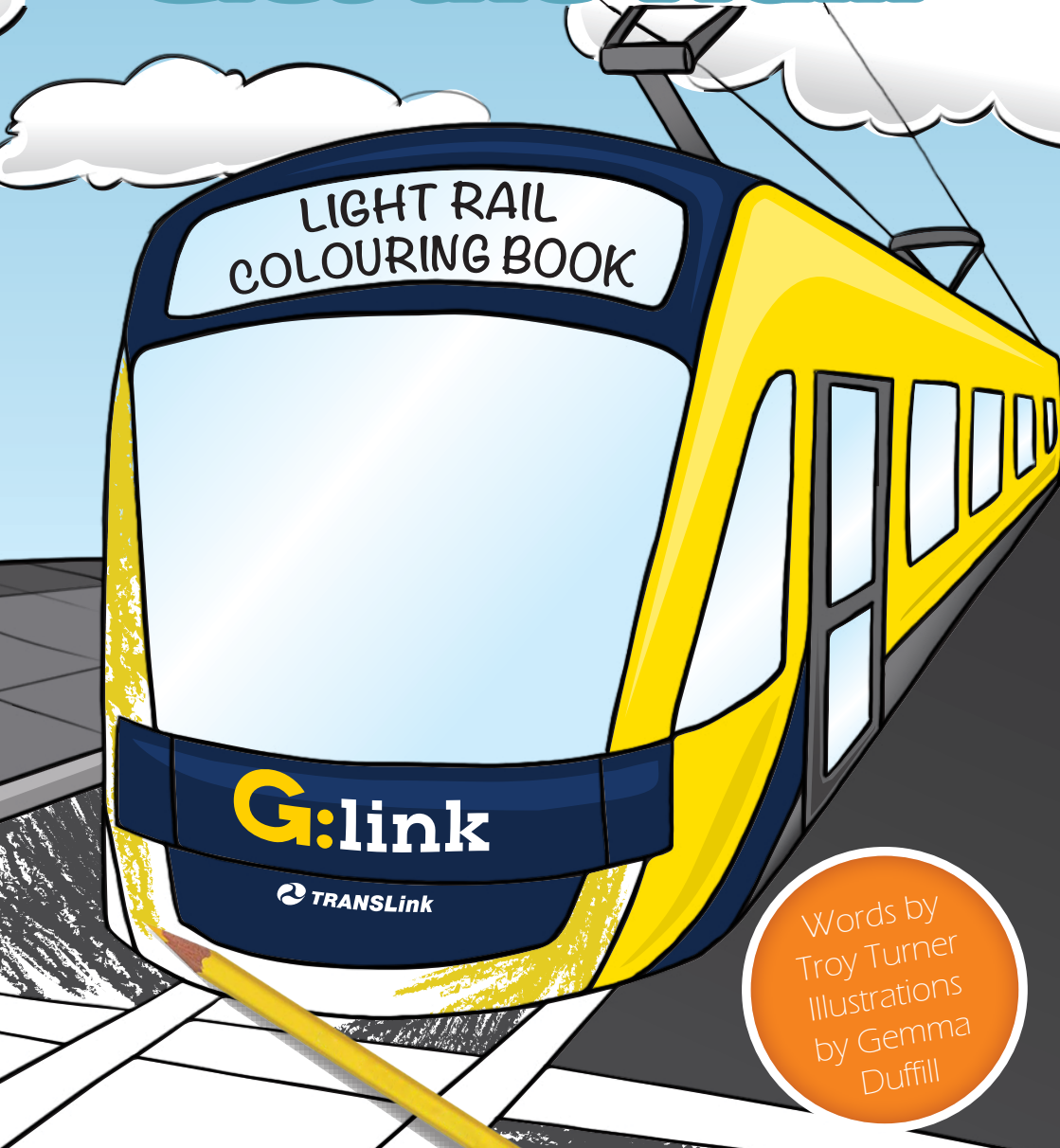


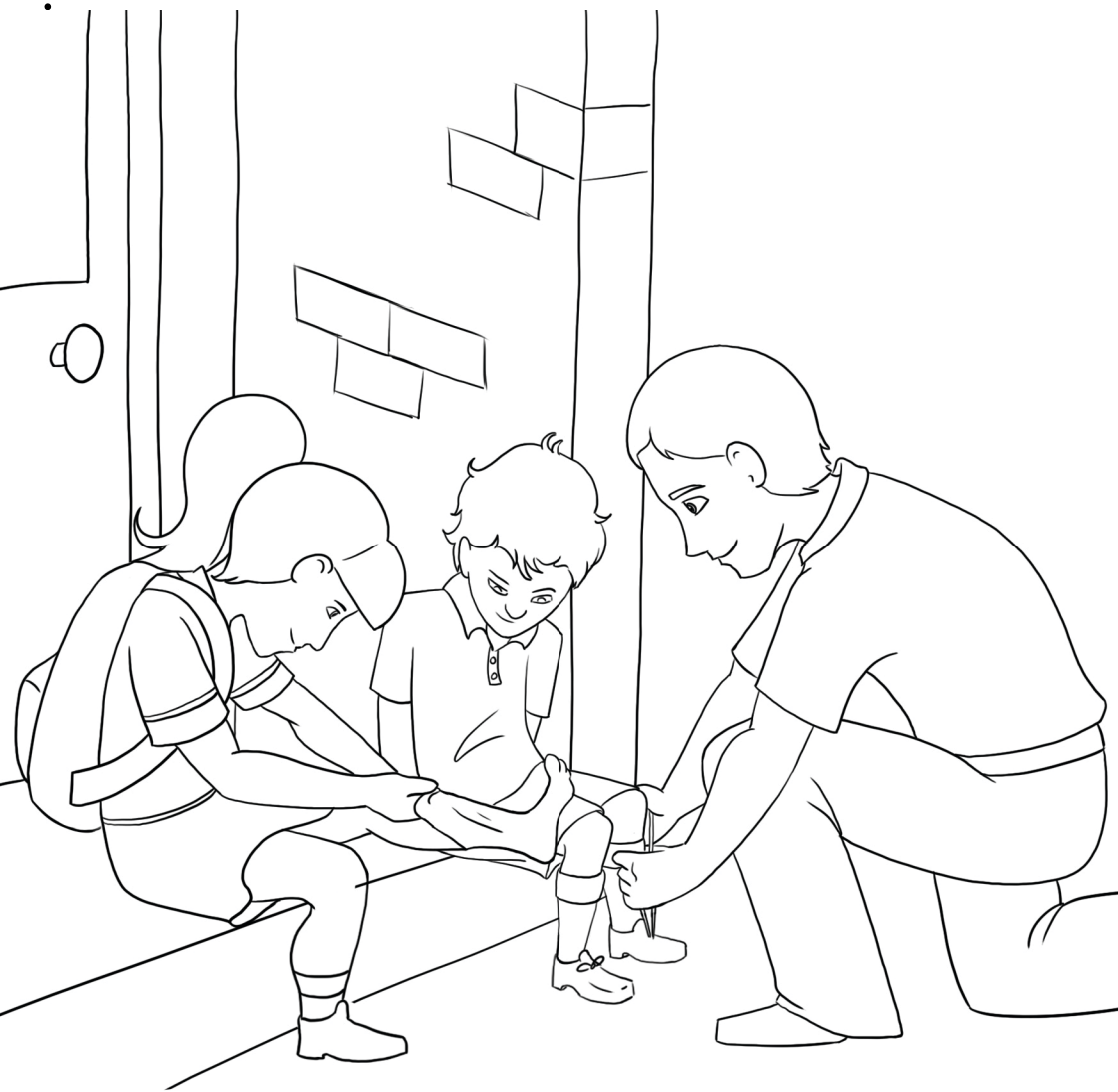
G:link

Little Trackers

G:et the Tram



Words by
Troy Turner
Illustrations
by Gemma
Duffill



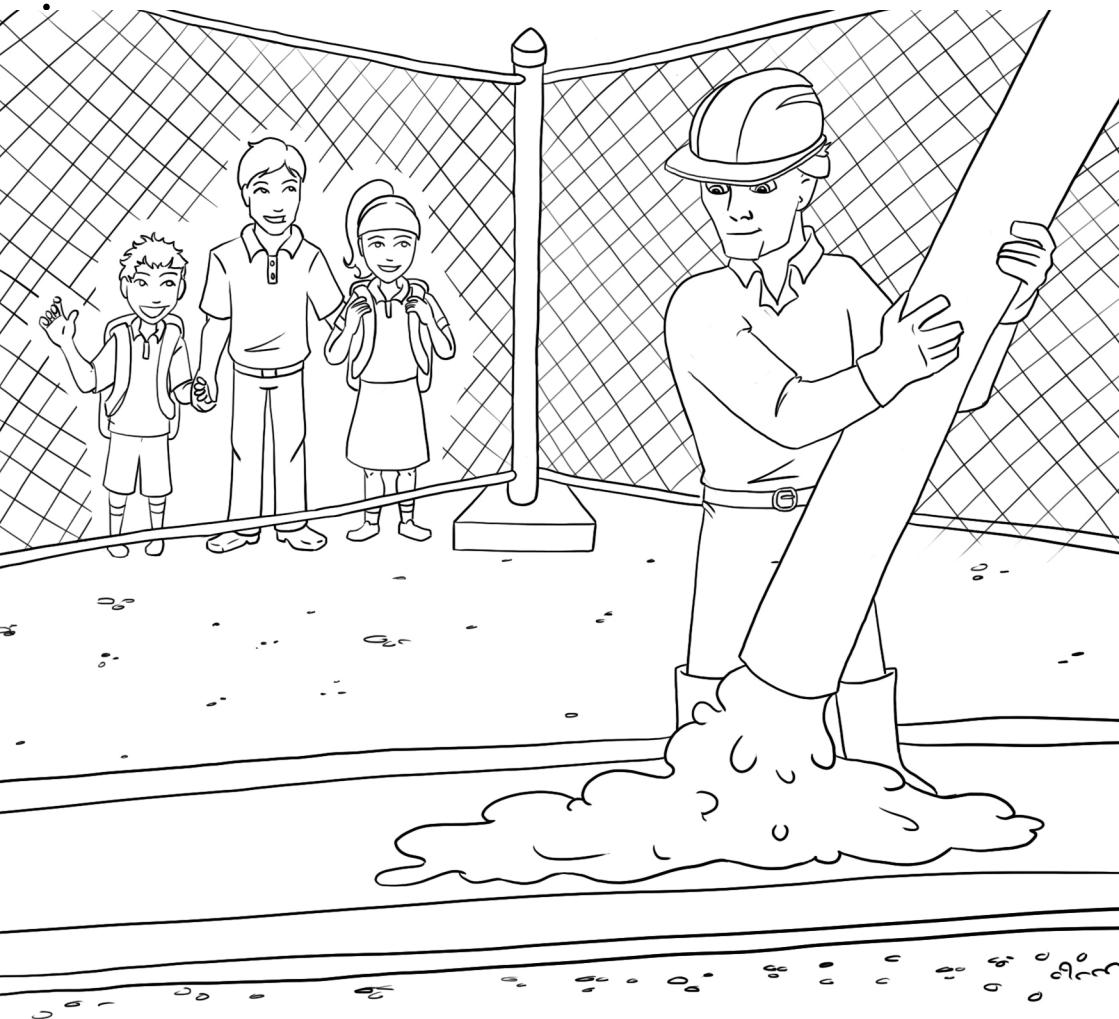
In the morning, Tim and Sue get ready for school. They brush their teeth, do their hair, pull on their socks and lace their shoes.

They pack their lunch into their school bags and bounce out the door with Dad, walking the same way to school every day, but today they notice something is different.

Parts of the road are closed and there are big machines digging up dirt where the cars used to drive.

