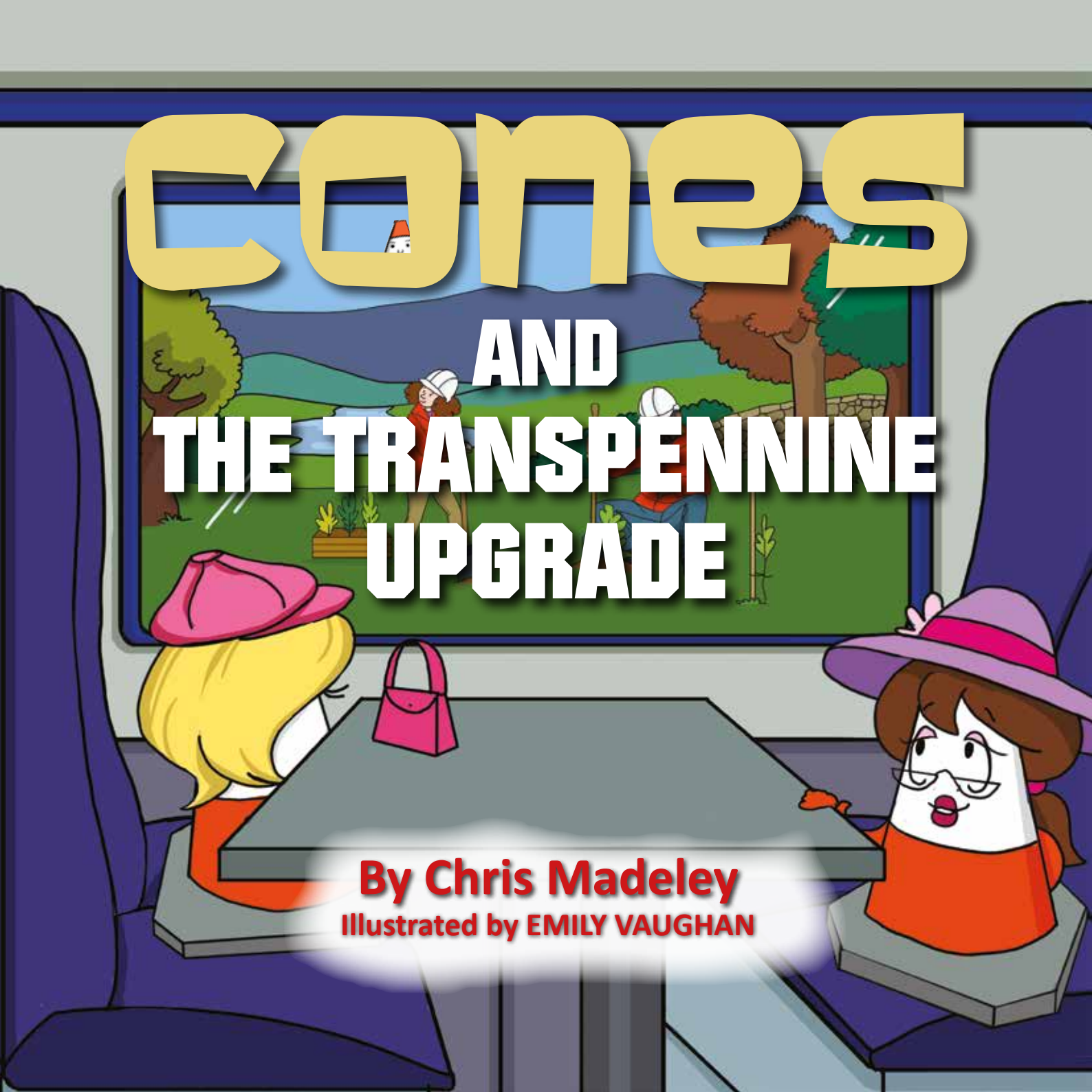
cones
AND
THE TRANSPENNINE
UPGRADE
By Chris Madeley
Illustrated by EMILY VAUGHAN

Cones and The Transpennine Upgrade
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New Moon

Wise Owl

Welcome to another exciting Cones adventure!

Each Cones story follows our 4 friends, Conen, Conerad, Conestance and Cone-Vera, as they learn about the world around them. In addition there are three characters, New Moon, Wise Owl and Police Car, who, from time to time, ensure all is well.

There is one other character, Peeping Cone, but you will have to look hard to find him as he often hides somewhere on each double page.

