



Try...

The Little Engine That Could
Gender-Inclusive
Reading Guide
www.GenderJabber.org

Instead of *boys and girls*,
use *children* (or *kids*).



Instead of *she/her*, for the little
engine that breaks down, use *they*.



Instead of *he/him*,
for the clown, use *she* or *they*.



In addition to *he/him*, for the other
engines, use *they* or *she* for some.



Keep the Little Blue Engine *she/her*.





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Because...

This phrase appears throughout the book. Using language like "boys and girls" has been shown to decrease the amount of time kids spending playing with kids of other genders and increases their play with stereotypically gendered toys.

The first engine doesn't have a name and she is happy to be carrying toys and then breaks down, making her ineffective and no longer relevant.

As the only toy who takes action, consider making the clown non-masculine.

All of the engines who don't stop have male pronouns. The Shiny New Engine and the Freight Engine are very strong and capable (and also rude). To disrupt the notion that only male engines are strong, and given that there are 3 other engines, consider using she, they, and he for each of the 3 engines.

This book is somewhat unusual in having a female protagonist. Having the engine who can pull the toys to their destination has a message of empowerment. Also, consider changing pronouns on different readings of the book.