“What’s that big machine doing, Dad?” asks Sue. Through the fences Tim and Sue can see the machines moving earth and leaving a big hole in the ground.

“It’s digging a hole to get the road ready for the new tram,” Dad replies.



Tim and Sue keep walking and things are still different. A big crane with a long hose is in the road pouring concrete over something in the ground.

“What’s that crane for, Dad?” asks Tim.

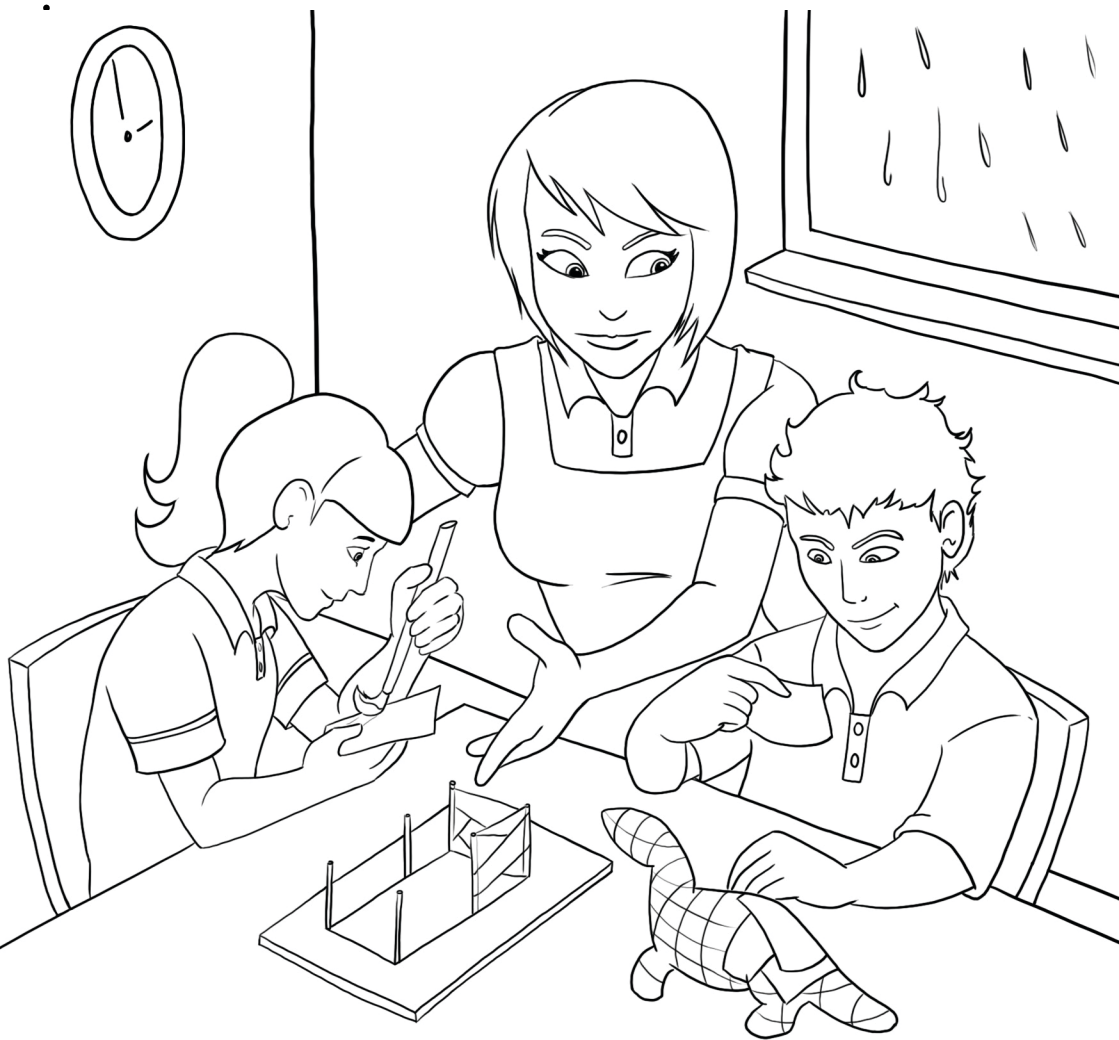
Through the fences they can see workers moving the hose back and forward pouring concrete around long, thick strips of metal.

