

Thomas the Tank Engine loves having buffers that bump and a boiler that bubbles.

He loves having wheels that whizz round and round and a whistle that he can peep ...

But most of all Thomas loves working on Sir Topham Hatt's Railway.



t was the day of the Sodor Summer Picnic.

Sir Topham Hatt came with news of a special job for Thomas. "You are to pick up the children from the Airport, and take them to the picnic," he boomed cheerfully.

Thomas was excited! "Yes, Sir," he whistled, and set off at once.



The Airport was new, and all the engines wanted to go there.

Thomas had just arrived when he heard a loud noise in the sky. "Whoosh!"

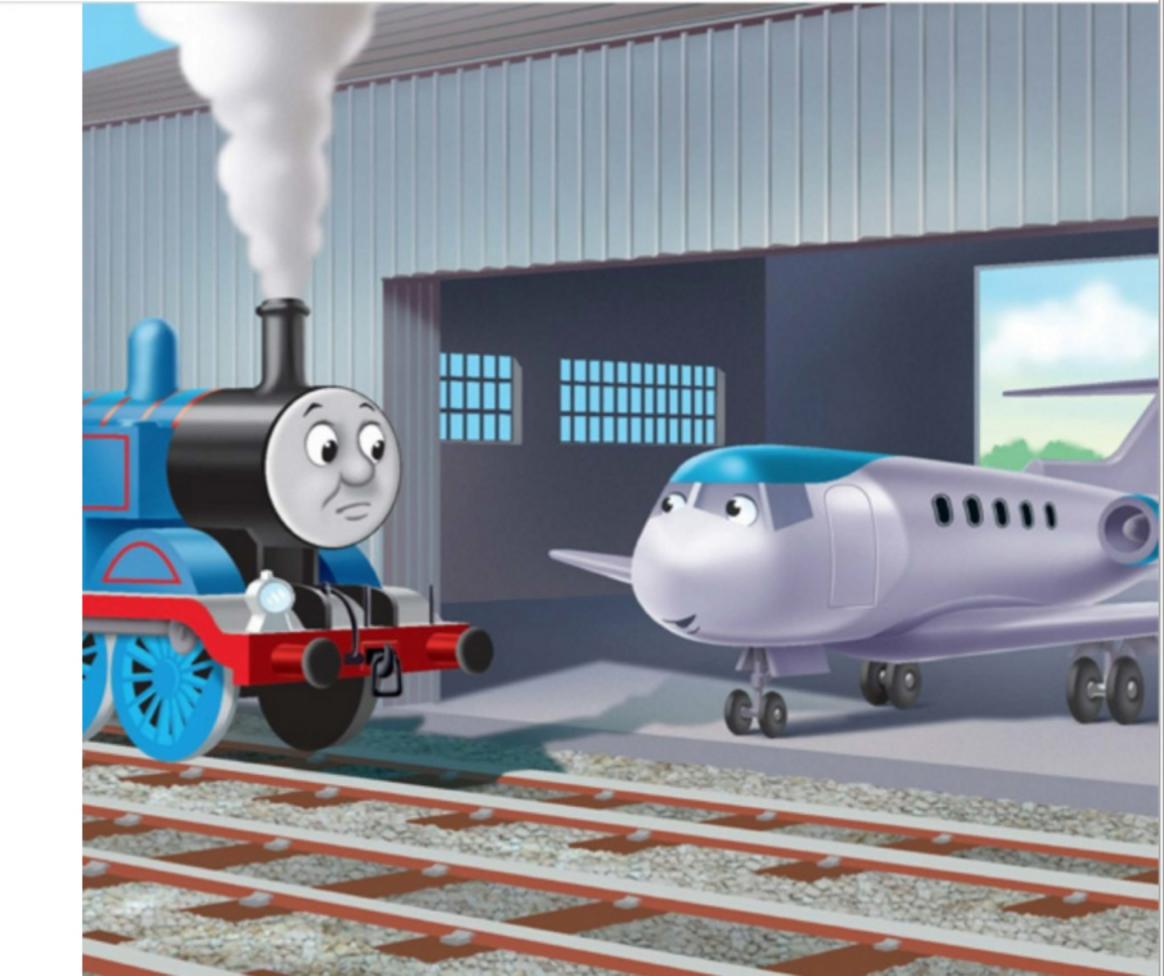
A jet plane was coming in to land!



Thomas chuffed over to the big hangar. "Hello," he peeped. "I'm Thomas, and I'm a tank engine."

"Hello," said the plane. "I'm Jeremy, and I'm a jet plane. Flying is the most fun in the world—I can see the whole Island at once," he said.

Thomas thought Jeremy was being boastful. "Well, I like traveling on tracks," he huffed.



Thomas puffed sadly away. "I never want to talk to a jet plane again!" he grumbled.

He cheered up, though, when he saw the children waiting on the platform.

Sir Topham Hatt and Lady Hatt were there, too, with a large picnic basket full of delicious things to eat.

The Guard loaded the hamper into Clarabel.

