

# **SHINNY GOLD & SILVER #1**

## **(Roll Call)**

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.

SILVER is the head of the engines and in charge of the train yard.

Silver is authoritative, in command, in charge, strong, a strict disciplinarian – not because he is mean, but because he feels he must be that way to keep things running smoothly here at “his” railroad. He is fastidious: the trainyard must always be in order and the trains must run precisely on schedule. Most of the time he carries a clipboard with a duty roster and a work checklist. He may seem a bit harsh at times, but he sees it as just being practical – not letting sentiment get in the way of running an efficient railroad.

The actress who plays Rusty also doubles as the engine Shiny Gold.

SHINY GOLD is one of the adult engines here at this railroad. Unfortunately, she is a bit of a snob – seeing her job (as the passenger engine) as the most important job at the railroad. She doesn’t have patience for the other engines. It is way beneath her dignity to even speak to, much less associate with any little switcher engines like Blue & Red. She is also comically vain about her appearance – always taking out her compact to powder her nose – making sure she is not too shiny.

The Train Yard.

At Morning Roll Call.

All are at attention but Gold – she has her compact out, powdering her nose.

SILVER

At ease....All right – listen up - here are the jobs for us train engines today:

*(refers to his list on his clipboard)*

... 8 AM – Engine Gold leaves the yard to pull the passenger train.

GOLD *(powdering her nose)*

The most important train – and pulled with great shiny beauty I might add.

SILVER *(ignoring Gold – heard it before)*

9 AM – School time for Little Red and Blue.

...3 PM – I, Silver, pull the freight train...

...Which everyone knows is the most important train.

....And lastly, 5:15 PM – Rusty

GOLD

Who's still not here.

SILVER *(continuing, ignoring Gold)*

Pulls the train carrying the toys up the mountain

GOLD

If she can.

SILVER *(ignoring Gold)(finishing his speech)*

Everything on time...So remember – what do we train engines do?

GOLD

*(calls out bored)*

“We train engines pull the trains!”

SILVER

Correct.

*(Gold raises her hand)(Silver calls on her)*

...Yes Gold?

GOLD *(to Silver)*

If certain engines like Rusty can't make it to roll call, maybe they should be replaced.

SILVER *(firm - ending the discussion)*

I will speak to Rusty.

GOLD

That's all? Hmph! Not the way I'd run a railroad.

SILVER

Meanwhile, we all have work to do.

GOLD

Fine. Us big engines have real work to do – pulling trains – not like you little switcher engines.  
*(Gold, with mirrored compact, goes back to powdering her nose)*

Not too shiny, am I?

SILVER

Dismissed.

GOLD

Call me when it's time to pull the passenger train! Meanwhile, I shall continue to beautify myself!

*(With large sweeping gestures, Gold turns flamboyantly and grand exists through her roundhouse door.)*

*(Silver looks annoyed.)*

**END OF SIDE.**