Police Car

Conen Conerad Conestance Cone-Vera

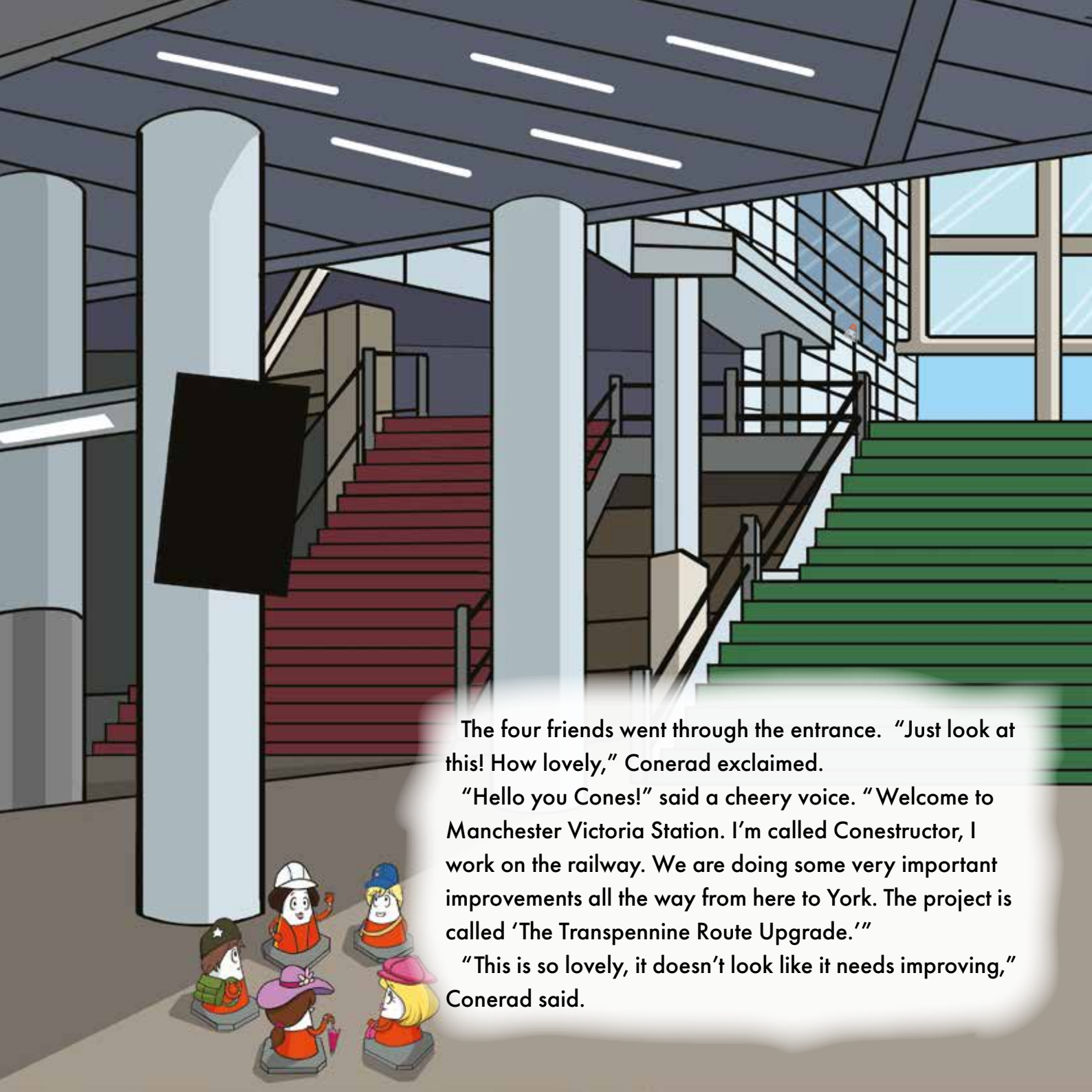
Peeping Cone

Conestance, Conerad, Cone-Vera and Conen awoke and found themselves outside a beautiful building.

"Wow!" Conen said. "A new adventure!"

"I hope so," Conestance said. "This is huge! I wonder where we are?"

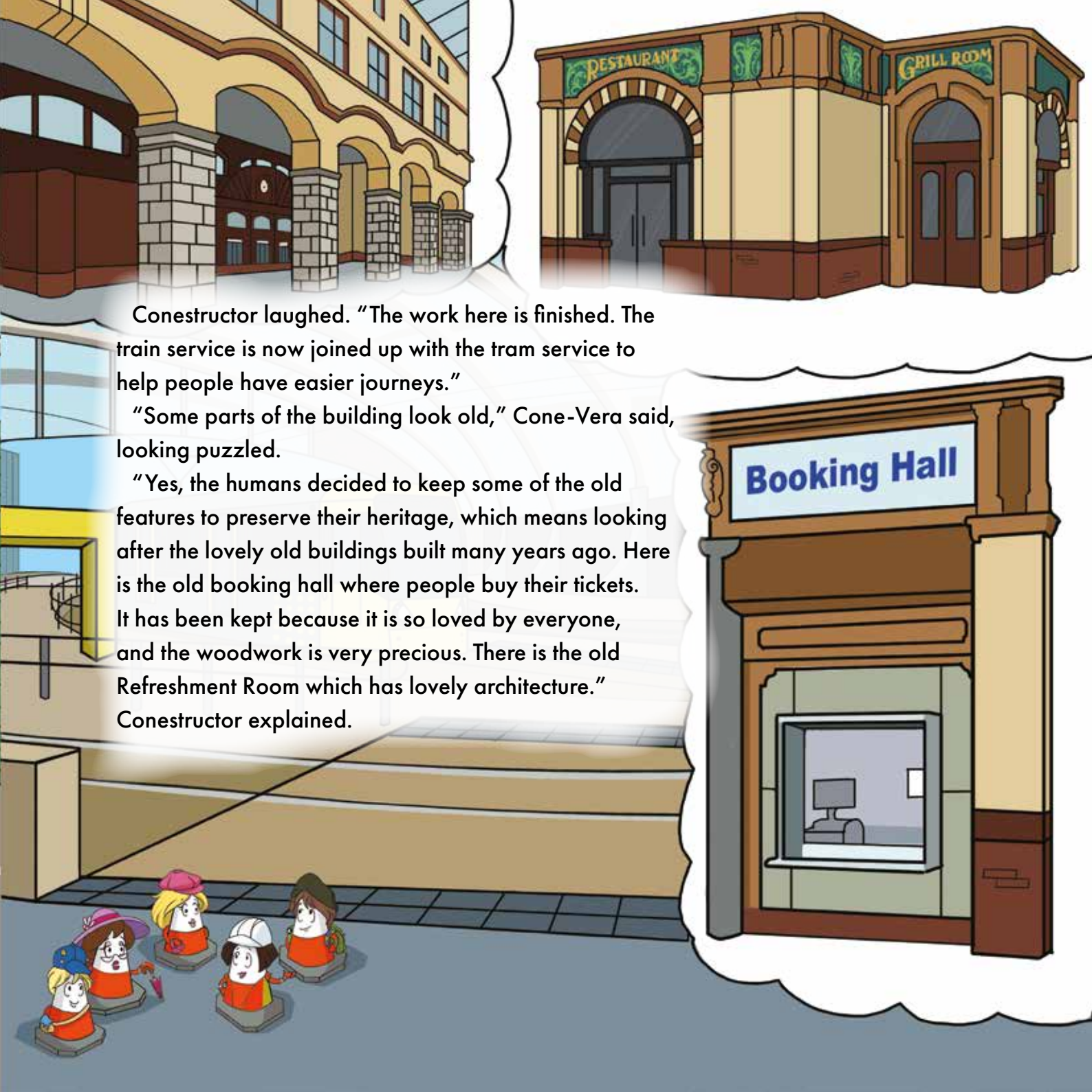
"Hmm, Victoria Station," Cone-Vera read the sign over the entrance. "We had great fun the last time we went to a railway station, but we must follow the rules. Look at all those destinations written along the front of the building. This is going to be most interesting!"



The four friends went through the entrance. "Just look at this! How lovely," Conerad exclaimed.

"Hello you Cones!" said a cheery voice. "Welcome to Manchester Victoria Station. I'm called Conestructor, I work on the railway. We are doing some very important improvements all the way from here to York. The project is called 'The Transpennine Route Upgrade.'"

