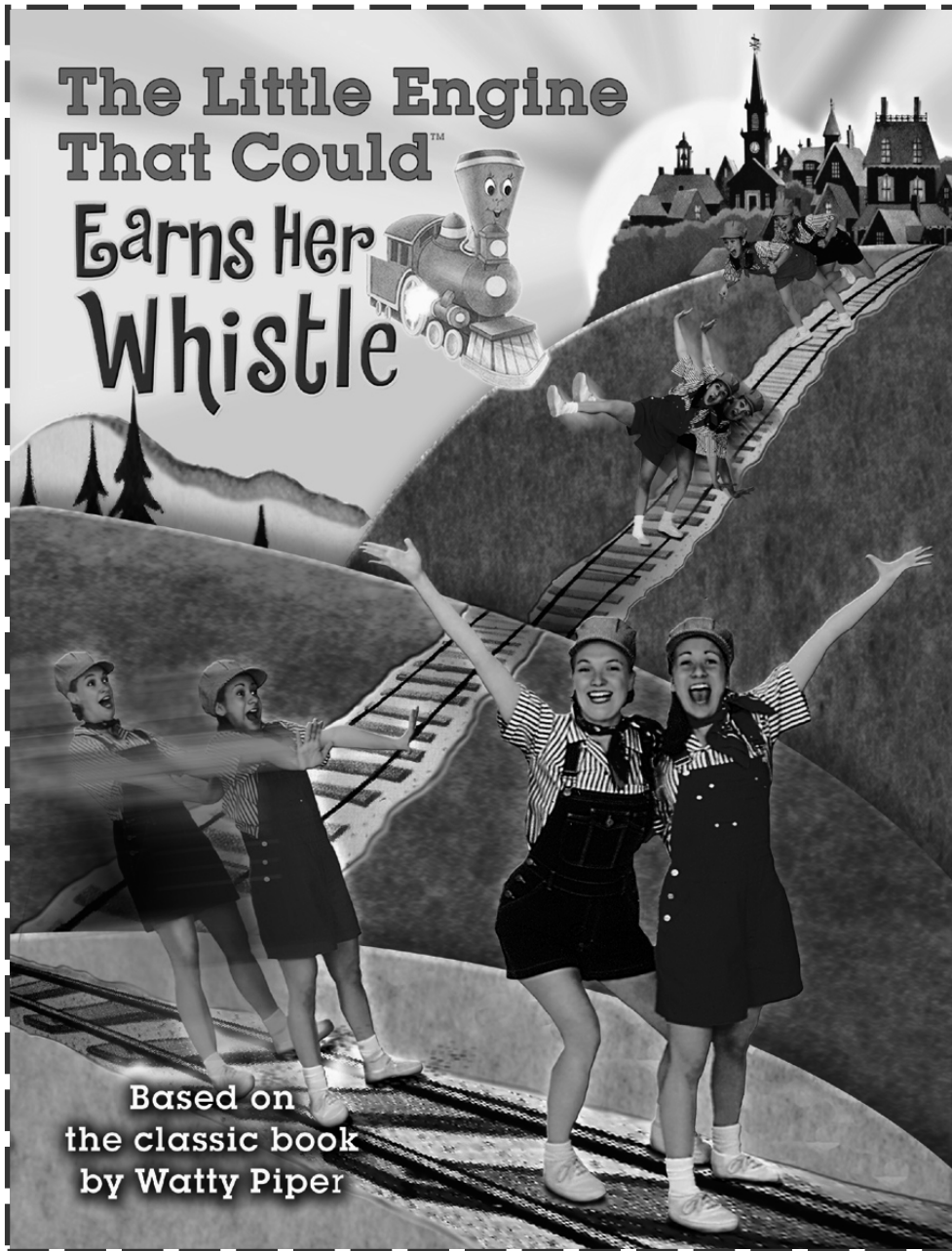




Study Buddy



**The Little Engine
That Could™
Earns Her
Whistle**

Based on
the classic book
by Watty Piper

Based on the book **THE LITTLE ENGINE THAT COULD™**
(Original Classic Edition) by Watty Piper. © Penguin Group (USA) Inc.

