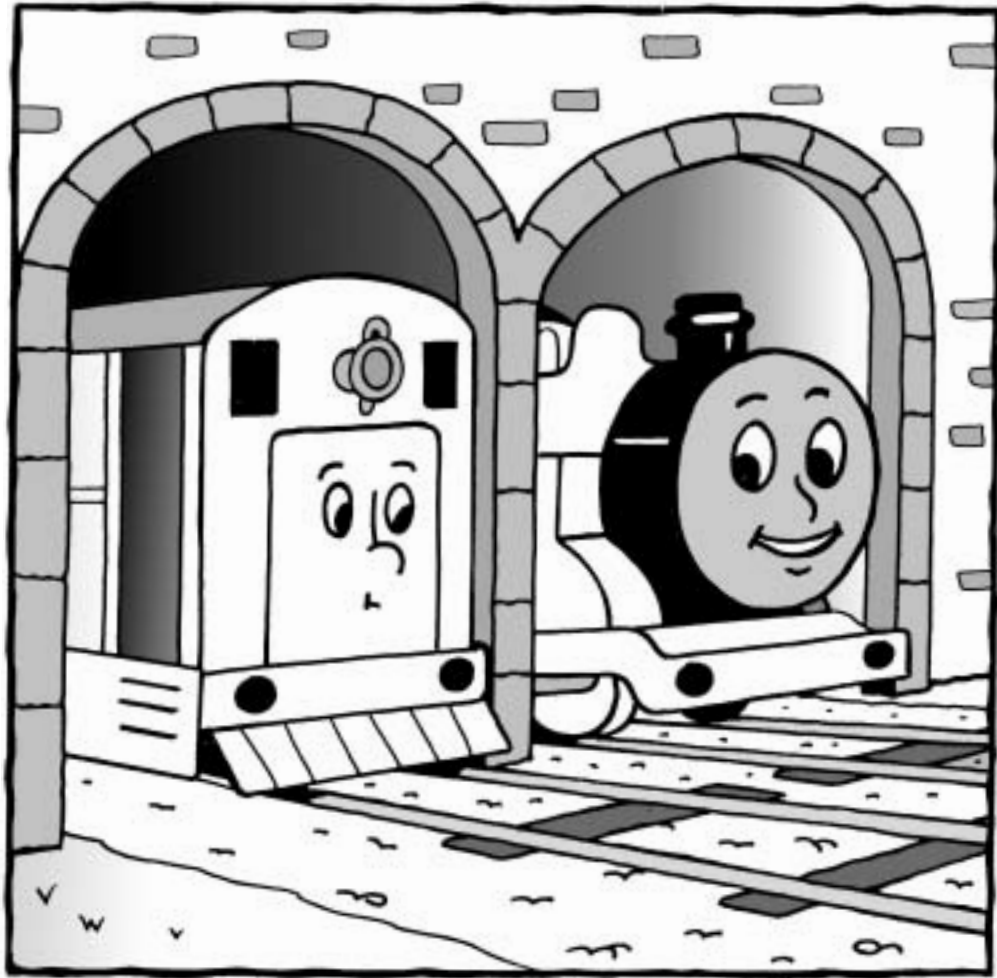
The Fat Controller and Toby looked cross.



**"I'll be going to see
your parents tonight
my lad," said
Policeman Len.**

"Nobody should play with a skateboard in a railway station," said Thomas in the shed that night. "It's a good job Policeman Len was there."

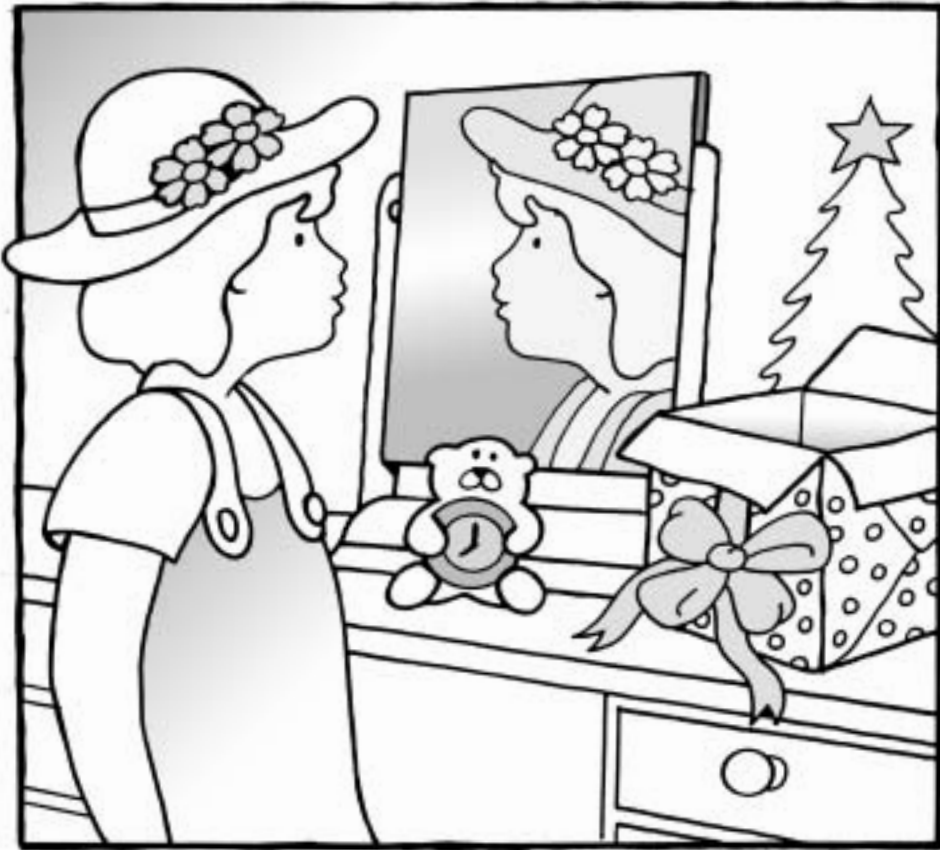
"It certainly was," agreed Toby.



"It's worth saying again to all the children reading this story - never, ever play in a railway station or near a railway line." said Thomas. "It's too dangerous!" he warned, "if you **PLAY SAFE**, you will **STAY SAFE**."