“It’s pouring the concrete for the new tram tracks,” Dad replies.

Tim, Sue and Dad keep walking and are nearly at school. But the last road they need to cross is closed. Lots of workers are stringing a long wire from tall poles, high above the ground.

“What’s that wire for, Dad?” asks Sue.

“That wire will give the new tram the electricity it needs to move along its tracks. We have to walk around these workers to keep safe,” replies Dad.



That day at school, Tim and Sue started arts and craft. Their teacher, Mrs Hobbs, taught them how to make papier mache.

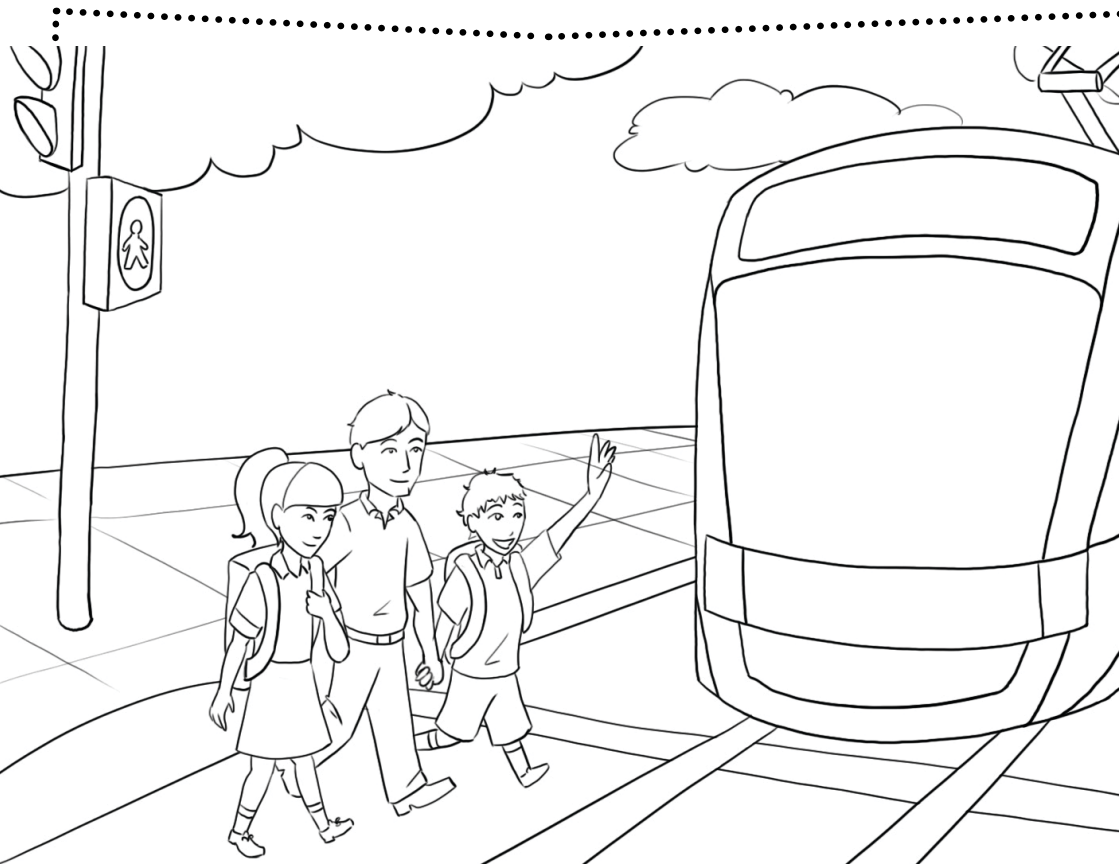
"We wet the paper in the glue and stick it to our frame," said Mrs Hobbs. "When it dries, it will be hard."

