



Berry Beary Conductor and the Train

“Toot-toot!” a train whistle was heard, and the sound of “chug, chug” was getting closer and closer.

All the children noticed right away, and eagerly looked to where the sound was coming from.

“There it is mama!” Berry Beary Fun pointed excitedly, to Berry Beary Gentle.

They were on their way back from getting some fresh food from the corner store, for their picnic dinner at the park.

This was a very special day, indeed—the first day the Berry Beary Town’s own train was fully running.

The track that looped around the outer edge of the town would take the train all around to the different areas. It wasn’t a very long ride, as Berry Beary town was just big enough, but not too big.

This train was a help to families and elderly folks who wanted an easy way to get from one place to another, without a lot of walking, or needing to ride a bicycle.

Of course there were other vehicles in the town, roads and all. But the less people had to drive, the safer it was for the whole town.

The train didn't go through the town; no one had to cross the tracks. It was safely on the outer edges, with a nice fence guarding it, so children and pets could stay safe.

This was the first day it was doing the loop around the town.

Berry Beary Conductor was pleased to be in charge of this train. He had it specially decorated for this first day. Those all around the town went to the outer edge of the town to see it as it chugged past.

They waved and cheered! Some of them had helped to sew together the floral garlands that decorated the engine and passenger cars.

Some of the town dwellers had helped with the interior decoration. Cushions had been sewn for the soft couches in the sitting room car. Wooden stools and tables had been made by carpenters for the dining car.

Solar panels had been placed on the roof of the train so that lights could be turned on when it was dark, and the train ran at night. Lovely pictures had been framed and put up around in the various cars to make it a very pleasant place to be.

It moved rather slowly, so as to give any wildlife time to move off the rails, if they happened to be there—even though there was fencing on either side to help prevent this from happening.

One car was set up like a library, so on hot or cold days, sometimes a family could get out of the sun, or curl up nice and warm, and read the great books that Berry Beary Printer had made for this “Library on wheels”.

There were some cars that were filled with seats for passengers to get off and on, and ride from place to place—one of the main reasons for this train. But there were also some sleeping compartments created, with cute curtains on the windows, washbowls for washing, and fold-out beds for sleeping, covered in matching cheery bed covers.

If someone arrived to the town at night and didn’t know anyone yet, and didn’t know where they could sleep, they could always get some sleep in one of the compartments.

Even if the train wasn’t running, they could still use it like a hotel room. But they shouldn’t be surprised if early in the morning the scenery outside their room starts to change as the train gets going for the day, to pick up a variety of passengers, each with different needs and reasons for boarding.

Berry Fast Postie was often seen loading up boxes and packages that were to go to another part of the town. One of his helpers would ride the train and make sure that the right ones were taken off the train and left at the little train stations post offices along the way.

Different families living nearby would take turns going to the mini post office at the little train station, and take the packages and boxes to the houses they were marked for. It was fun for the young ones to get to play “Postie” in this way.

There were several stations along the way of the loop that the train went. If it stopped for a long time at each station, it could do the loop in a full 24 hour day. But the train didn’t usually do this, as there wasn’t always a reason for it to stop for long, and it only took a few hours, from start to stop, to do the full loop, with short stops.

However, each day was different, depending on the weather, and what the people of the town needed. Sometimes it would stay for over an hour at a stop, because a team of people from that area were coming aboard to enjoy a special “Meal on Wheels” using the dining car as a restaurant for some activity, as a special event. And of course, the final stop, for Berry Beary Conductor was where his house was, and his waiting family. But not always was his family waiting for him—many days they came right along with him.

His son, Berry Beary Conductor Junior, was old enough to start learning how to drive the train, and sometimes he would operate it, so his dad could get a nap, or play a game with his youngest child, or drink some water and chat with his wife while enjoying the scenery go by.

As the decorated train moved slowly past Berry Beary Kind's house, where his brother, sister, mother and father were gathered outside to watch, they all waved and whistled!

The train was the talk of the town at every dinner table that evening. There wasn't one person who wasn't interested in getting to use it and enjoy this new addition to the town.

It was decided that night, by Berry Beary Kind's family, that next week end they would go for a ride, for a complete loop ride, and use the music room car. They would practice the show they were going to put on in a couple weeks—for the Festival of Arts!

This festival took place every two or three months, as in Berry Beary Town there were so many creative and talented folks making so many lovely works of art—from paintings and sculptures, to symphonies and choreographed performances and musical plays with colourful and tasteful costumes, and much more.

Usually a performance was just a part of the show—and the next part was put on a few months later, at the next Festival of Arts! Everyone attending wanted to come back to enjoy the next part!

To ensure that the town would thoroughly enjoy and benefit from the performances, Berry Bella—the sister of Berry Beary Kind—was in charge of seeing or hearing each performance, privately, before it was time for the show to be put on.

Usually this was done way in advance, so if something needed to be changed, there was time to do it. If all was approved, a photo was taken, and it was put into the program booklet, telling the town what to expect at the next Festival of Arts.

Berry Bella would make the program booklet, telling who was doing what, and give it to Berry Beary Printer to print. Berry Beary Postie and his team would see that it was given out all around the town a few weeks before the Festival!

A poster announcing the date of the Festival of Arts was posted up for all to see. When this poster went up, the town dwellers knew that it was the time to start getting in their requests to Berry Bella, if they too wanted to be a part of the Festival of Arts, the next time around.

It all started when Tiny Tony drew a picture one day, an especially nice one, and wrote a short poem to go along with it. Berry Beary Friendly noticed it on one of his visits, and Tony agreed to have a copy of it printed in the town's newspaper.

This got Berry Beary Kind thinking. He wanted those in his town to have the chance to show the others the great things they each were creating—things that when sung, or demonstrated, or shown, or acted out for the pleasant entertainment of others, would add an extra spark of joy to their town.

It had been two years now since this fun, regular event had taken place—and more and more participants, and of all ages—where adding their talent to the Festival of Arts.

What would Berry Beary Kind’s family do for it this time? Maybe on the train some great ideas would come to them. Maybe they would write some songs about travel by train—and mix in how important it was for young ones to receive the right and best kind of training!

Sounded like a good start to a song and funny skit already.

“Let’s get some training next weekend!” Berry Big Bear said, as a pun!

“Yes!” the family said, all eager for the train ride they’d all go on.

Berry Beary Kind Series:
www.nurture-inspire-teach.com