Nearly an unhappy Christmas

Alysha was very proud of her pretty new hat.
Her mother had made it for her as a Christmas present.
It was pink and had yellow flowers sewn on it. Alysha thought it was the best
Christmas present she'd ever had.

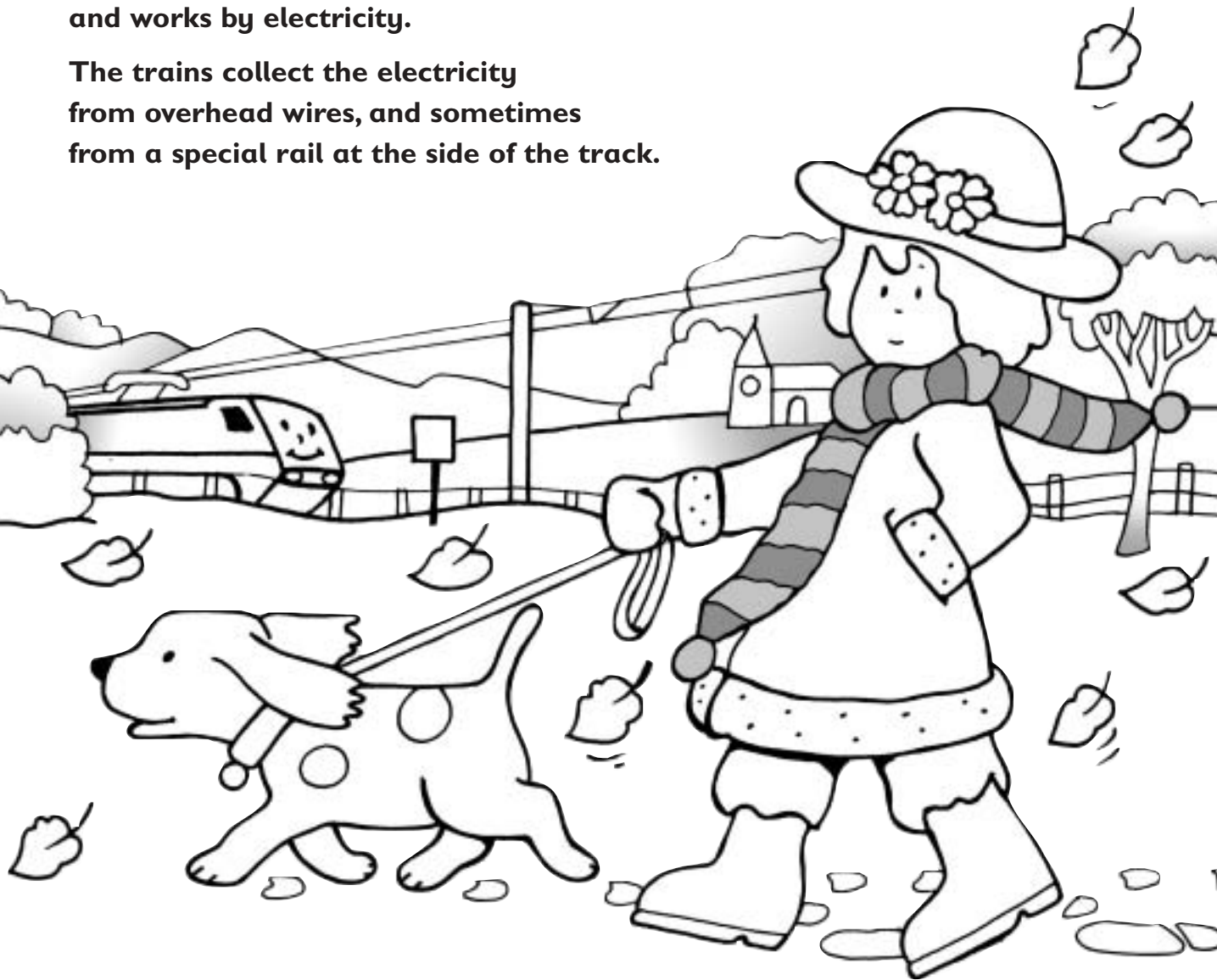


On Boxing Day Alysha's father was unwell, and her mother was busy, so Alysha was allowed to take the dog for a walk. Proudly she put on her new hat.

"Watch where you walk," warned her mother, "and don't be out too long."

Alysha decided to go towards the railway that runs into the hills and works by electricity.

The trains collect the electricity from overhead wires, and sometimes from a special rail at the side of the track.



