MADE WITH LITTLE STORYBOOK

How Train Engines Push the Wheels

Visual lesson



Three Trains, One Question

Three trains roll past the same platform: one puffs white clouds, one rumbles low, and one glides by almost silently under a wire. Remy tugs a sleeve and asks, "They all run on the same tracks — so why do they sound so different inside?"





The Secret Every Train Shares

Here's the secret hiding inside every train: something must turn the wheels — that's the whole job. So when we compare trains, we're really asking one thing: where does the spinning power come from?

> **TALK ABOUT IT**
> What is every engine really for?

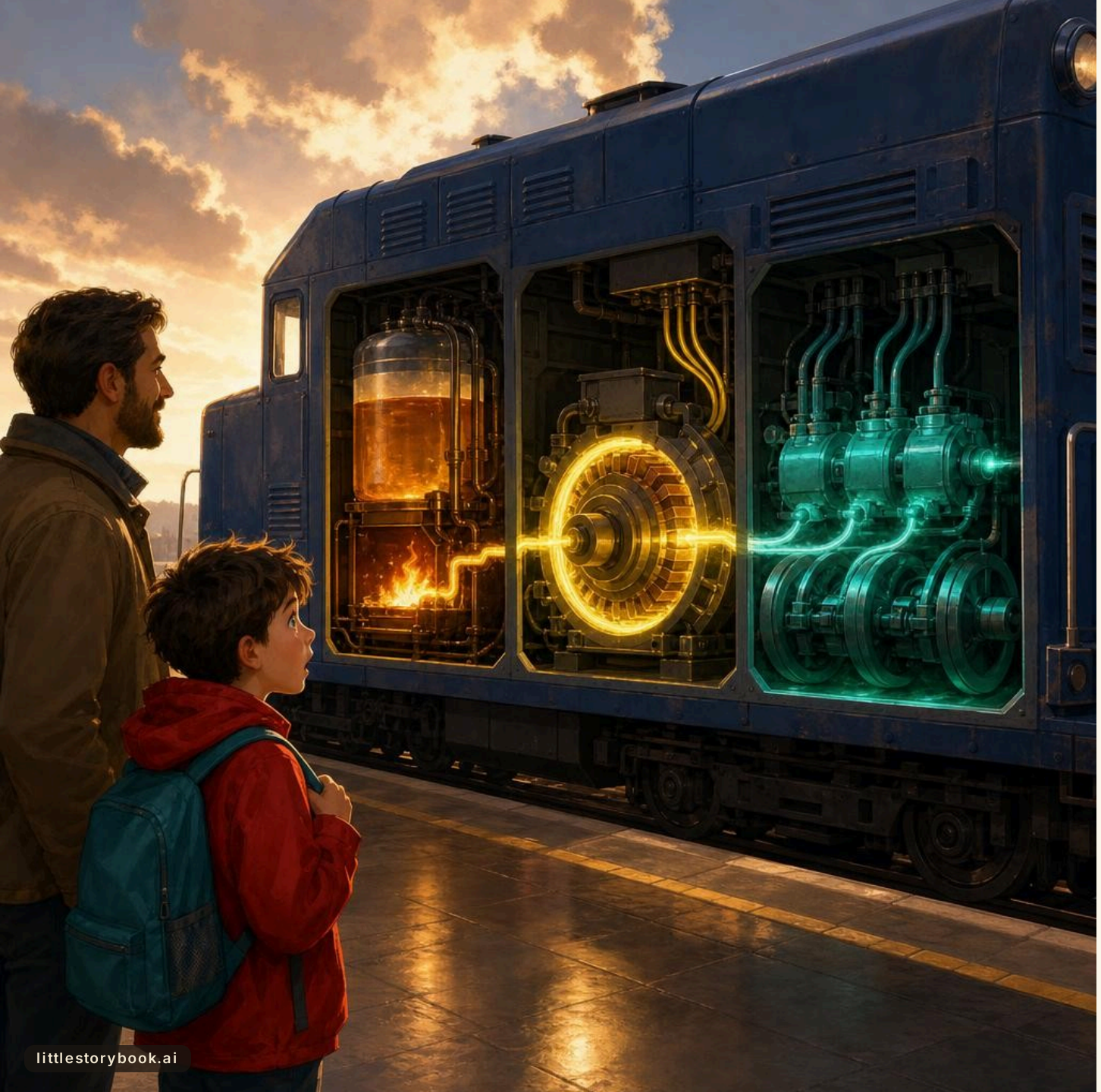
The Puffing Steam Engine

Watch a kettle boil — the trapped steam shoves its way out. Inside a steam train, fire boils water, the steam pushes a piston sliding back and forth, and that push turns the wheels. Aha: hot steam pushes, and the wheels go round!

TALK ABOUT IT

What pushes the piston?





The Rumbling Diesel Train

The diesel train burns fuel in a big engine, like a giant car. But here's the surprise — what does it turn first, the wheels? Almost everyone guesses wheels, but it actually spins a generator that makes electricity, and that electricity turns the motors. Aha: the diesel carries its own little power station inside!

> **TALK ABOUT IT**
> What does the diesel spin first?

The Quiet Electric Train

The electric train carries no fire and no fuel — electricity flows down through the overhead wire straight into the motors that turn the wheels. Fewer steps means less rumble and less smoke. And the wow part: when it brakes, it can pour power back into the wires for other trains to use!

> **TALK ABOUT IT**
> An electric train burns fuel inside.





Now You Know the Riddle

Myth check: the puffing cloud doesn't push the steam train — that's just steam saying goodbye after its job inside. Now slide your two flat hands forward and back like a piston — your hands just became an engine! Every engine has one mission: turn the wheels, by boiling, burning, or borrowing from a wire.

Check your wonder

1 **What is every train engine's only job?**

- **A.** Turn the wheels
- **B.** Make smoke
- **C.** Honk loudly

2 **What does the diesel engine spin first?**

- **A.** The wheels
- **B.** A generator that makes electricity

3 **Where does an electric train get its power?**

- **A.** From a wire or rail outside
- **B.** From boiling water inside
- **C.** From burning coal

ANSWERS 1-A 2-B 3-A

1. Yes! Steam, diesel, or electric — every engine exists to turn the wheels. 2. Exactly! It carries its own little power station — diesel spins a generator, then electricity turns the wheels. 3. Right! It drinks electricity from the wire instead of burning anything.

THE END

Visual lesson



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