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ARTSPOWER NATIONAL TOURING THEATRE

Gary W. Blackman
Mark A. Blackman
Executive Producers

THE LITTLE ENGINE THAT COULD™ EARNS HER WHISTLE

Based on the Classic Book
by Watty Piper

Adapted by Greg Gunning
Music by Richard DeRosa
Lyrics by Greg Gunning
Costumes by Fred Sorrentino
Set by Tiger Scenic

Study Buddy Written by
Veronica Heller

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purposes only and not for
resale.***



VISIT US AT WWW.ARTSPOWER.ORG



The **Little Blue Engine** and the **Little Red Engine** are part of the Piney Vale Railroad. They both dream that someday they will get to pull real cars, just like the **Silver Engine** (who is in charge of the trainyard), the **Shiny Gold Engine**, who pulls the passenger cars, and **Rusty**, an aging train who pulls the Piney Vale Express cars that are full of toys.

But that dream looks like it may never come true, especially for the Little Blue Engine. She wants to please Silver, but it seems Silver can't be pleased. Silver is always angry with her, and even her friend Red resents the trouble she is having with Silver. The Little Blue Engine starts to think she'll be just a little switcher engine forever.

But things change when Silver forces the aging Rusty, who is the Little Blue Engine's best friend, to retire. He gives Rusty's job of pulling the Piney Vale Express to Red. Now, Red certainly wants nothing to do with the Little Blue Engine. Red is no longer just a switcher engine – she is a real engine of the railroad!

It looks like the Little Blue Engine's dreams are all over until Red hurts her wheel and can't pull the Piney Vale Express after all. Silver tries to get Rusty to come back, but Rusty says that only the Little Blue Engine can do the job. The Little Blue Engine repeats to herself "I think I can, I think I can" – and she always does.



Founded in 1985 by Gary Blackman and Mark Blackman, ArtsPower is one of America's largest producers of professional theatre for young and family audiences. We produce and tour original musicals and plays across the United States – 49 states in all – in many of our nation's most renowned theatres, cultural centers, university auditoriums, and schools.