The bell rings and it's time for Tim and Sue's Mum to pick them up. On their walk home, Tim and Sue tell their mum about their papier mache art.

"I'm making a castle with a tower for a princess," said Sue.

"I'm making a scary dragon that lives under the castle," said Tim.

"When they're finished we will have to make sure we are very careful with them," warns Mum. "We can't drop them, bump them hard or get them wet or they will fall apart!"



In the morning Tim and Sue brush their teeth, do their hair, pull on their socks and lace their shoes. They bounce out the door with Dad and walk the same way to school.

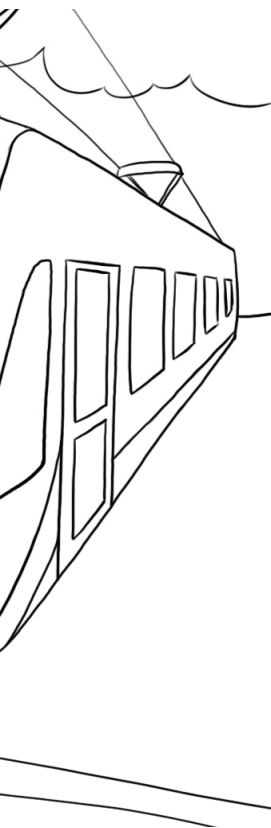
But today, all the workers are gone.

There are no big machines digging holes in the road.

There is no big crane with its hose pouring concrete.

And there are no workers stringing wires on tall poles.

But, Tim and Sue notice something in the road.



"What's that, Dad?" asks Tim.

"They're the tram tracks," replied Dad. "The tram moves along the tracks like a train, but it goes along the road next to other cars, buses and trucks. We're going to cross the road soon and we'll be able to have a close look at them."

Waiting at the lights to cross the road to school, Sue and Tim hear a DING DING! and see a huge yellow and blue tram travelling towards them. It slows down and stops at the red light just like the other cars, and the driver waves to Tim and Sue as they walk past with Dad.

When they are on the other side of the road, they turn around and see a big 'G:' on the side as they watch the tram pull away.

"Why is there a 'G:' on the side of the tram, Dad?" Asks Sue.

"That's what the trams are called," replies Dad. "Maybe you can ride the G: home after school one day soon," he says and waves goodbye as they arrive at school.



In class, Tim and Sue get to finish their papier mache art with Mrs Hobbs.

Sue's castle is grey like stone, with a tall tower and an orange roof. Tim's dragon is dark green and scaly and looks like a big lizard.

Suddenly there's a loud rumble!

"Was that your dragon?" asked Sue.

"I don't think so," said Tim, as he inspects his art work.