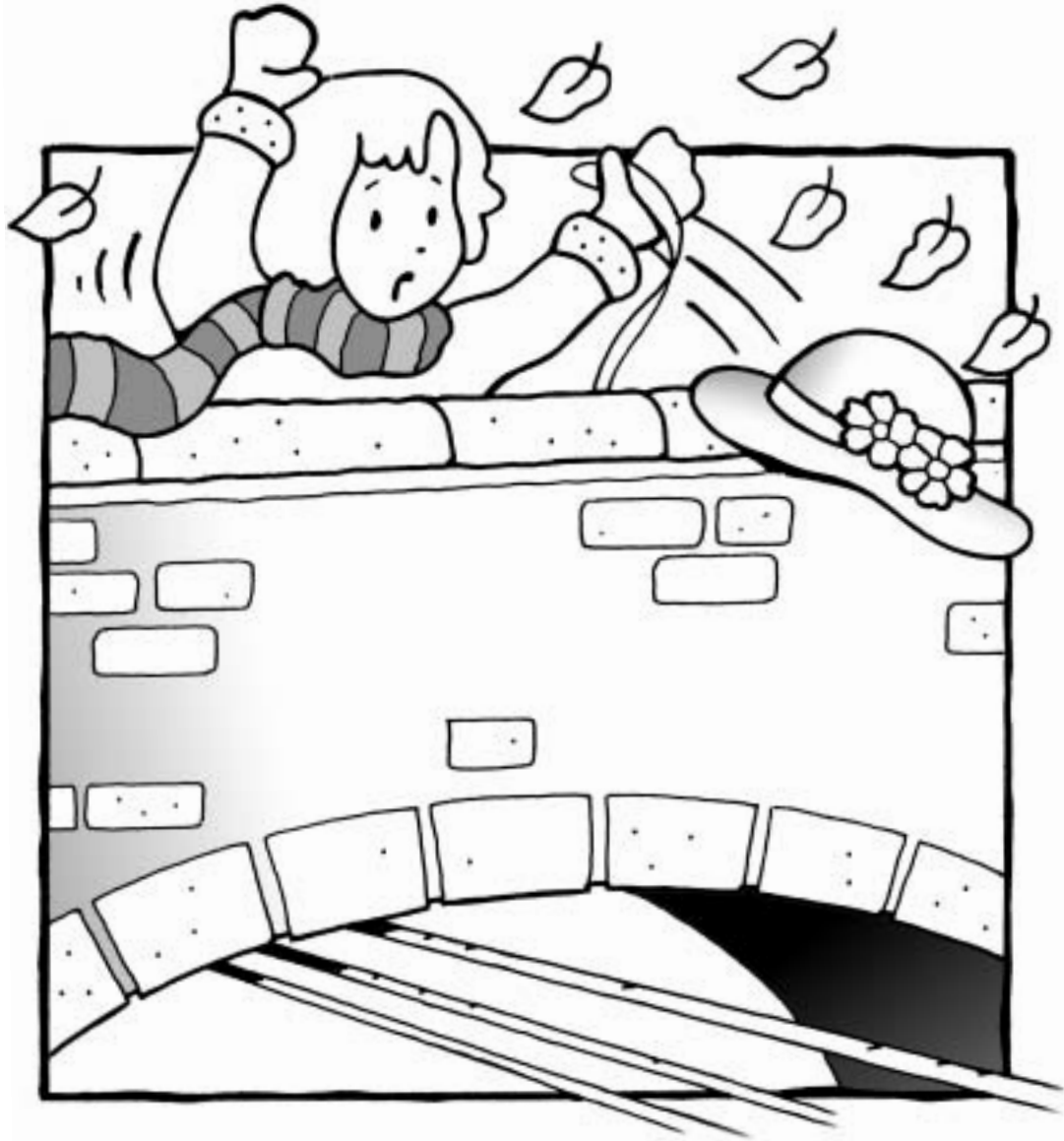
There were warning signs along the railway because electricity can be very dangerous.

Alysha had often seen the overhead wires,
but she didn't really understand how they made the trains work.



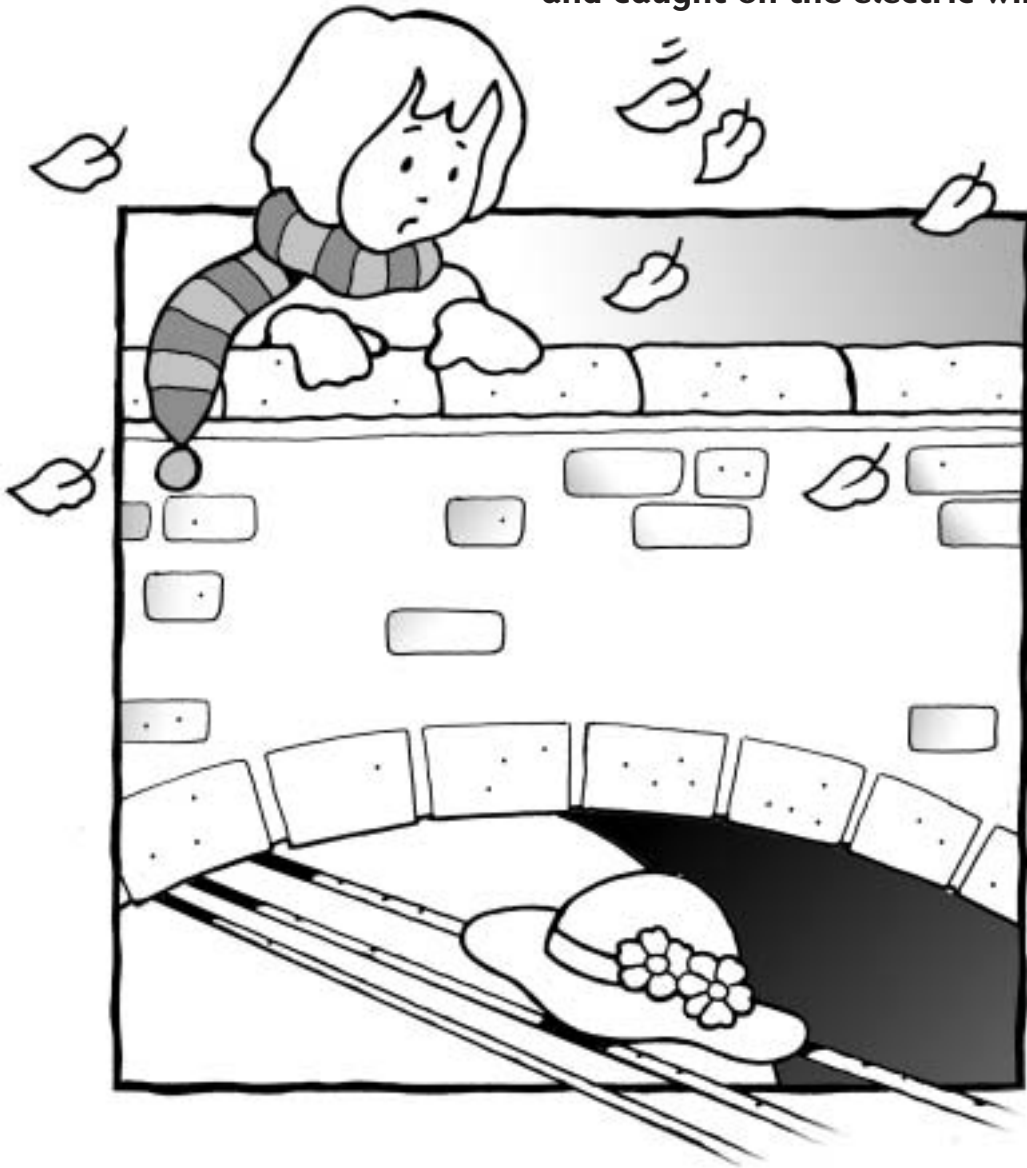
But she knew she must always take care near the railway.

To get home she had to cross a bridge, where, of course, the electric wires were below her. She peered over the bridge, looking along the line.



Suddenly the wind tugged at her new hat. Alysha grabbed at it, but too late.

Her beautiful new hat flipped off her head, sailed over the bridge wall and caught on the electric wires.