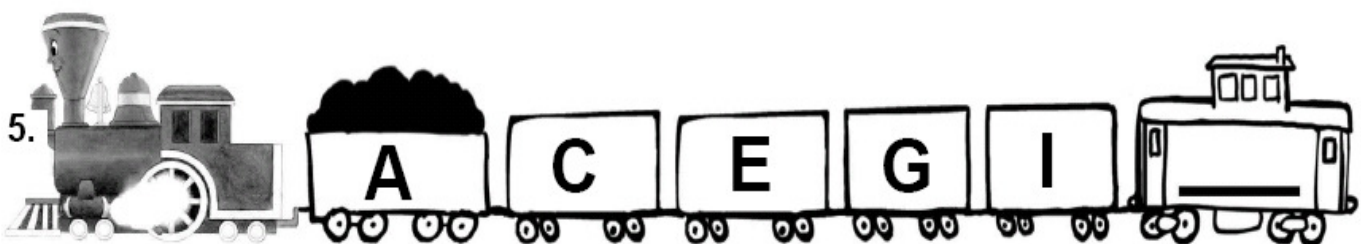
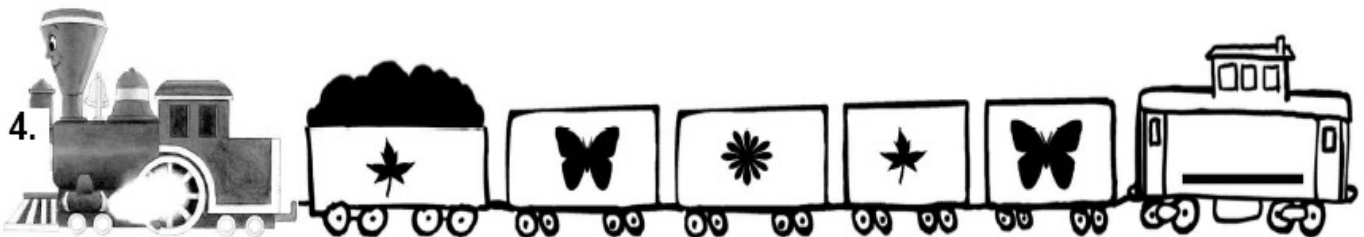
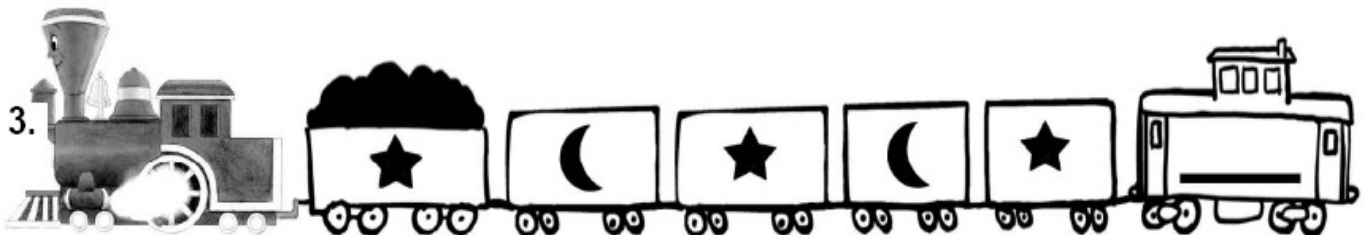
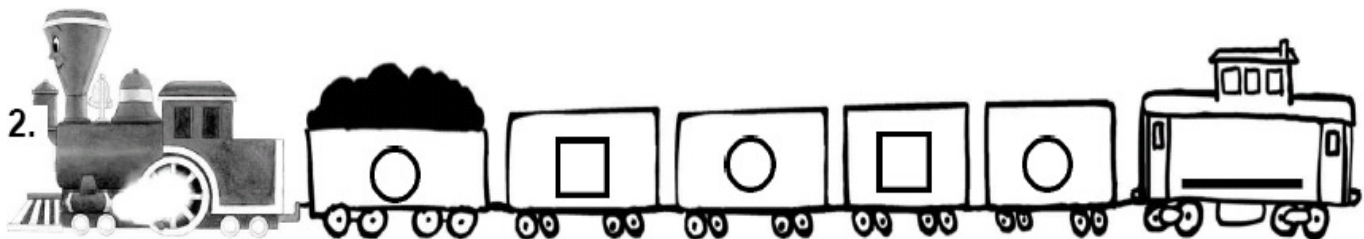
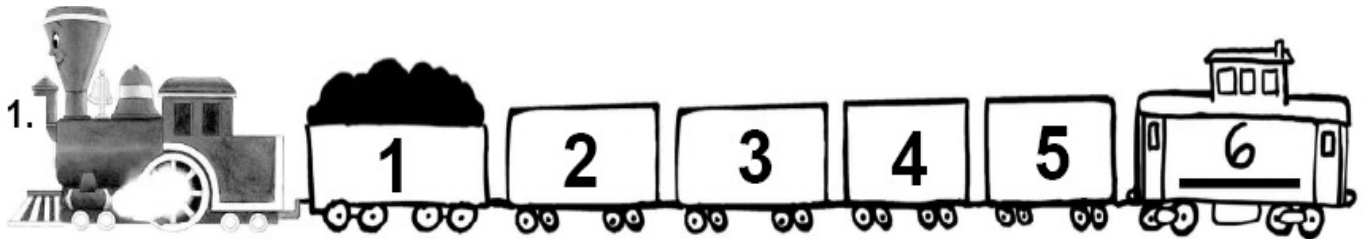
ArtsPower's mission is to improve the lives of young people with outstanding, literature-based theatre that challenges their intellect, promotes their sound moral development, and ignites their desire to read. Our work encourages children to express themselves both in and out of the classroom and fosters their development as productive members of society. ArtsPower's offices are located at 9 Sand Park Road, Suite 6, Cedar Grove, NJ 07009. We invite your comments.

