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Opening extract from

Thomas the Tank Engine

Written by

W. Awdry

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DEAR CHRISTOPHER,

Here is your friend Thomas, the Tank Engine. He wanted to come out of his station-yard and see the world. These stories tell you how he did it.

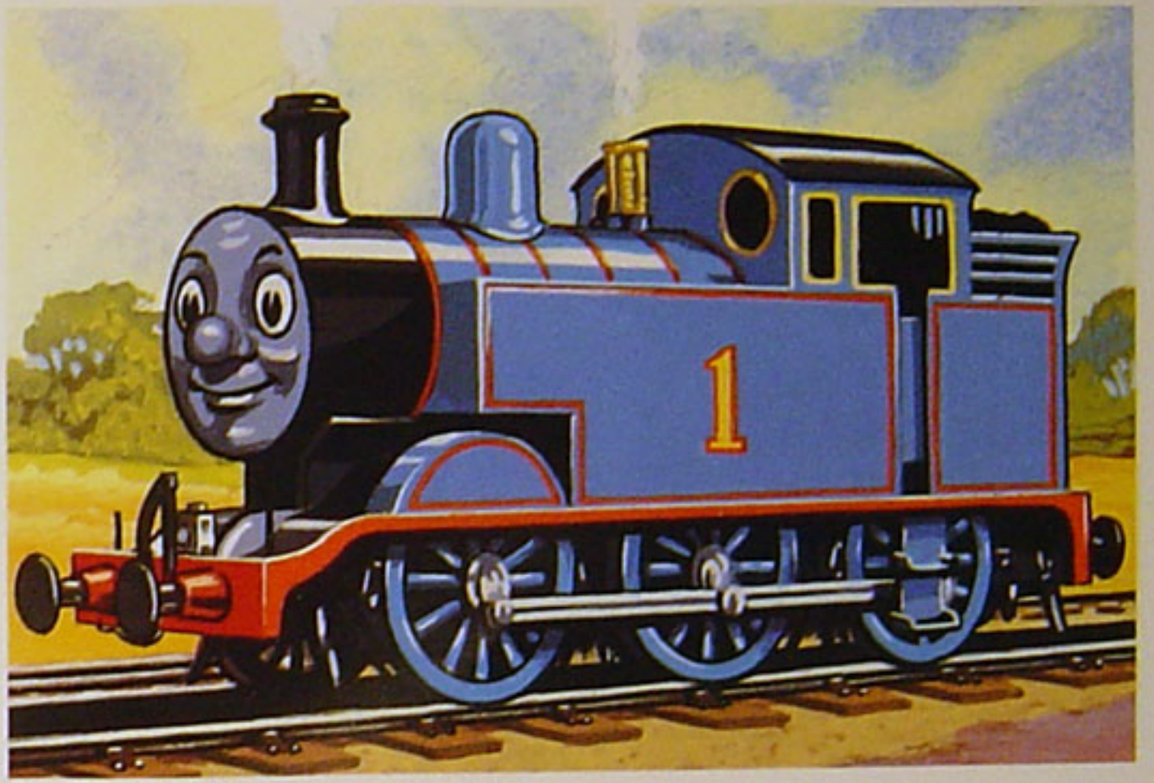
I hope you will like them because you helped me to make them.

YOUR LOVING DADDY

Thomas and Gordon

THOMAS was a tank engine who lived at a Big Station. He had six small wheels, a short stumpy funnel, a short stumpy boiler, and a short stumpy dome.

He was a fussy little engine, always pulling coaches about. He pulled them to the station ready for the big engines to take out on long journeys; and when trains came in, and the people had got out, he would pull the empty coaches away, so that the big engines could go and rest.



He was a cheeky little engine, too. He thought no engine worked as hard as he did. So he used to play tricks on them. He liked best of all to come quietly beside a big engine dozing on a siding and make him jump.

"Peep, peep, peep, pip, peep! Wake up, lazibones!" he would whistle, "why don't you work hard like me?"

Then he would laugh rudely and run away to find some more coaches.

