

Never ever play in a railway station or fool about on a train and certainly don't do dangerous things on or near a railway. You could be badly hurt or even killed.

Remember if you **PLAY SAFE**, you will **STAY SAFE**!



#### 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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#### 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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#### Trespass

Children as young as five years old have been caught trespassing on the railways playing games of 'chicken' in front of high-speed trains. If the driver puts on his brakes when a train is travelling at 125 mph, it takes up to 2000 metres (1 1/4 miles) for the train to stop.

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#### 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" up to 3 metres (over 9 feet).

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#### 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.

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#### Vandalism

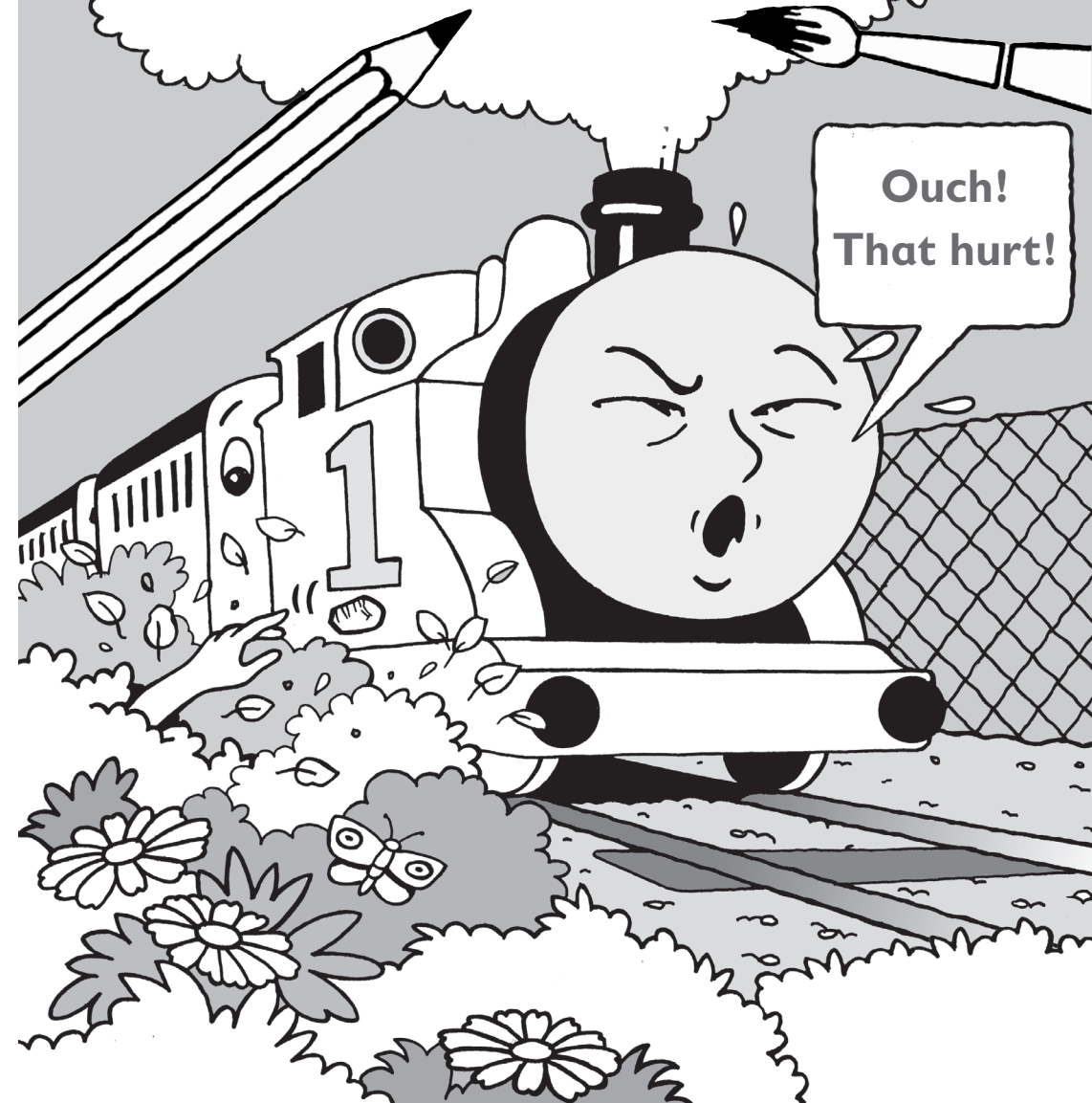
Each year there are thousands of reported incidents of objects being placed on railway tracks, thrown at trains or dangled from bridges in front of trains. Most of these crimes are committed by young people - children as young as five years old have been caught putting objects on the tracks.