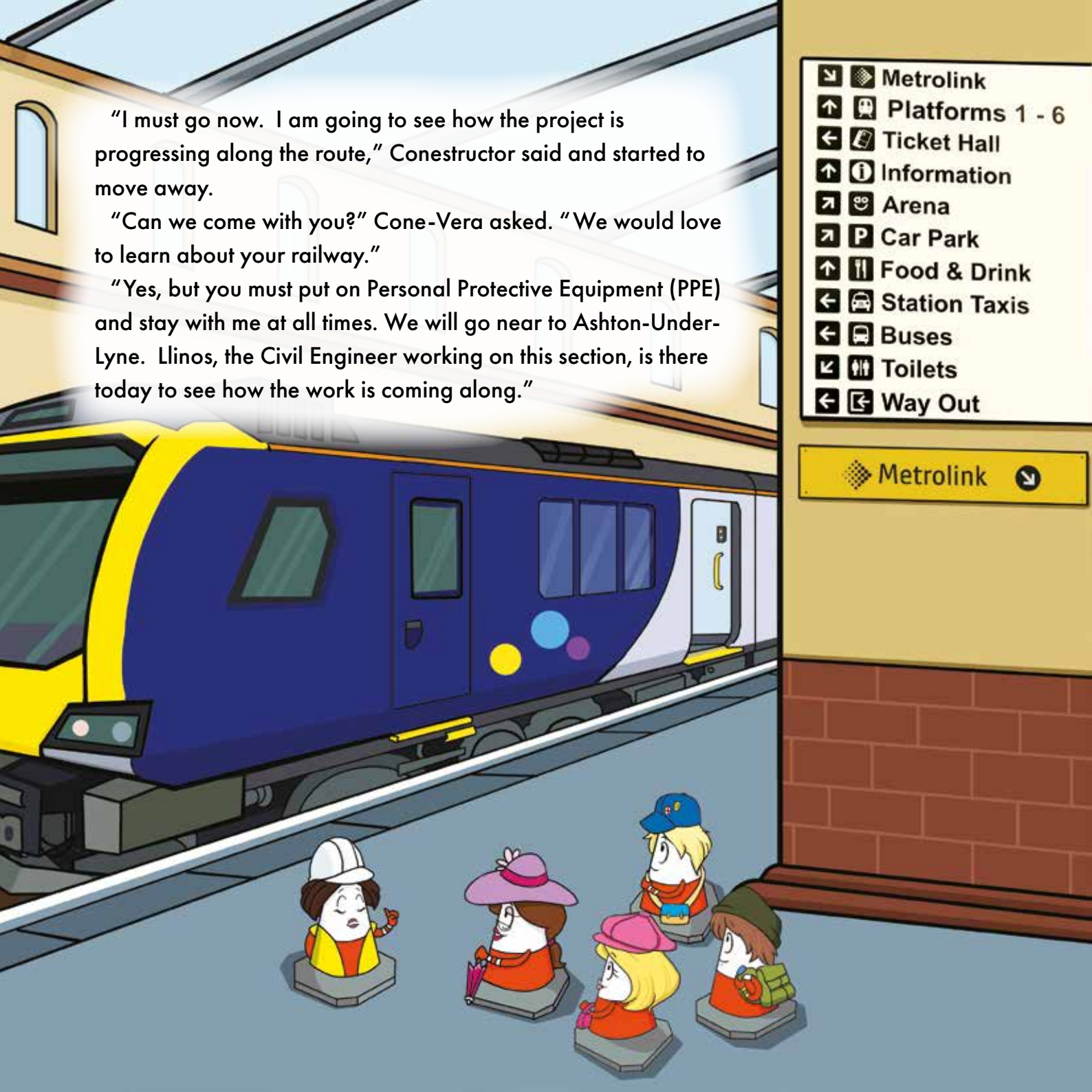
"This is so lovely, it doesn't look like it needs improving," Conerad said.



Conestructor laughed. "The work here is finished. The train service is now joined up with the tram service to help people have easier journeys."

"Some parts of the building look old," Cone-Vera said, looking puzzled.

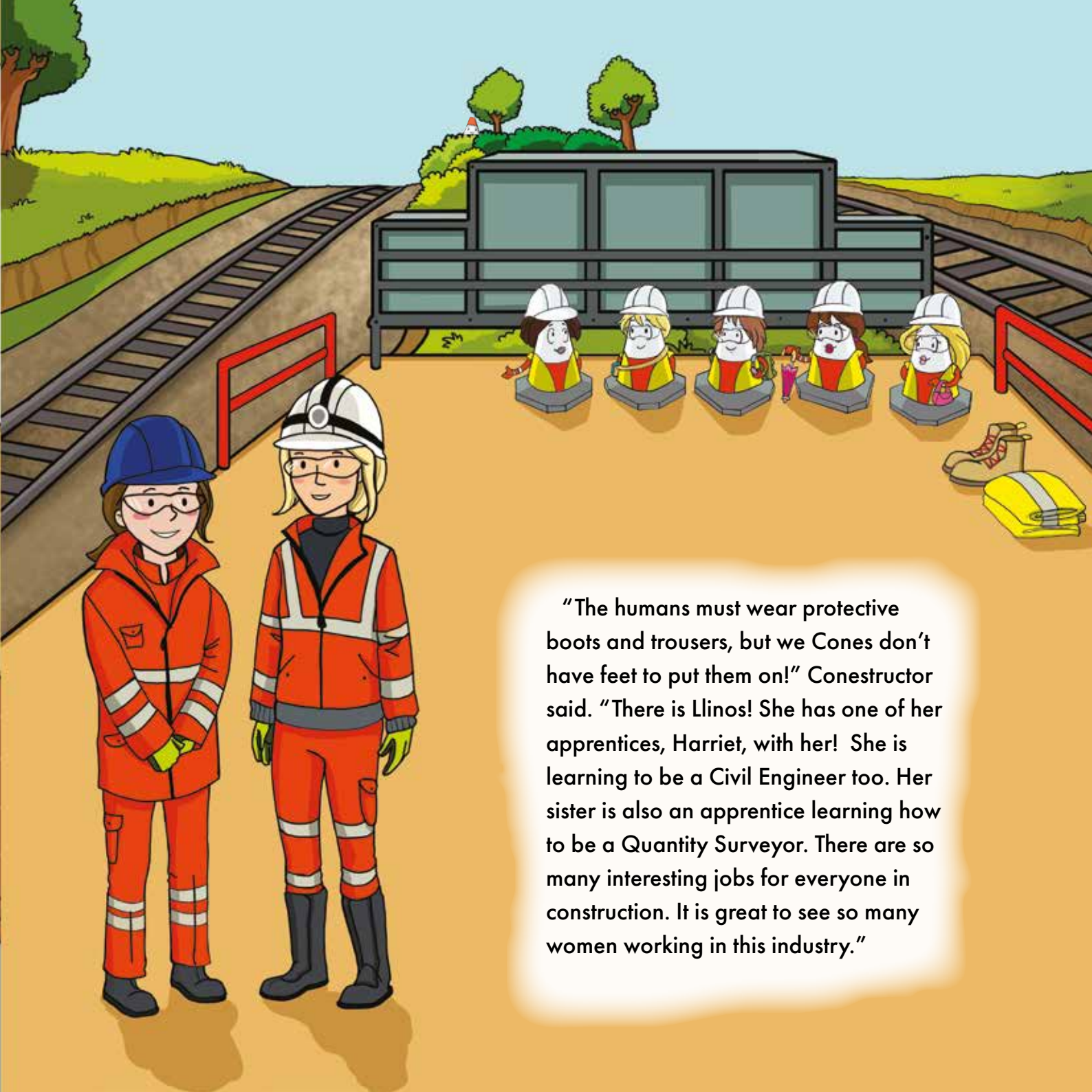
"Yes, the humans decided to keep some of the old features to preserve their heritage, which means looking after the lovely old buildings built many years ago. Here is the old booking hall where people buy their tickets. It has been kept because it is so loved by everyone, and the woodwork is very precious. There is the old Refreshment Room which has lovely architecture." Conestructor explained.