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ACTIVITY

MAKING TRAINS

In the play, the Little Blue Engine learns that a **caboose** is the last car on a freight train. (A **freight** train carries goods – coal, for example – instead of carrying people.) Can you fill in the caboose for each train?





FIND THE ONE THAT DOESN'T BELONG

(Teachers: Please read instructions to your students.)

The Little Blue Engine must give the right train cars to Silver, Rusty, and Shiny Gold. She must be very careful not to mix them up! See how good you are at finding the object that **does not** belong in each of these groups. The first one is done for you.

1.



Reason: A house cannot move you from place to place.

2.



CLUE: Winter clothes

3.



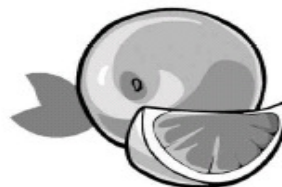
CLUE: Farm animals

4.



CLUE: Sports equipment

5.



CHALLENGE! NO CLUE.



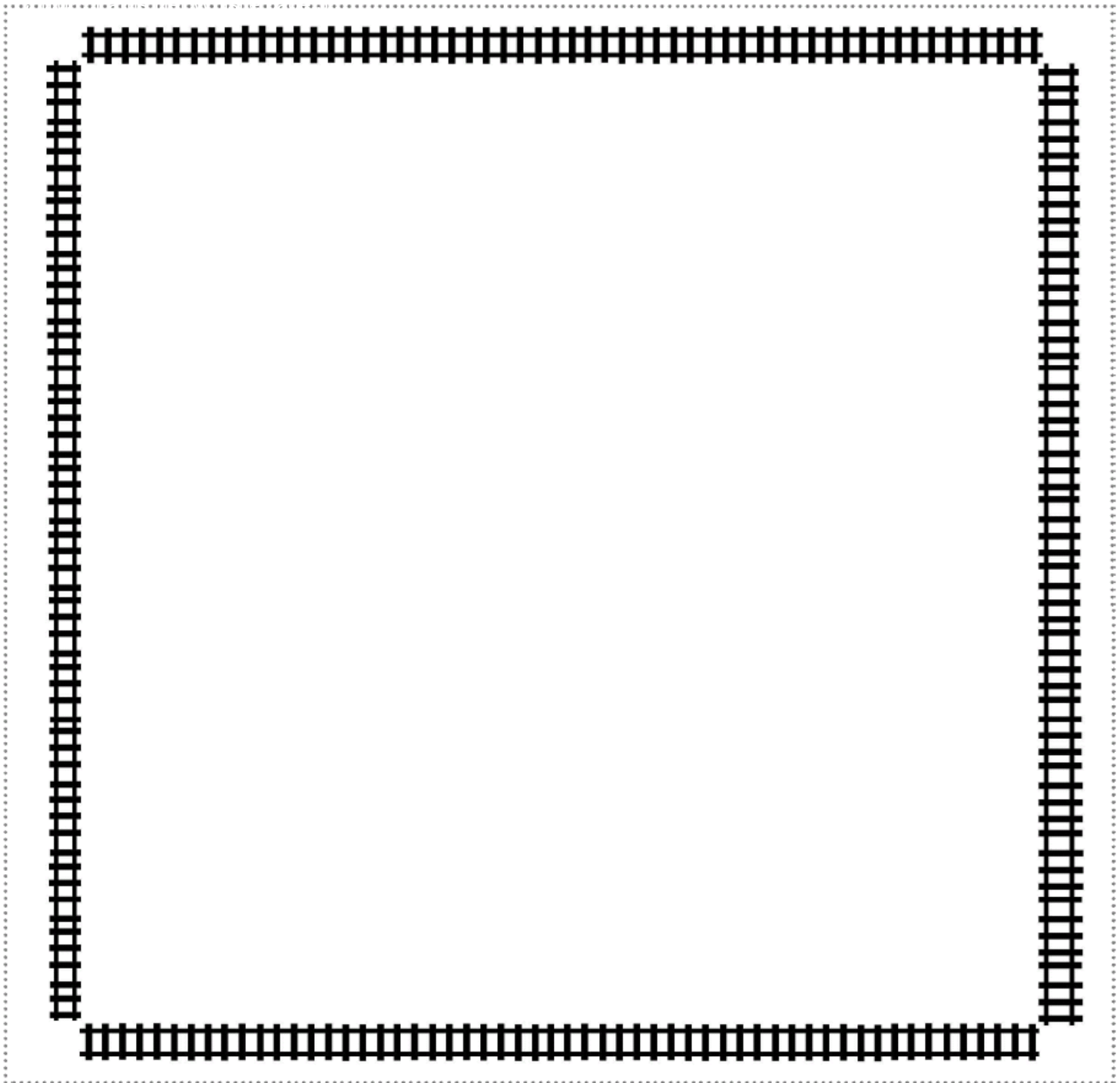
Educators may photocopy for classroom purposes only.