Pages 4, 5

# Bad Days for Thomas and His Friends

Written by Christopher Awdry

Illustrated by David Anderson



**Hello Everyone,**

**My engines wanted everyone to be told how to use the railway safely because Thomas and his friends have had some very bad days recently.**

**Some children did various naughty things on the railway and upset me, Policeman Len, my engines and carriages.**

**As you are colouring in the pictures please read the words as well.**

**Happy travelling.**

**The Fat Controller**



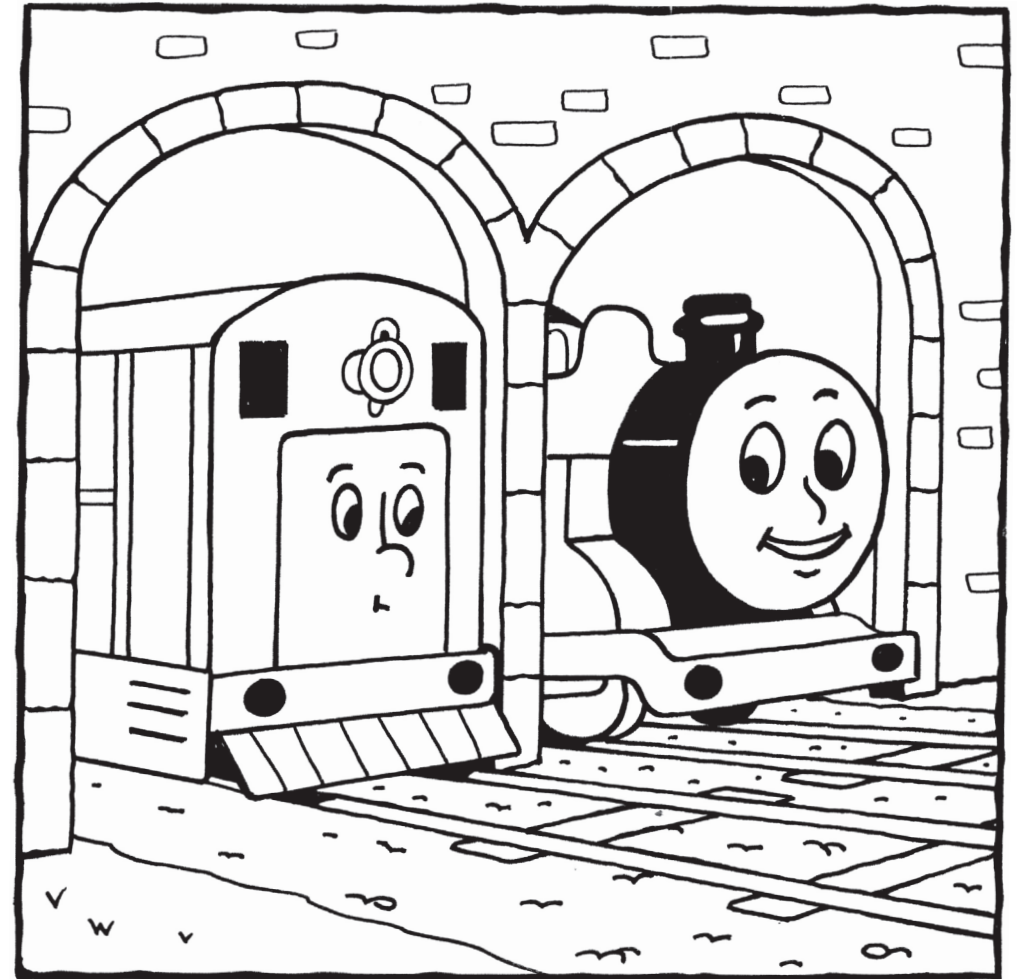
**Dear Parents**

**Charlie the Crow appears on certain pages in the story observing instances of dangerous behaviour on or near the railway.**

**Please look on the back page where Charlie gives more information for you to help your child understand how to use the railway safely.**