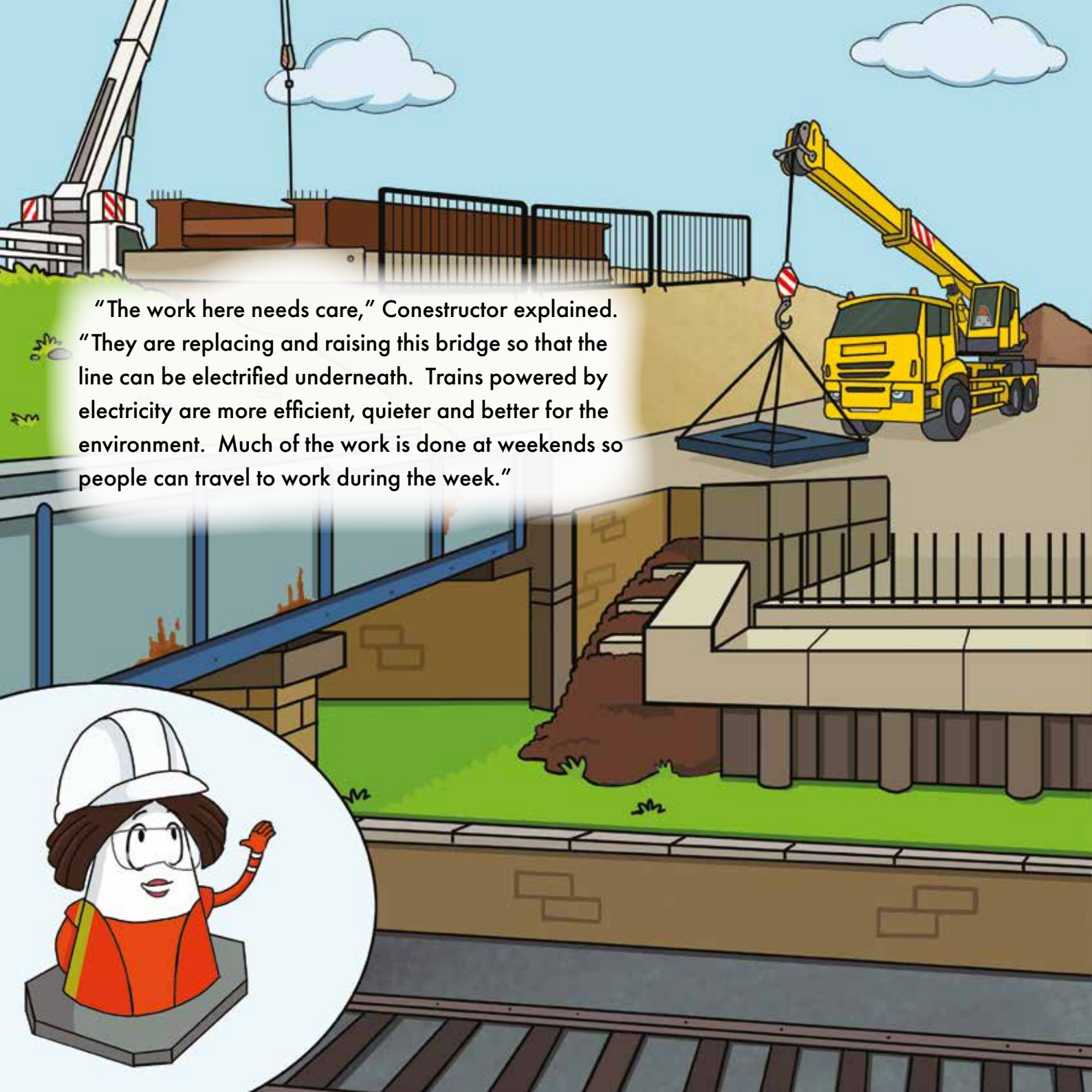
"I must go now. I am going to see how the project is progressing along the route," Conestructor said and started to move away.

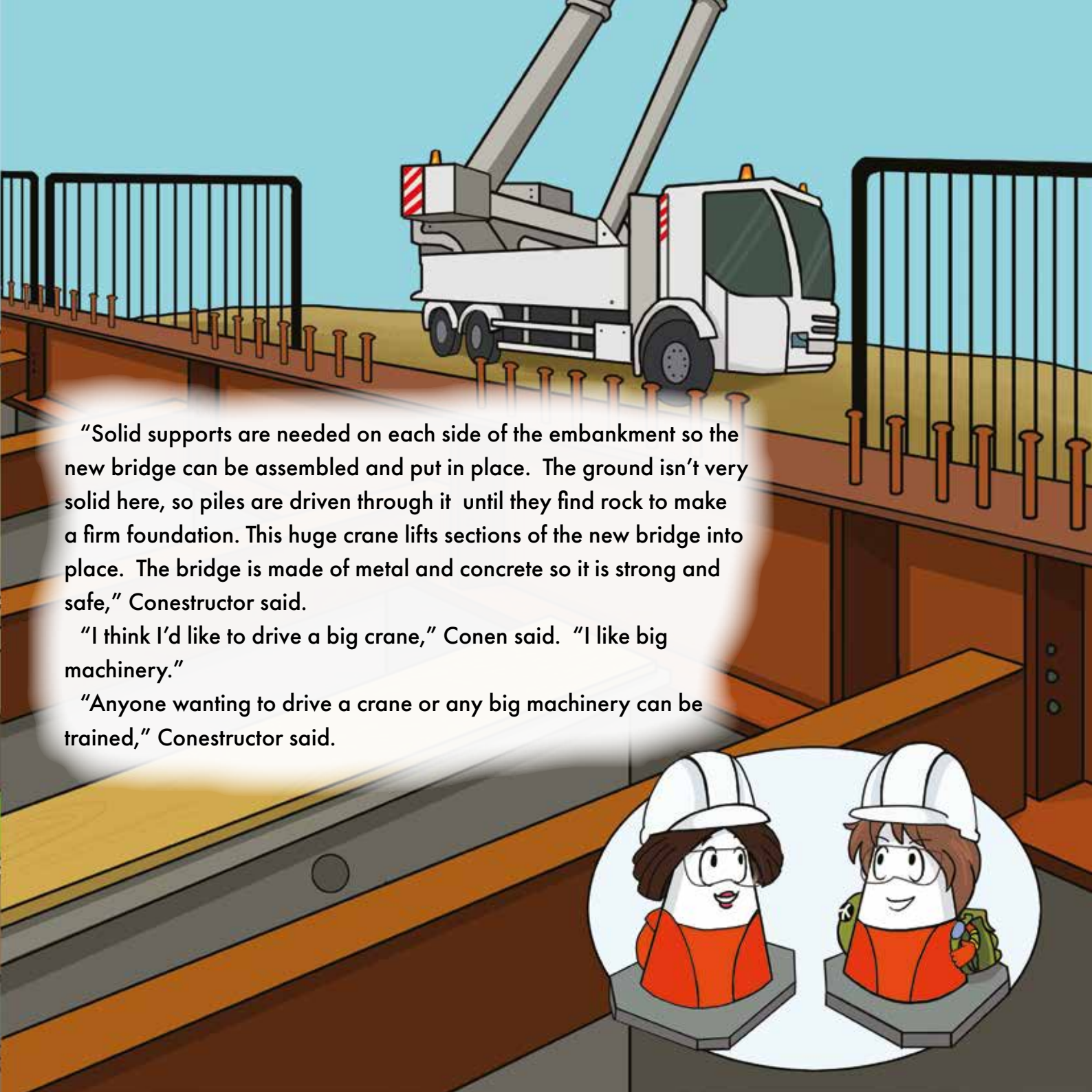
"Can we come with you?" Cone-Vera asked. "We would love to learn about your railway."