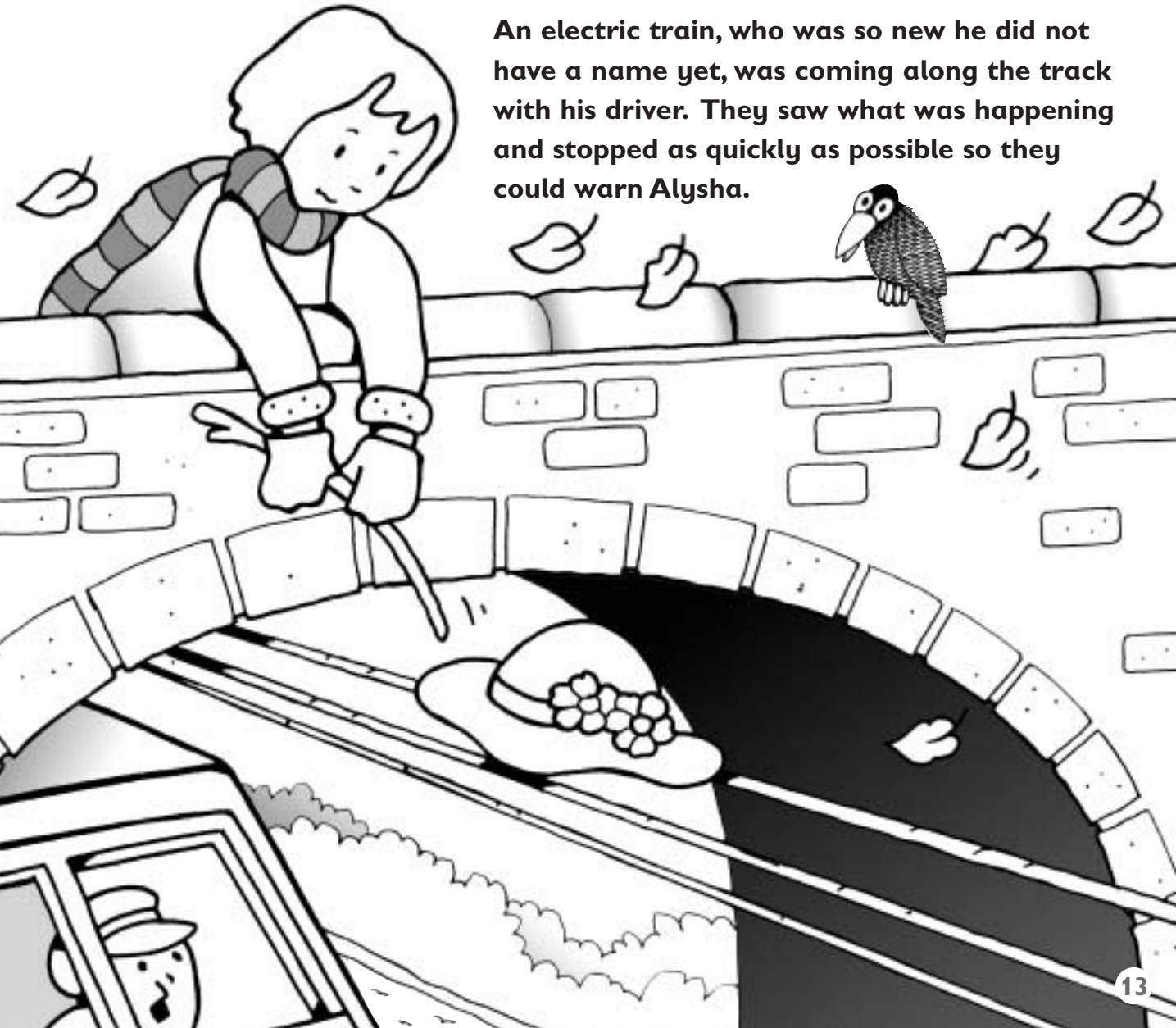


Alysha was thunderstruck.

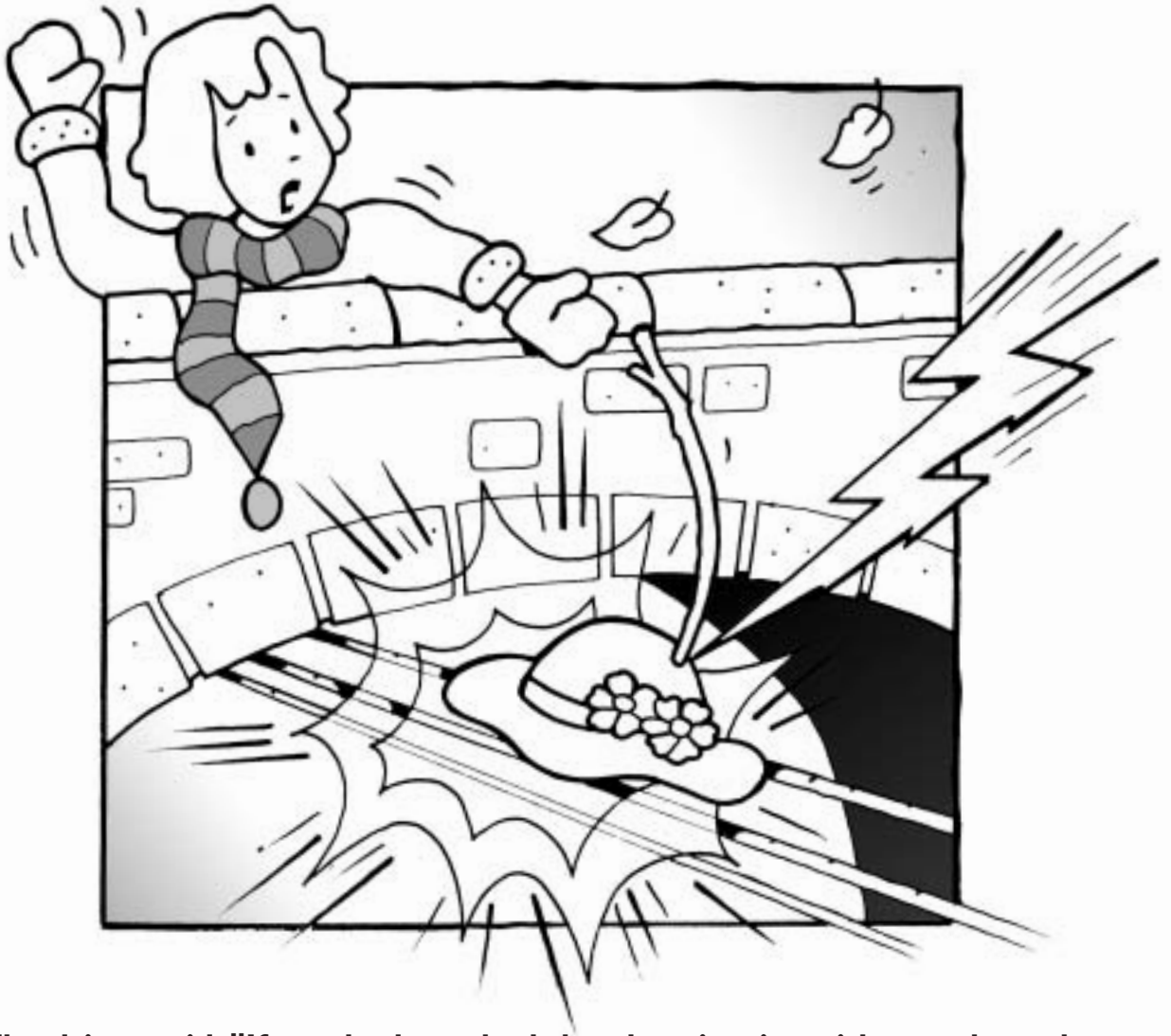
"My new hat!" she wailed. "I must get it back."