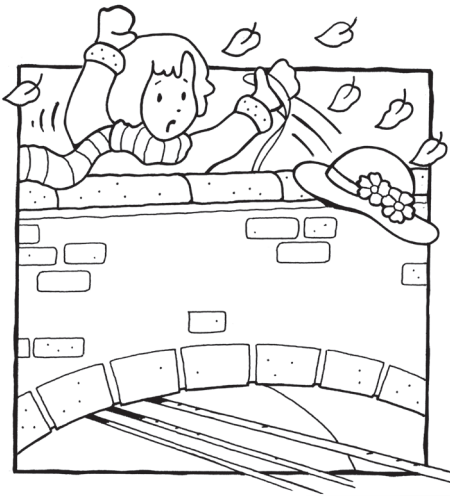
## **Bad days for Thomas and his Friends**

**Thomas the tank engine and Toby the tram engine were talking in their shed one lunchtime.**



**"Some children do many foolish and dangerous things on the railways, don't they Toby?" said Thomas.**

**"Yes," said Toby, "and they do not think about the dangers when near the railway."**



"Do you remember that little girl called Alysha?" asked Thomas.

The wind blew her new hat onto the electric wires that make the new trains work."



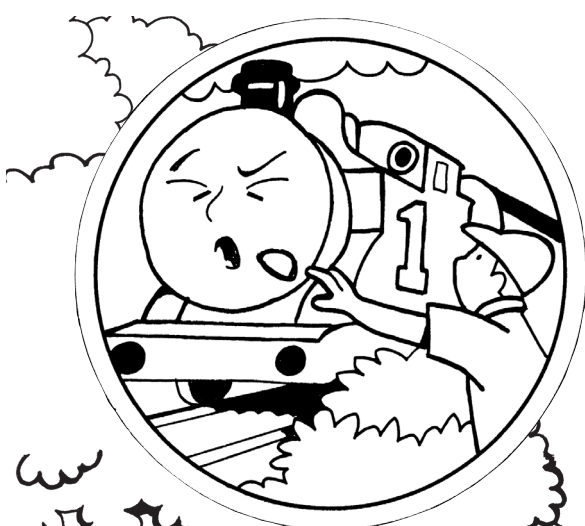
"She used a tree branch to try and get her new hat back," said Thomas.

"I remember, she dropped the branch. There was a loud **BANG** and a bright blue flash. The electricity from the electric wires could have killed her!" said Toby.

Thomas sighed, "I wish children would take notice of the warning signs, but many of them don't."