"Yes, but you must put on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and stay with me at all times. We will go near to Ashton-Under-Lyne. Llinos, the Civil Engineer working on this section, is there today to see how the work is coming along."



"The humans must wear protective boots and trousers, but we Cones don't have feet to put them on!" Conestructor said. "There is Llinos! She has one of her apprentices, Harriet, with her! She is learning to be a Civil Engineer too. Her sister is also an apprentice learning how to be a Quantity Surveyor. There are so many interesting jobs for everyone in construction. It is great to see so many women working in this industry."


"The work here needs care," Conestructor explained. "They are replacing and raising this bridge so that the line can be electrified underneath. Trains powered by electricity are more efficient, quieter and better for the environment. Much of the work is done at weekends so people can travel to work during the week."

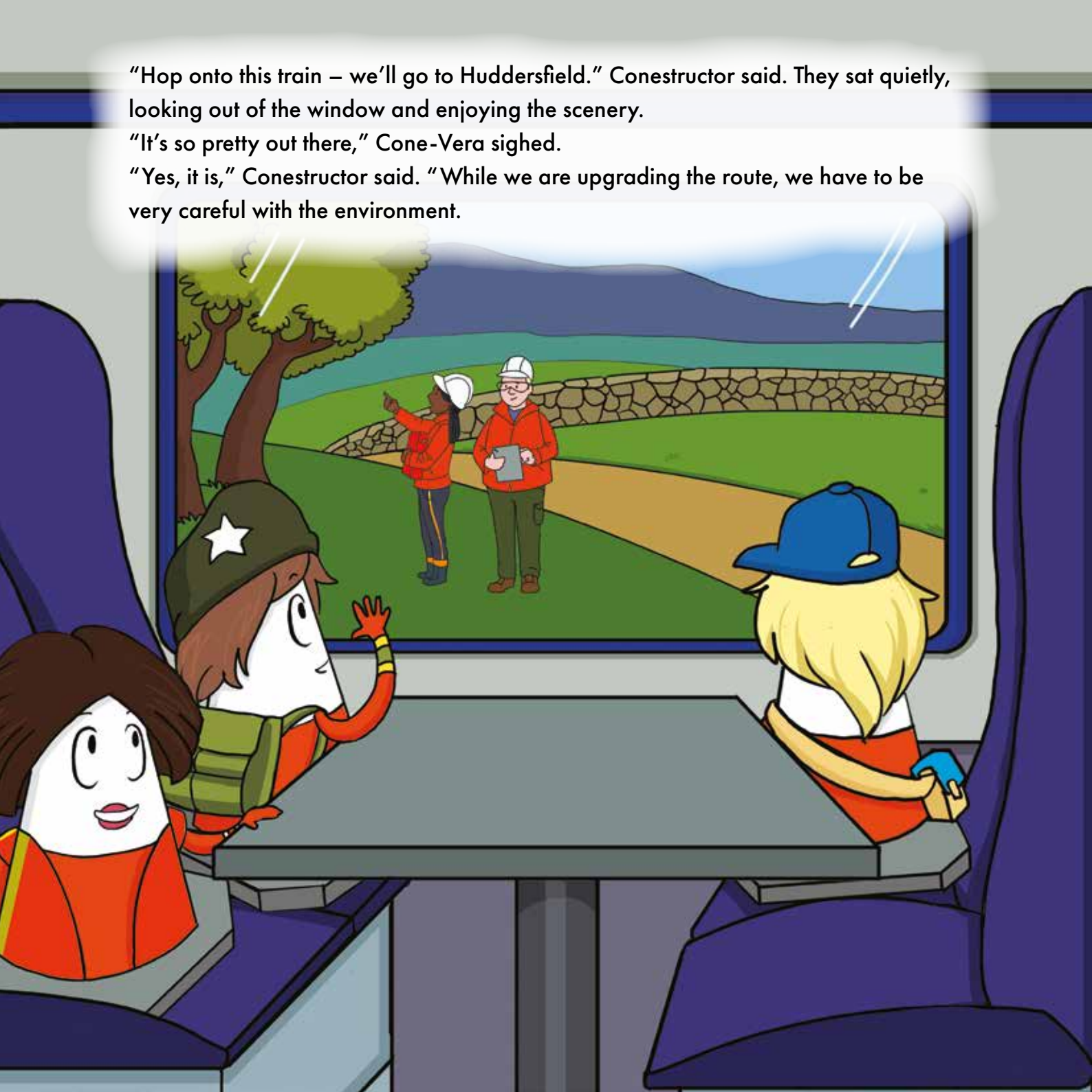


"Solid supports are needed on each side of the embankment so the new bridge can be assembled and put in place. The ground isn't very solid here, so piles are driven through it until they find rock to make a firm foundation. This huge crane lifts sections of the new bridge into place. The bridge is made of metal and concrete so it is strong and safe," Conestructor said.