A thin tree branch was lying nearby. Forgetting about the electricity warning signs, Alysha leaned as far over the bridge as she dared, carefully lowering the branch towards her hat.

An electric train, who was so new he did not have a name yet, was coming along the track with his driver. They saw what was happening and stopped as quickly as possible so they could warn Alysha.



"STOP!" The voice was so loud Alysha dropped the branch. As she did so she heard a loud **BANG** and there was a brilliant bright blue flash like lightning.



The driver said, "If you had touched the electric wire with your branch you could have been killed. You don't even have to touch the wires to be hurt, because electricity can jump a long way."

"My....my hat," Alysha said weakly.

**"I'm sure we can do something about that,"
said the driver.**

**"I wouldn't have expected your hat to stay
there very long in this wind.**

It's blown to the side of the line already.

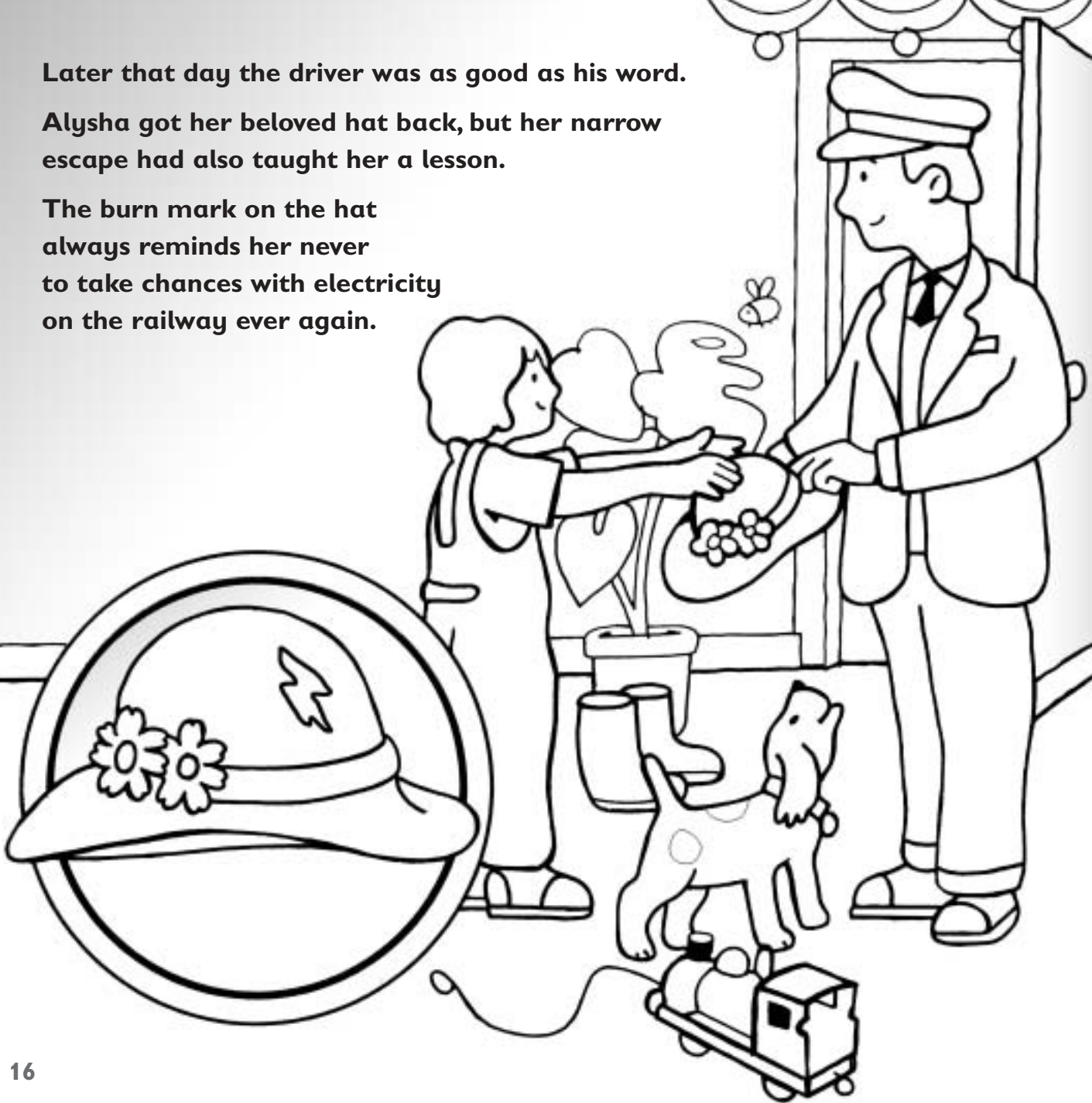
I'll see you get it back."



