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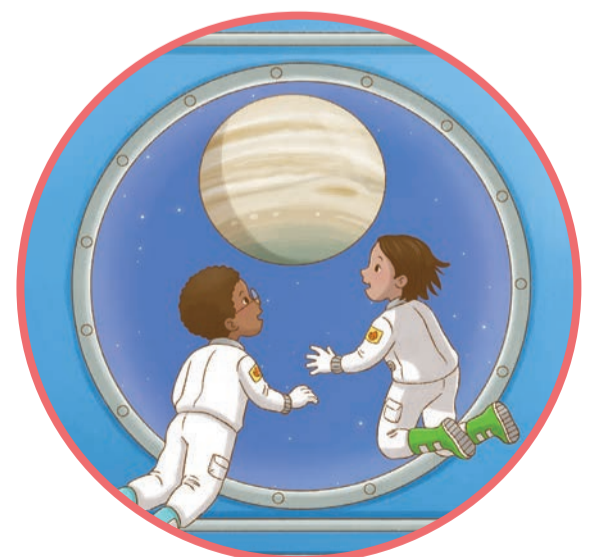
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Mpho's first train trip

Pre-reading questions

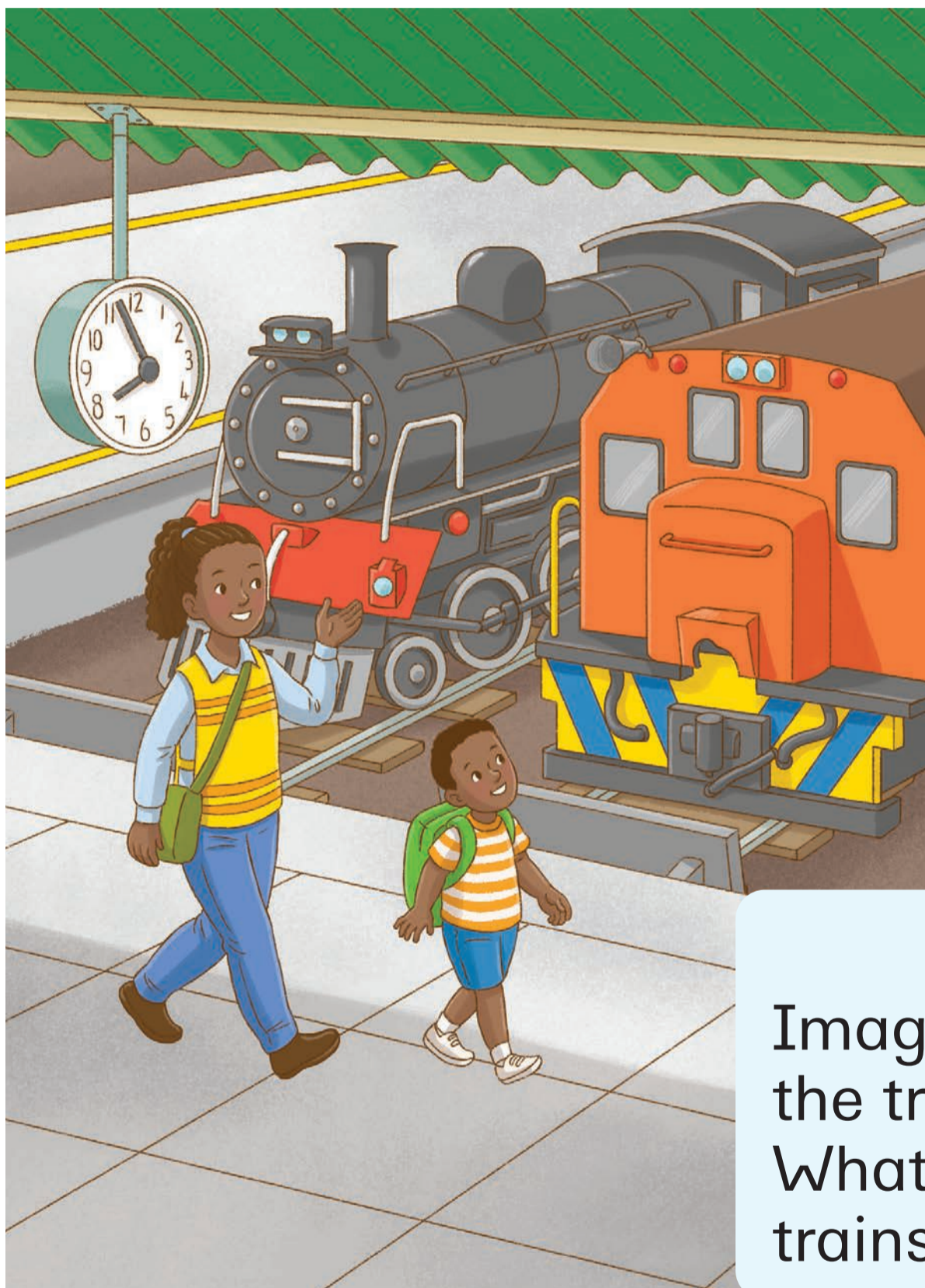
1. Read the title and look at the pictures. What type of transport will this story be about?
2. What do you know about trains?
3. What do these people do?
a) train driver b) passengers c) train conductor



Mpho wakes up. He is very excited. Today he gets to go to work with his mother. His mother is a train driver.