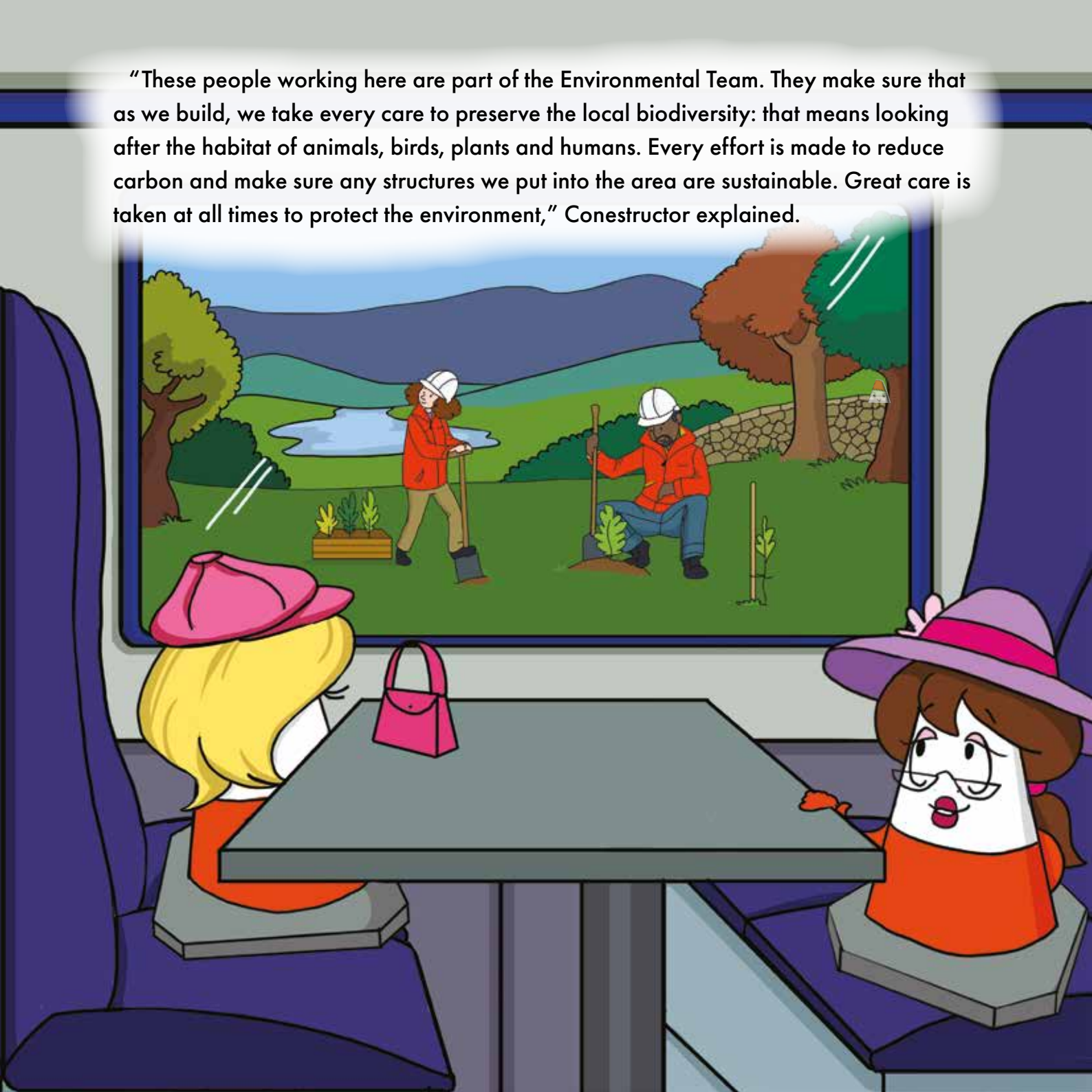
"I think I'd like to drive a big crane," Conen said. "I like big machinery."

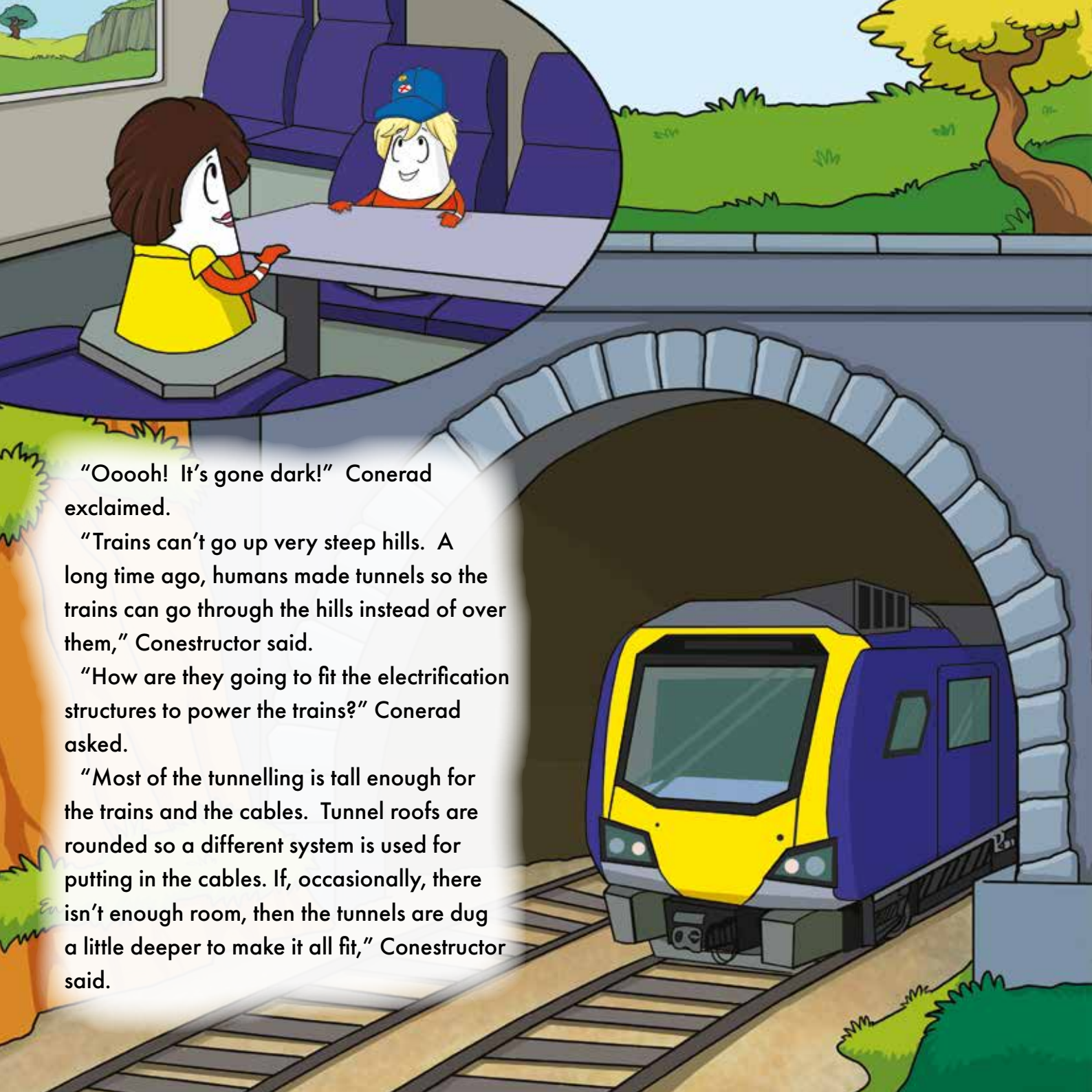
"Anyone wanting to drive a crane or any big machinery can be trained," Conestructor said.

"Hop onto this train – we'll go to Huddersfield." Conestructor said. They sat quietly, looking out of the window and enjoying the scenery.
"It's so pretty out there," Cone-Vera sighed.
"Yes, it is," Conestructor said. "While we are upgrading the route, we have to be very careful with the environment.