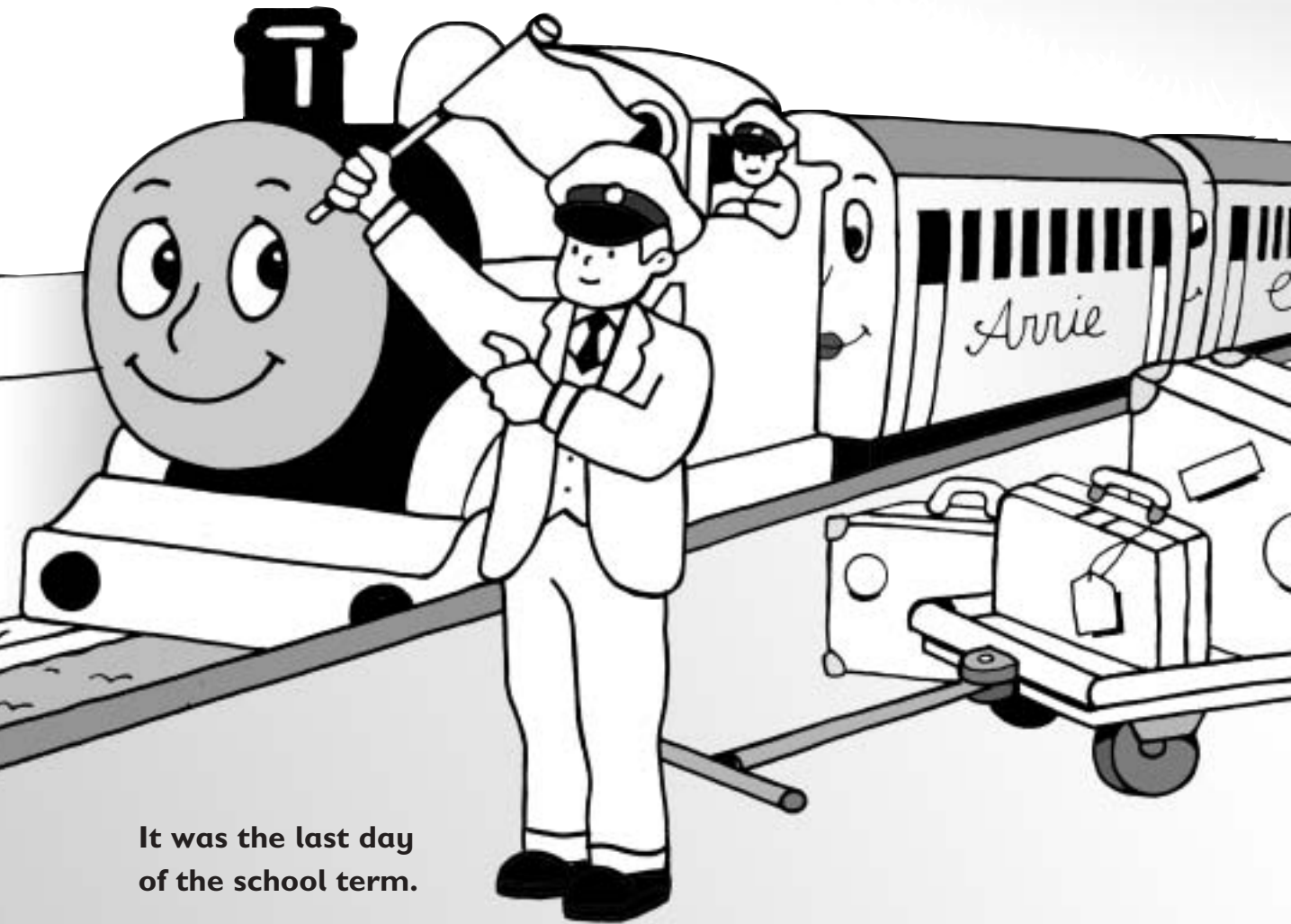
Later that day the driver was as good as his word.

Alysha got her beloved hat back, but her narrow escape had also taught her a lesson.

The burn mark on the hat always reminds her never to take chances with electricity on the railway ever again.



Trouble on the Train



It was the last day
of the school term.

Thomas was waiting patiently at the station with Annie and Clarabel.

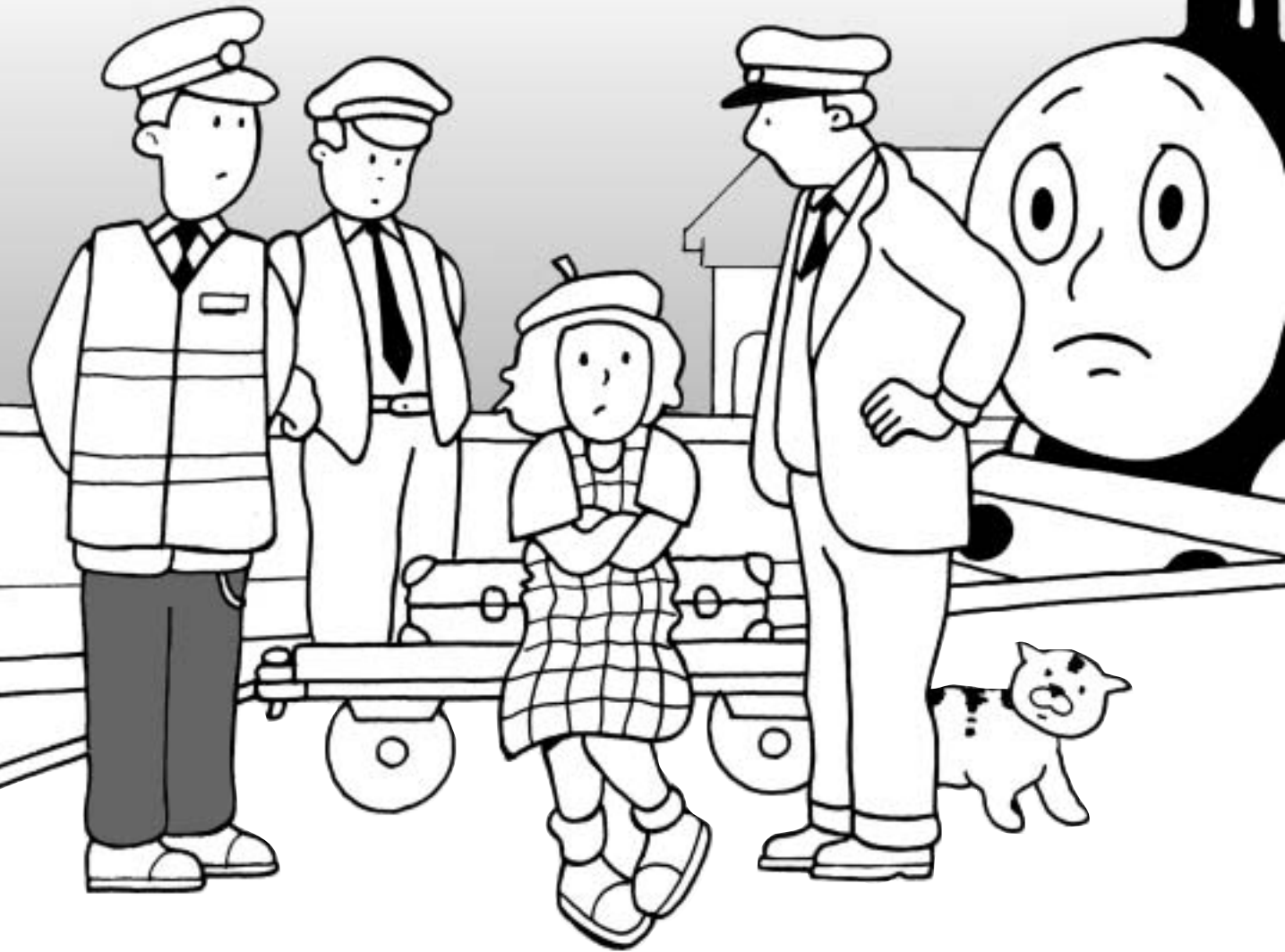
**His guard was just about to blow his whistle,
when Annie's carriage door burst open and a girl fell out.**