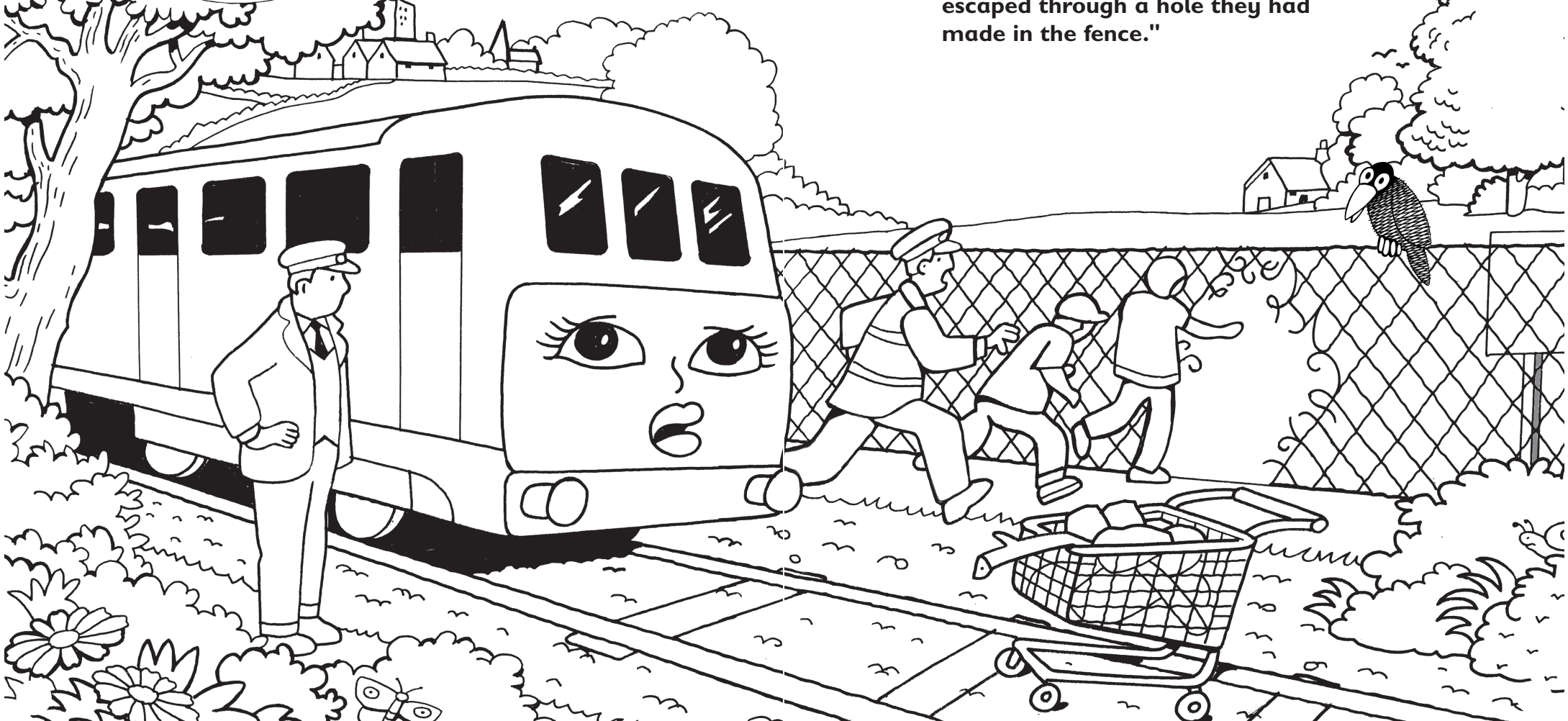


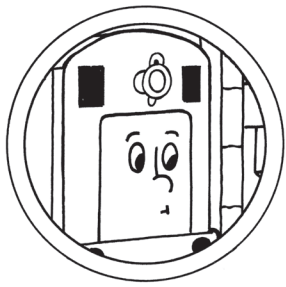


"You're right," said Toby.  
"I remember when  
Policeman Len went  
with Daisy the diesel  
railcar to try and find  
the naughty children  
who had been throwing  
stones at you."

"Yes," said Thomas, "Daisy only just  
stopped in time when she saw an old  
shopping trolley full of wood and stones  
that the children had put across the line."

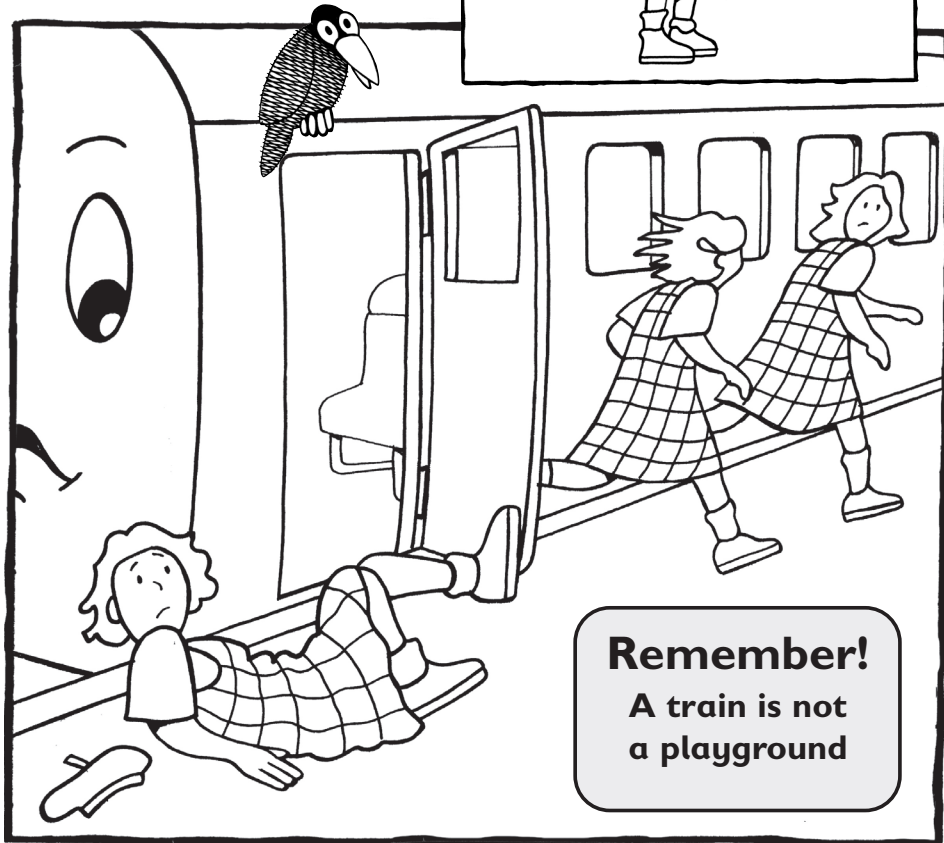
"Policeman Len saw the child  
running away," Thomas continued.  
"He caught them before they  
escaped through a hole they had  
made in the fence."



