

LCM Speech Festival Hong Kong 2022

Prose • 9 - 10 years

An extract from
The Railway Children
by E Nesbit

The dreadful change came quite suddenly.

Peter had his tenth birthday, and among his presents was a model engine which soon became his favourite. But exactly three days after he had been given it, the engine suddenly went off with a bang!

Peter was very upset. The others said he cried, but Peter said his eyes were red because he had a cold. Father had been away in the country for three or four days, but when he returned Peter told him about the engine.

Father looked at it carefully. "Hm," he said.

"Is there no hope?" said Peter, in an unsteady voice.

"Hope? Yes, of course," said Father, cheerfully. "We'll mend it on Saturday afternoon."

Just then, there was a knock at the front door.

"Now who can that be?" said Father.

Ruth, the parlour-maid, came in and said that two gentlemen wanted to see the master. "I've shown them into the library, Sir," she said.