Two other girls left the train and ran hurriedly out of the station.

Thomas looked worried as a porter ran to help.

The porter sat the girl on a luggage trolley.



He tried to comfort her, but the child was so upset he called the Stationmaster.

Policeman Len came to see what was the matter.

He found out the girl's name was Gemma.

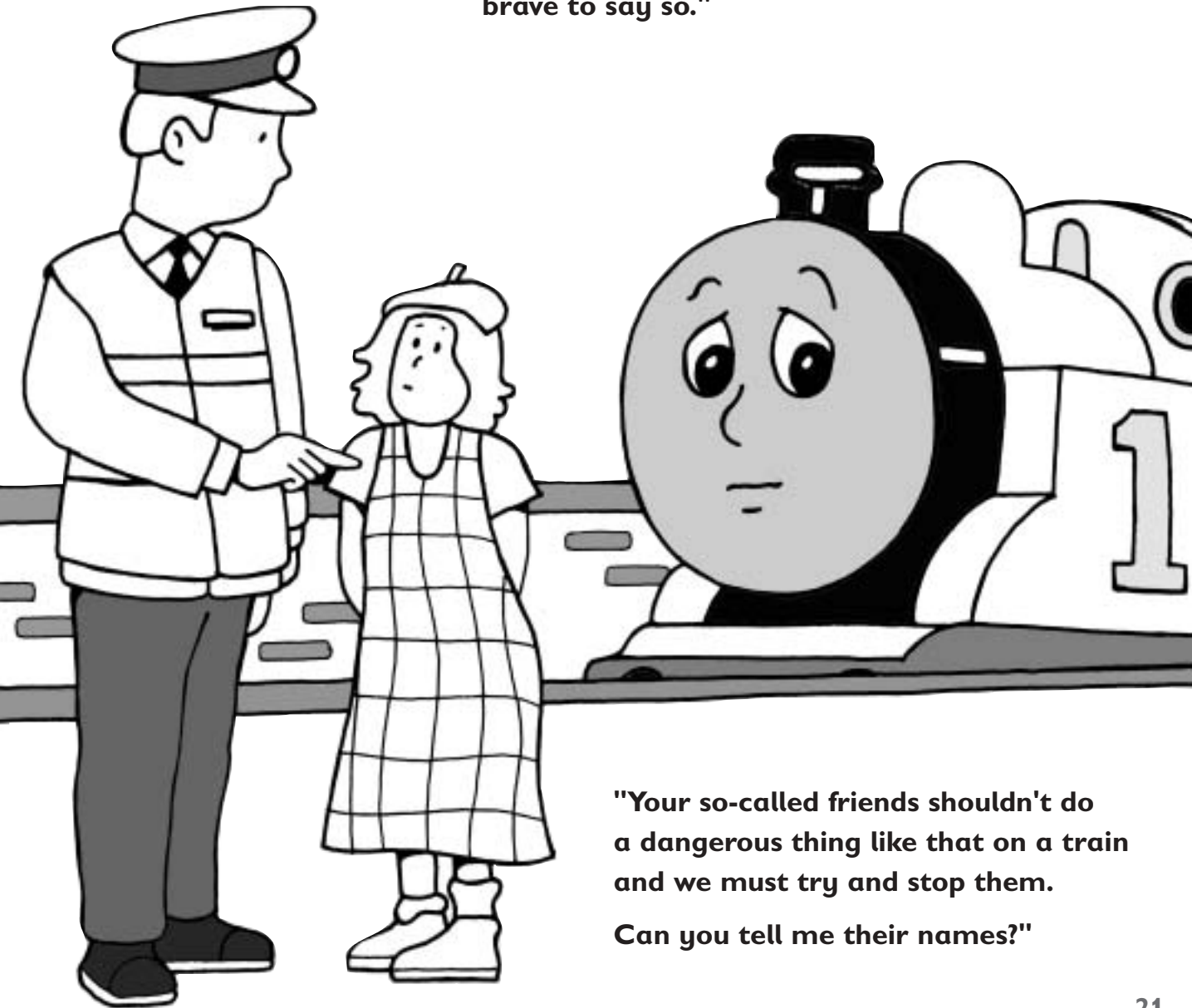
"What happened, Gemma?" asked Policeman Len.

"They pushed me off the train," said Gemma.



She continued, "It was a dare. They said I should get off the train and stick my tongue out at the porter. When I said no, they pushed me off."