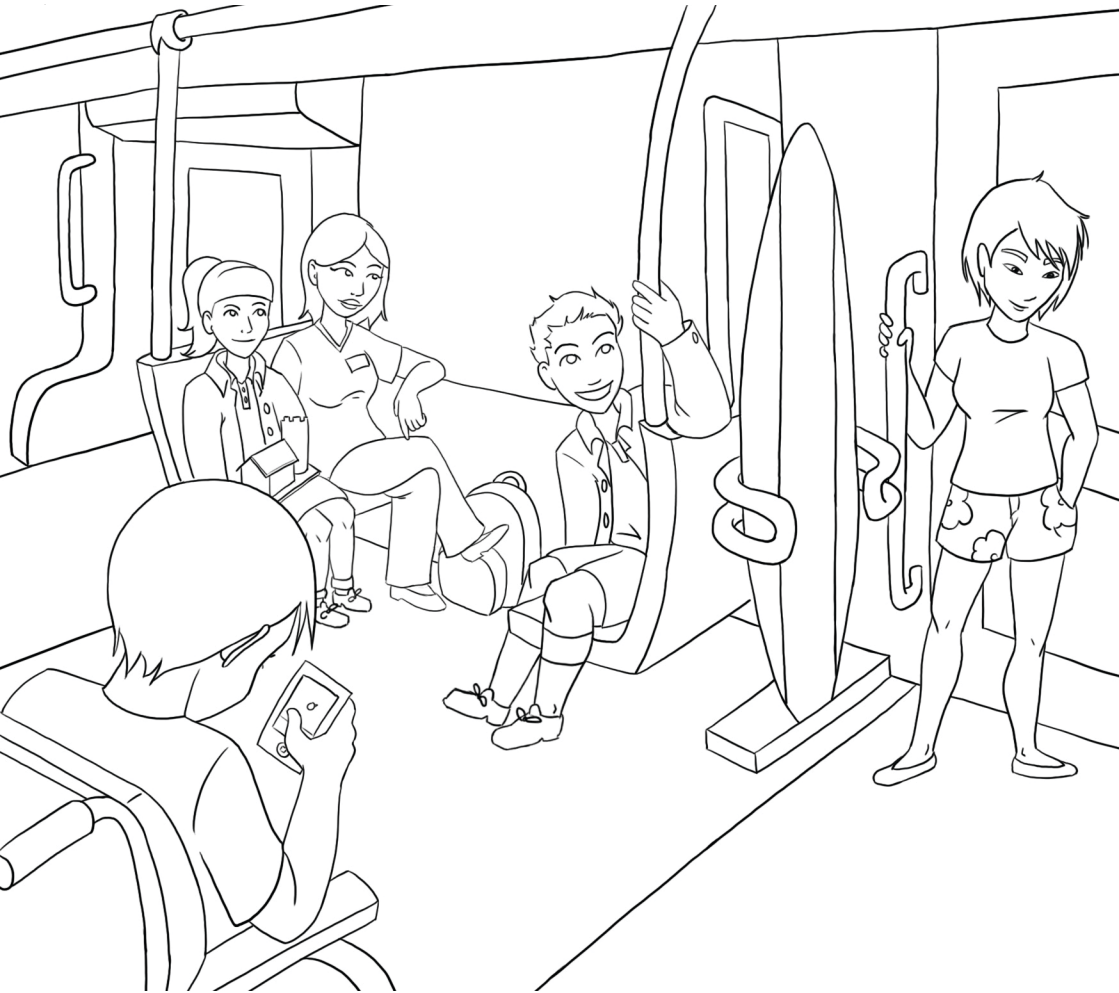
There's another rumble and Tim and Sue see it raining through the window of their classroom.

"Oh no, Mum said if we get our papier mache wet it will fall apart!"

The bell rings and it's time for Mum to pick them up.

"Mum," says Tim, "we can't get our art wet in the storm outside or it will fall apart!"

"We had better catch the G home, then," replies Mum.



Tim and Sue put on their raincoats and put up their umbrellas to keep the rain off their artwork as they walk to the tram station.

At the station, Tim, Sue and Mum are all out of the rain. They hear a DING DING and the tram pulls into the station.

The doors open and Mum says "Let's hop on."

Tim and Sue get on the tram with their Mum. It's really big inside and there are lots of people keeping out of the rain.

A man in a suit is reading a newspaper, a surfer is standing next to her surfboard in the racks, and an old man in a wheel chair is using a mobile phone.

Tim and Sue look out the windows and see the rain. They pass by all the familiar spots on their way home. The tram stops at some lights and lets cars pass in front of it.

Tim, Sue and Mum arrive at their stop. The tram doors open and they wait behind the man in the wheelchair as he wheels onto the platform.



Tim and Sue make it home with Mum without getting their castle and dragon wet.

“Dad, look at our artwork,” says Tim.

“Mine’s a castle and Tim’s is a dragon. We caught the tram so they didn’t get wet and fall apart!”

“I think I might make a tram for my next artwork at school,” says Tim, “and if it rains, the tram can catch the tram home, too!” They all have a good laugh.

The End.

*Always look
both ways and
listen out for
trams.*

*Never ride or
walk along the
tracks.*

*Only cross
tram tracks at
a pedestrian
crossing.*

*Remind the
driver of your
car to only
do a U-Turn
where there
is a U-Turn
Permitted Sign
and follow the
road rules.*