NOW IT'S YOUR TURN!

(Teachers: Please read instructions to your students.)

The Little Blue Engine and Rusty both think that there's a special kind of "magic" to a train: a train has the power to make people happy! To make you especially happy, what should a train look like? Draw your train below. If you wish, cut it out along the dotted lines and send it to ArtsPower. Our address can be found on the "Write to Us" page.





TEACHERS: PLEASE READ TO YOUR STUDENTS.



Watching a play is different from watching a movie or a television show. Because the performance is live (not on tape) and the audience can see it as it is happening, the actors use different ways of telling the story onstage.

SONGS: Our production is a “musical.” The actors often use music and songs to tell the story. Characters talk to each other and also sing to each other. A song can express a character’s feelings.

Think About It: Why do you think music is a good way to show feelings? Why don’t the actors just talk instead?

DOUBLING: Sometimes one actor must play more than one part. For example, you will notice that the same actor plays the Rusty Engine and the Shiny Gold Engine.

Think About It: Why would ArtsPower use four actors and have one double, rather than using five?

PROPS: Of course, it would be very hard to bring real trains onstage. So you, as audience members, have to use your imagination. Props are objects used by the actors as they perform. They are meant to remind you of a real train without looking exactly like one.

Think About It: How would you create a “train” onstage? After you see The Little Engine That Could™ Earns Her Whistle, see if your ideas were actually used.

DID YOU KNOW? You may be wondering how this play came to be. In 1930, a book called The Little Engine That Could™ by Watty Piper was published by Platt & Munk, the publishing company. Over the years the classic book and character continue to be symbols of inspiration to children and adults everywhere. ArtsPower's show is adapted (or slightly changed) from the book.

Platt & Munk is part of Grosset & Dunlap, a division of Penguin Young Readers Group, which publishes The Little Engine That Could™ in many different formats accessible to readers of all ages. The Little Blue Engine also appears in other stories for children published by Penguin Young Readers Group. Look for these other titles: The Little Engine That Could™ Goes on a Class Trip, The Little Engine That Could™ Saves the Day, and The Little Engine That Could™ Gets a Checkup.

Think About It: Why might it be better to adapt a book to create a play instead of doing it straight from the book?

YOU HAVE A ROLE, TOO! Though you may not know it, you are a very important part of the play. You are the audience, and without you there would be no show. To be a great audience, you should always be quiet and listen carefully. It’s fine to laugh or even cry at the things you see onstage, but talking will distract both the actors and the other audience members.



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WRITE TO US!

Send your letters to:
ArtsPower National Touring Theatre
9 Sand Park Road, Suite 6
Cedar Grove, NJ 07009

My School Name: _____

My Teacher's Name: _____

Date I saw the performance: _____

I saw the performance at: _____

Dear ArtsPower,

My favorite character was _____

My favorite part was when _____

Here's what else I have to say about the show: _____

Signed: _____