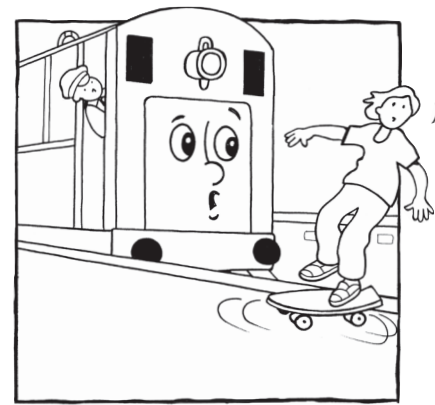


Toby then told Thomas of the time when a girl called Gemma was pushed out of Annie's carriage door by two of her so-called friends.

"Policeman Len was concerned children were behaving like that on a train, as Gemma could have been badly injured. He went to see the naughty girls' parents about it," Toby said.

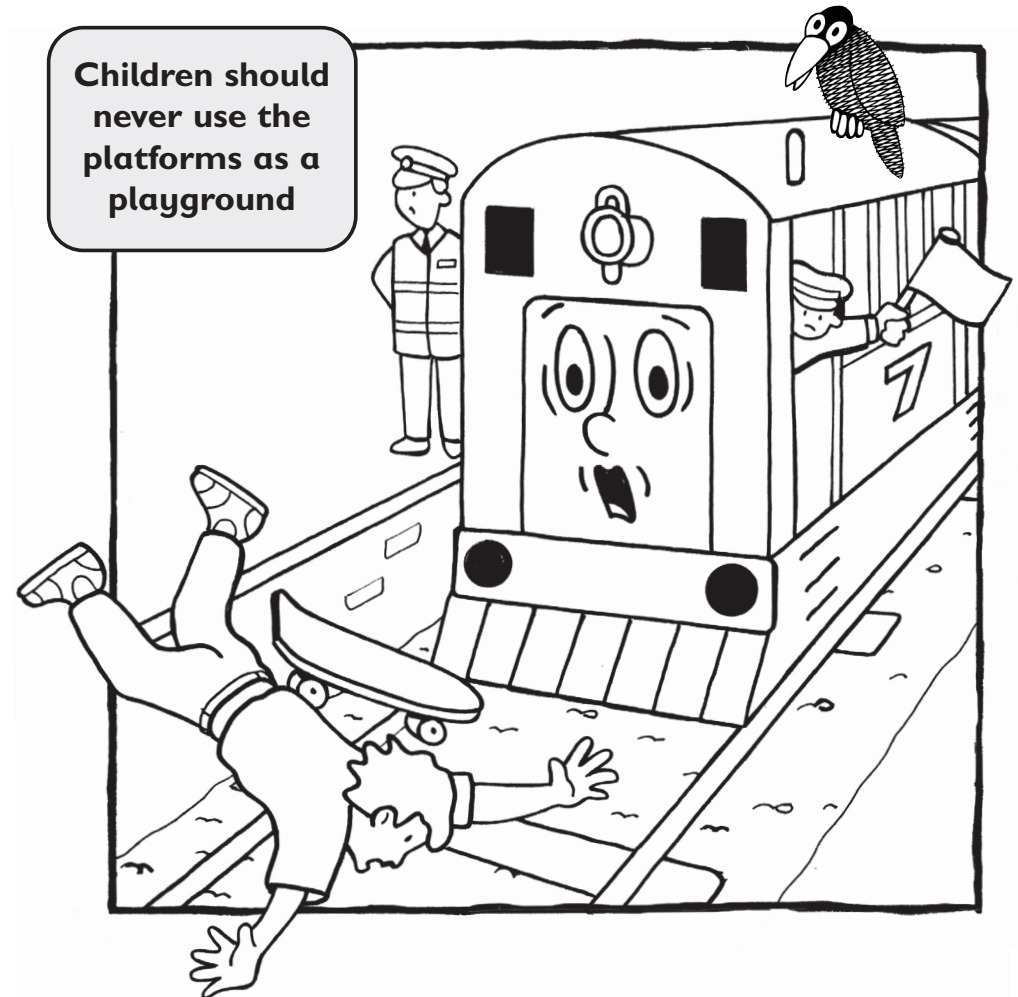


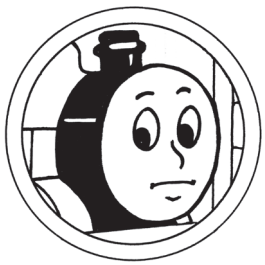
**Remember!**  
A train is not  
a playground



"Policeman Len also spoke to the parents of that silly boy who had been skateboarding on the platform of the station," said Toby.

"I remember him," said Thomas.  
"Didn't he fall off the platform  
in front of you?"

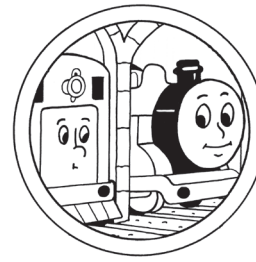
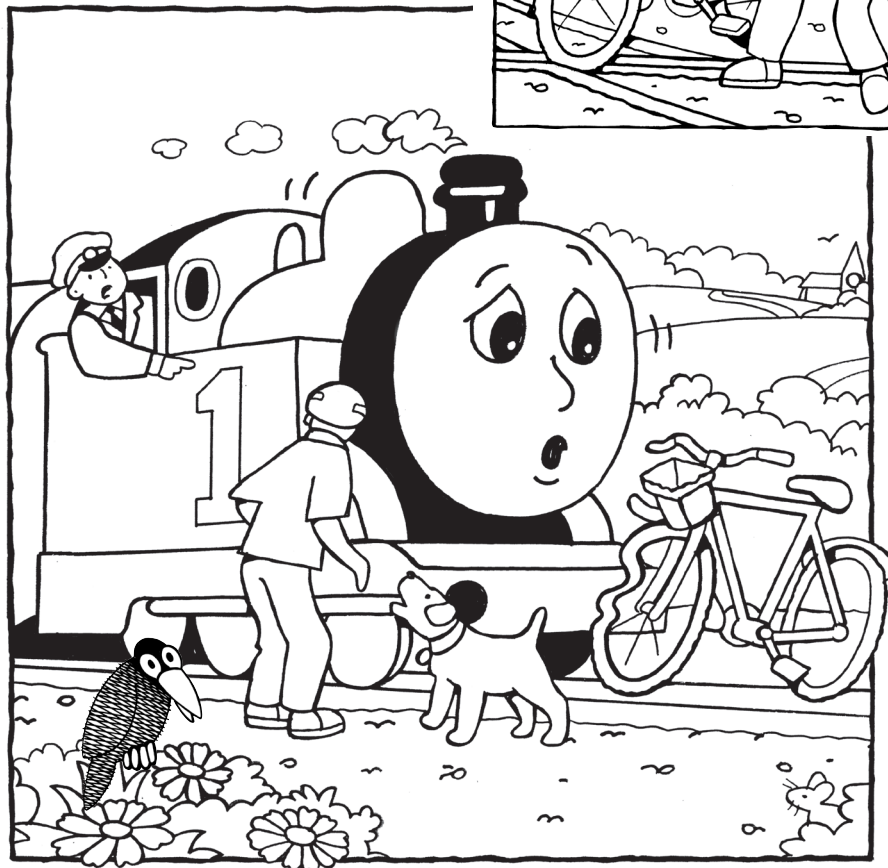




"There was another silly boy called Andrew. He was with Lucy his dog and decided to take his bike on the railway track, but it got stuck." said Thomas.

"Lucy ran towards me barking loudly and I slowed down. I just missed Andrew but hit his bike."

If it had not been for Lucy there would have been a very nasty accident."



"Some children never learn", sighed Thomas. "Two boys broke into Annie and Clarabel's shed one night and sprayed paint on them."

"I remember," said Toby. "Policeman Len caught the boys when one of them slipped and hurt his ankle. They were in real trouble when their parents were told."

"We've certainly had some bad days," said Thomas. "If only children would remember not to play on or near railways."

**Remember!**  
If you play safe  
you will stay safe