“I’m going to learn so much about trains,” says Mpho.

At the station, Mom says, “I’ll be driving the electric passenger train today.”



Imagine you are at the train station. What different trains can you see?

“What other types of trains do you drive, Mom?” Mpho asks.

“I’ve driven steam trains and diesel trains,” replies Mom.

Mpho looks at the train tracks.



“Why are there planks and metal on the ground?”

“The trains run on them,” explains Mom. “They are called railway tracks.”

While Mom drives the train, Mpho walks around with Robert. Robert is the train conductor.



“Is this your first time on a train?” asks Robert.

“Yes, it is. I am so excited,” replies Mpho.

“Feel free to ask me any questions,” says Robert.

The train reaches its first stop.
More people get on the train.



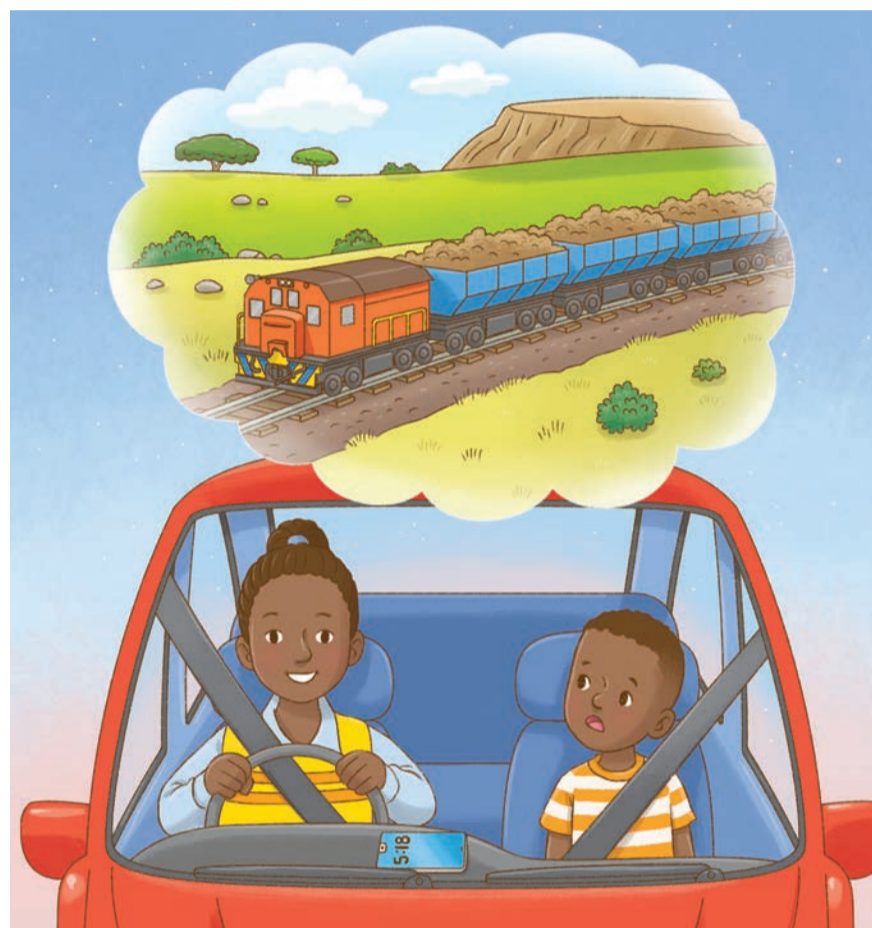
Robert checks the passengers' tickets.
Mpho follows him and waves hello to
all the friendly people.

Mpho meets a little girl named Daisy on the train. She is travelling to town with her uncle.



“Did you know that my mom is driving this train?” asks Mpho.
“Wow! That is amazing,” says Daisy.

Later, on the way home, Mom says, “Remember, not all trains are passenger trains. Some trains are called cargo trains because they carry goods like coal or grain.”



“Next time I would like to ride on a cargo train,” says Mpho.

“I am sure you would enjoy it,” says Mom.

Post-reading questions

1. Where does Mpho’s mom work and what does she do?
2. What might happen if there isn’t a train conductor on the train?
3. Describe the types of trains you have read about.

The hot air balloon

Pre-reading questions

1. Read the title of the story. What is a hot air balloon? What does it look like and how does it work?
2. Look at the picture on this page. What do you think happened? What is happening?
3. Imagine there was a very bad storm. How would you stay safe, dry and warm?

Mrs Thembi and the children are wet and cold.



Many children did not come to school today. There was a big storm and the wind blew the school roof away. The river washed the old bridge away. The children can't get across the river to school.