**Thomas agreed with Policeman Len when he said,
"You were right, Gemma, not to want to do such a silly thing and it was very
brave to say so."**



**"Your so-called friends shouldn't do
a dangerous thing like that on a train
and we must try and stop them.
Can you tell me their names?"**

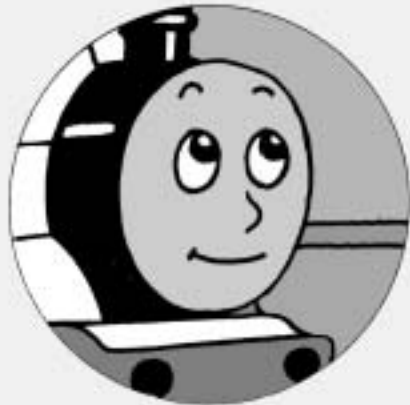
Gemma hesitated. "But what if they?" she began.



"Don't worry," said
Policeman Len,
"they need never know
how I found out."



"Don't forget, you won't
see them for another
seven weeks anyway,
will you?" the
Stationmaster added.



Thomas, Annie and
Clarabel all agreed
Gemma should tell
Policeman Len the
names - it was the
best thing to do.



Gemma nodded, and paused.

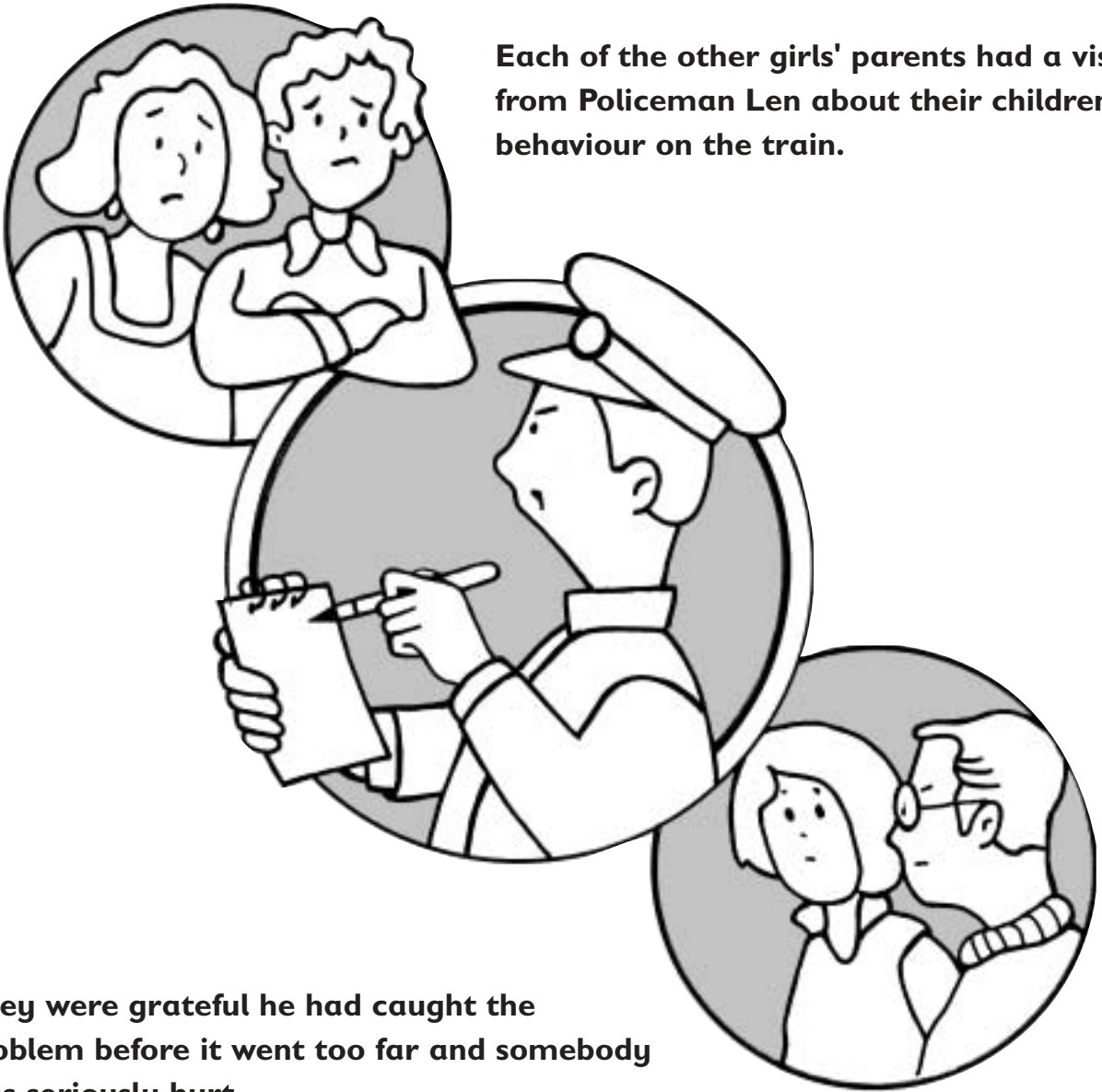
Then she told Policeman Len.

He took Gemma to his office and telephoned her parents to explain what had happened.

Gemma's mother came to collect her from the station.



Each of the other girls' parents had a visit from Policeman Len about their children's behaviour on the train.



They were grateful he had caught the problem before it went too far and somebody was seriously hurt.



Electricity dangers

Many rail routes are electrified with overhead power lines carrying 25,000 volts or with a 'third rail' on the ground carrying 750 volts. These do not have to be actually touched for children to be badly maimed, burned or killed - electricity at high voltages can "jump" gaps.

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Behaviour on trains

A train is not a playground - never run in a train carriage, touch closed doors, open windows or try to get off a moving train. Death or serious injury has been caused when people have leaned out of a train window or fooled about on trains.

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Behaviour at stations

A railway station is not a playground - never play with a ball or skateboard in a railway station, especially on the platforms. Stay away from the platform edge until the train has completely stopped.

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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!

More Bad Days for Thomas and his Friends

Thomas and his friends were seeing some silly behaviour
by children on the Island of Sodor's railway.
It didn't seem serious at first but there were dangers ahead!

Policeman Len is soon in action



The Track Off education campaign is funded by Rail Safety and Standards Board
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www.trackoff.org

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Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends



Based on The Railway Series by The Rev W Awdry

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www.thomasthetankengine.com