"These people working here are part of the Environmental Team. They make sure that as we build, we take every care to preserve the local biodiversity: that means looking after the habitat of animals, birds, plants and humans. Every effort is made to reduce carbon and make sure any structures we put into the area are sustainable. Great care is taken at all times to protect the environment," Conestructor explained.





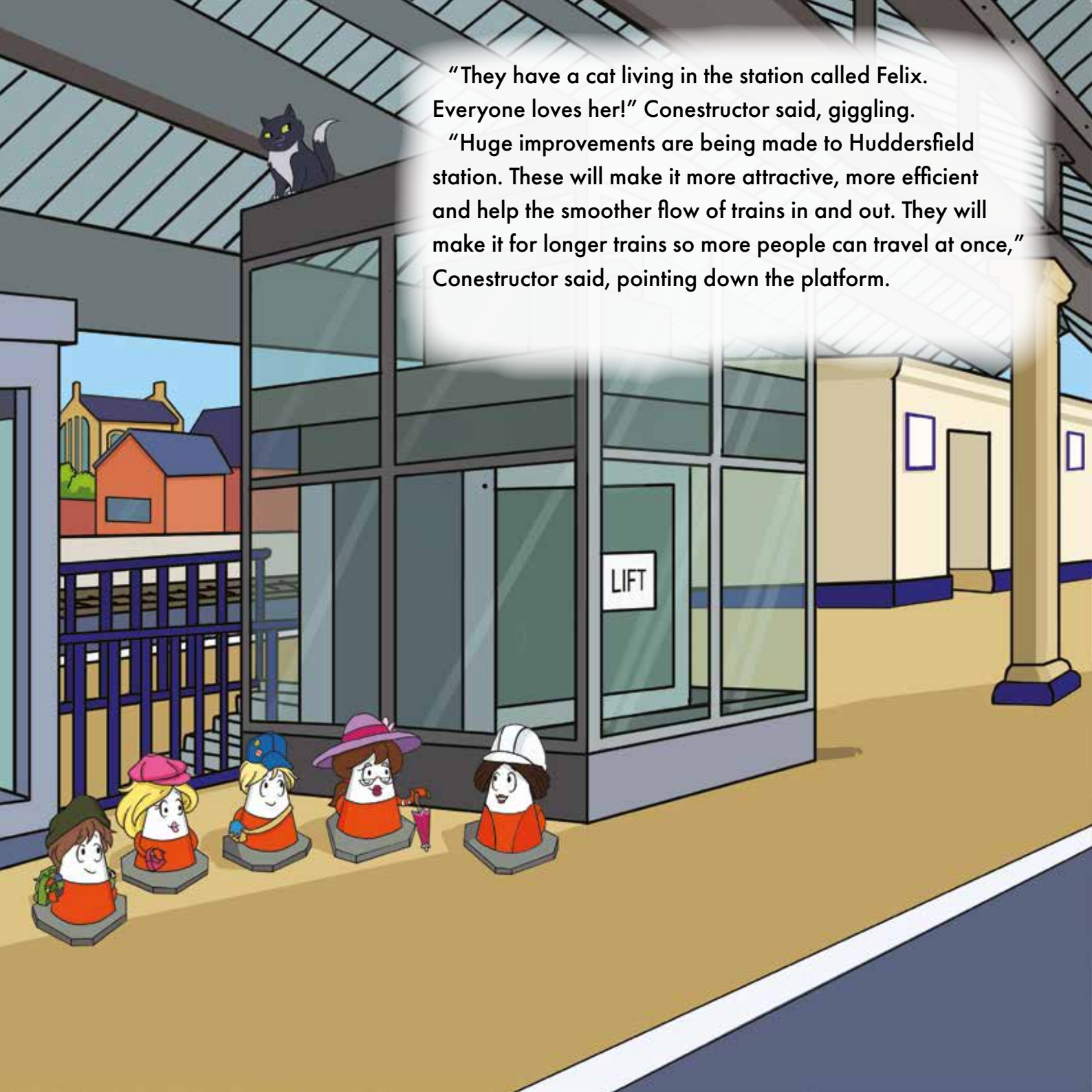
"Ooooh! It's gone dark!" Conerad exclaimed.

"Trains can't go up very steep hills. A long time ago, humans made tunnels so the trains can go through the hills instead of over them," Conestructor said.

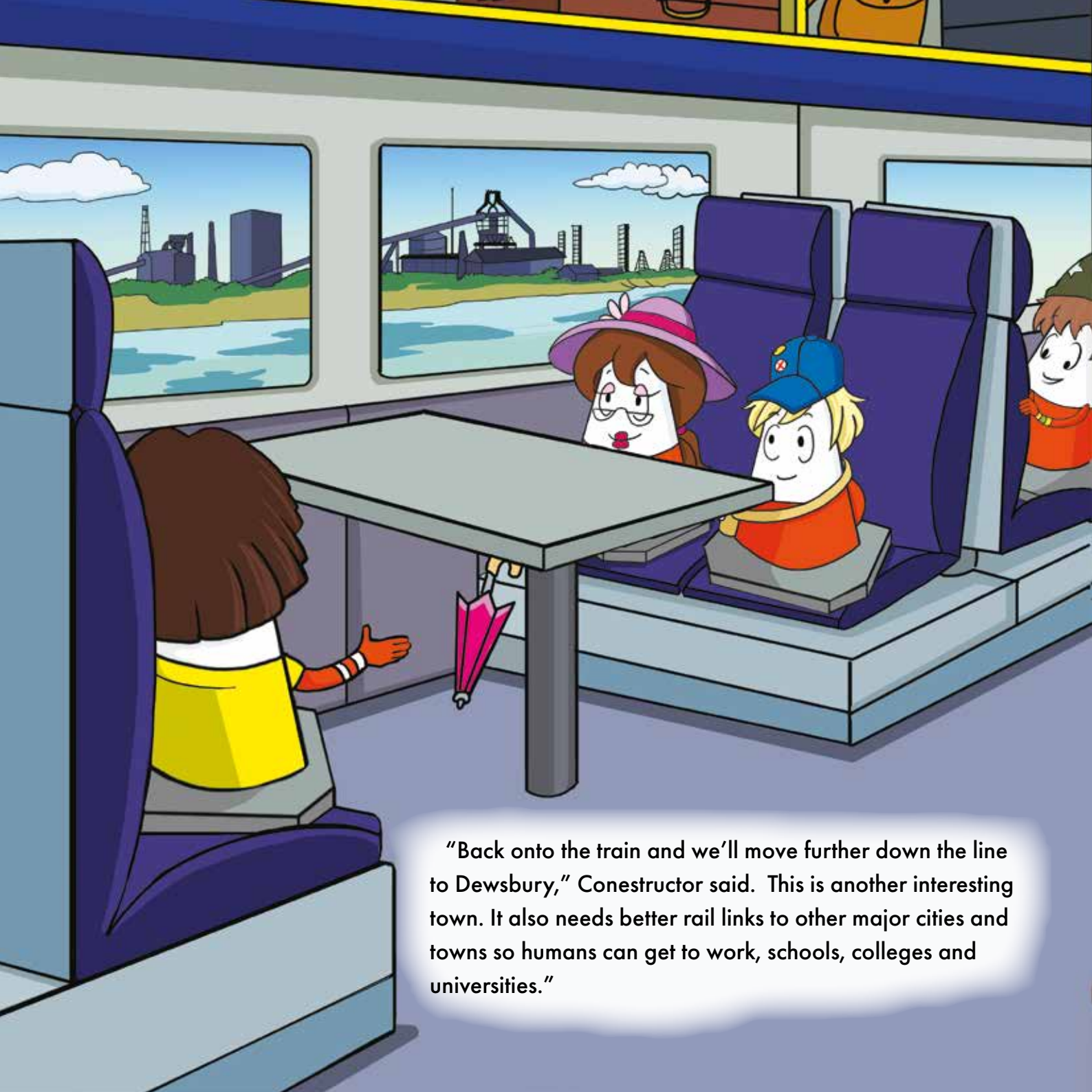
"How are they going to fit the electrification structures to power the trains?" Conerad asked.