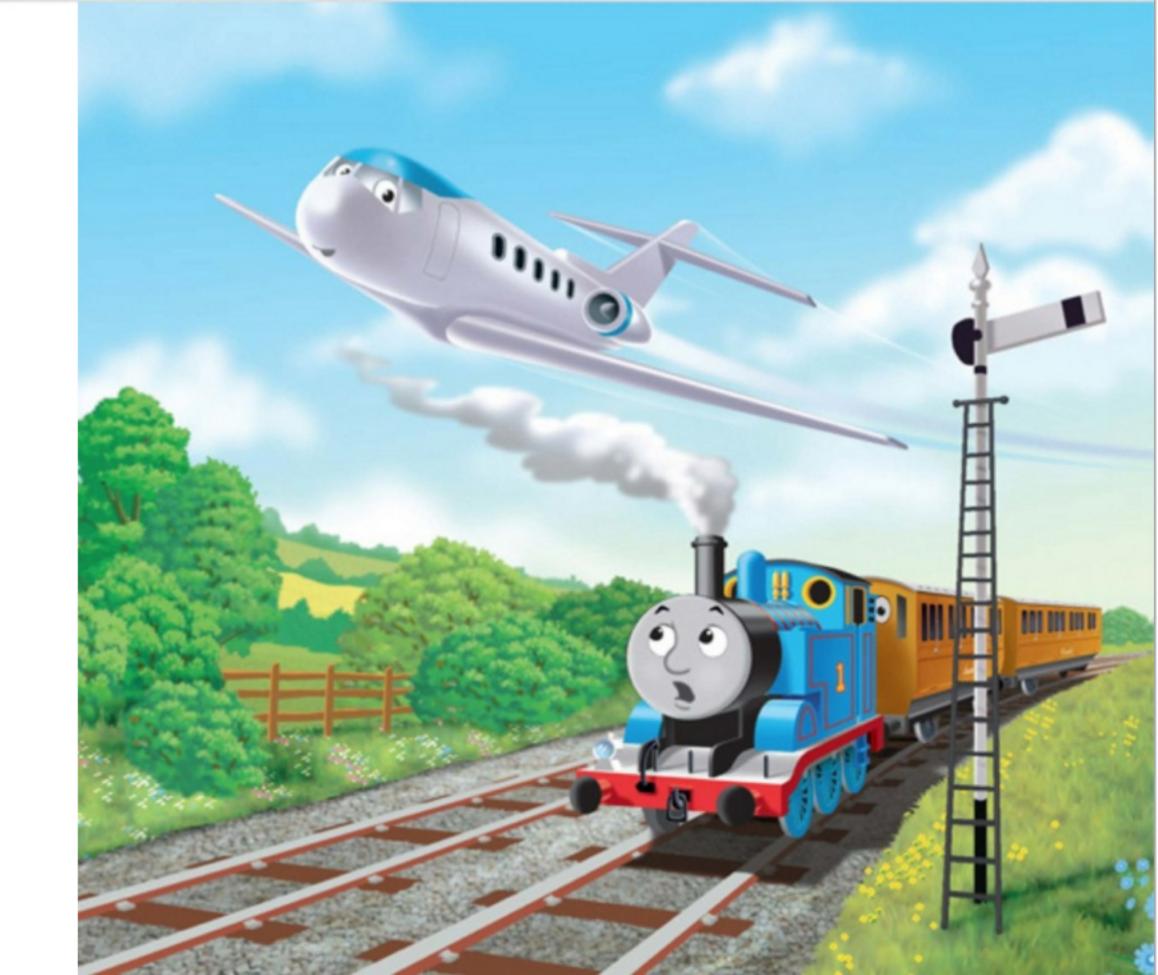


Thomas set off for the picnic, but soon had to stop at a signal.

He heard Jeremy taking off. "Whoosh!"

Then Jeremy flew right over his funnel!

"It's not fair!" puffed Thomas. "Jet planes don't have to stop at signals."



At the picnic, everyone was soon having a jolly time. Everyone except Thomas.

Percy saw that he looked sad. "What's wrong, Thomas?" he asked.

"Jet planes can go wherever they like. I wish I were a jet plane," chuffed Thomas.

"But engines can pull coaches, and take children to picnics," peeped Percy. "Engines are Really Useful!"

Thomas wasn't so sure.



Jeremy was jetting to the Mainland, but dark rain clouds were gathering. Jeremy had to return to the Airport.

Thomas was passing as Jeremy came in to land. Thomas didn't want to talk to him.

"Thomas!" Jeremy called out. "A summer storm is on its way. The picnic will be ruined!"

"Cinders and ashes!" gasped Thomas. "I must tell Sir Topham Hatt."



Thomas steamed through tunnels and whizzed around bends. He reached the picnic just as the first drops of rain began to fall.

"Quickly!" he whooshed. "A big storm is coming. The picnic will be washed away!"

Everyone helped pack up the picnic basket and boarded Annie and Clarabel.



The children were sad that the picnic was over. Then Thomas had an idea. He steamed to the Airport as fast as his wheels would carry him.

Jeremy was inside keeping nice and dry in his big hangar.

"Can the children please have their picnic here in your hangar?" asked Thomas.

"Of course," said Jeremy. "What a splendid idea!"

Thomas was very happy.



Soon all the children were feeling jolly again. And so was Sir Topham Hatt.

"Well done, Thomas and Jeremy!" he boomed. "Together you have saved the picnic. You are both Really Useful!"

Jeremy was happy to have helped.

And Thomas had never felt prouder to be a tank engine.



Now, whenever Thomas sees Jeremy flying high above him in the sky, he always whistles, "Peep, peep!".

And Jeremy likes nothing better than looking out for Thomas, steaming along his branch line on the Island of Sodor.

