

RUSTY & LITTLE BLUE #1

(Park Scene)

The Park
Near the Train Yard.

NOTE: The four actors who play the engines of this railroad have no external “machine” pieces. They do not move mechanically or stiltedly. They may refer to their feet as wheels, but they walk normally. They are dressed in engineer’s overalls. The most important trait of these “engines” is their humanity.

LITTLE BLUE is the “Little Engine That Could.” She is one of the younger engines at the railroad. BLUE is cheerful, an optimist, hopeful, full of life and lots of energy. She also longs to grow up so she can someday leave the yard and pull the train like the adults. She is very warm and loving – sensitive to others. Though she may get discouraged, she remains confident she will someday achieve her dream of being a “main line engine.”

RUSTY is the oldest engine at the railroad – warm & wise, but not weak or easily pushed around. In fact, she has no fear of her gruff boss, Silver, and easily stands up to him when she thinks he is he’s making bad decisions about how to run a railroad. RUSTY obviously cares very much for Little Blue – maybe seeing in Blue her own younger, high-spirited self.

Here, Rusty has just been told by Silver that if she can’t do the job (pull the Toy Town Express), he will force her to retire. Upset, Rusty goes to the park to think. Little Blue, concerned for her best friend and role model, follows her.

RUSTY

...Little Blue, I hate to have to admit it but, ...well, ...maybe Silver's right. Maybe it is time for me to retire and leave the train yard.

BLUE

No.

RUSTY

Why not?

BLUE

'Cause you're not old.

RUSTY (*remembering an old quote*)

"Age is simply a question of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it don't matter."

BLUE (*laughs*)

Right!

(*They both laugh*)

RUSTY

You know - you remind me of myself when I was a young engine.

(*sudden thought*)

...Hey, ...maybe someday you could take over and pull the express. Now that I would really love to see!

BLUE

Oh, ...well, ...I would like to, but, ...well, ...I could never.

RUSTY

Why not?

BLUE

Silver says I'll never be big enough.

RUSTY

What?

BLUE

I guess I don't have the making of a main line engine.

RUSTY

Sounds like Silver talking.

BLUE

Well, he would know, wouldn't he?

RUSTY

Don't let Silver or anyone make that decision for you.

BLUE

But I'm so small.

RUSTY

It's not always about how strong you are, its also about not being afraid to take the opportunity when your time comes along – have self-confidence.

BLUE

Well...I...I don't know.

RUSTY

You can do anything..

END OF SIDE.