"Most of the tunnelling is tall enough for the trains and the cables. Tunnel roofs are rounded so a different system is used for putting in the cables. If, occasionally, there isn't enough room, then the tunnels are dug a little deeper to make it all fit," Conestructor said.

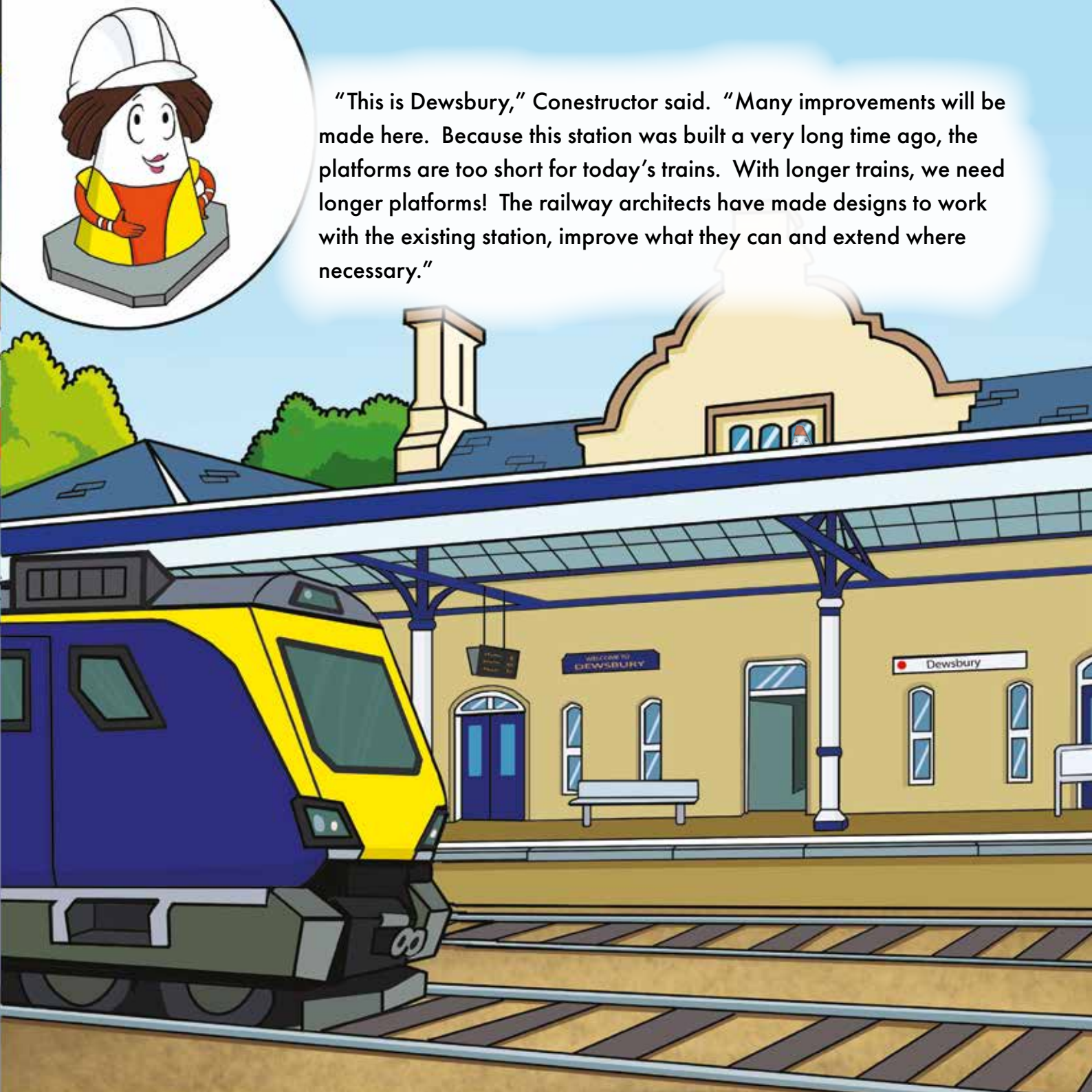
After a while, Conestructor said, "Here we are! Huddersfield station! This very old town has many historic buildings and has a beautiful station. The Environmental Team is working here too, to make sure the heritage is preserved. The outside of the station building is going to be kept and the inside is going to be changed to be easier to use."


"They have a cat living in the station called Felix. Everyone loves her!" Conestructor said, giggling.
"Huge improvements are being made to Huddersfield station. These will make it more attractive, more efficient and help the smoother flow of trains in and out. They will make it for longer trains so more people can travel at once," Conestructor said, pointing down the platform.
LIFT

"There will be a temporary station down the line as lots of work needs doing. During this time, some trains won't be able to stop at the original station. Buses will take passengers to the temporary station so they can go on their journeys," Conestructor explained. "We are straightening the track as much as possible so the trains can travel faster safely. Track will be removed and the track bed relayed. New 'sleepers,' these are the blocks of concrete the rails sit on, are then laid and secured. Rails will then be fastened on top of the sleepers. It is a very skilled job and so important for safe travel."



"Back onto the train and we'll move further down the line to Dewsbury," Conestructor said. This is another interesting town. It also needs better rail links to other major cities and towns so humans can get to work, schools, colleges and universities."


"This is Dewsbury," Conestructor said. "Many improvements will be made here. Because this station was built a very long time ago, the platforms are too short for today's trains. With longer trains, we need longer platforms! The railway architects have made designs to work with the existing station, improve what they can and extend where necessary."
WELCOME TO DEWSBURY
Dewsbury

"So what differences will be made?" Cone-Vera asked.

"The station is going to be remodelled. This will help the humans with buggies, luggage or wheelchairs, as they won't need to use the stairs". The platforms and their canopies will be extended too. Humans need to stay dry as they wait for their trains!" Conestructor chuckled.

"There's a lot of paint flaking off," Conen said, pointing.

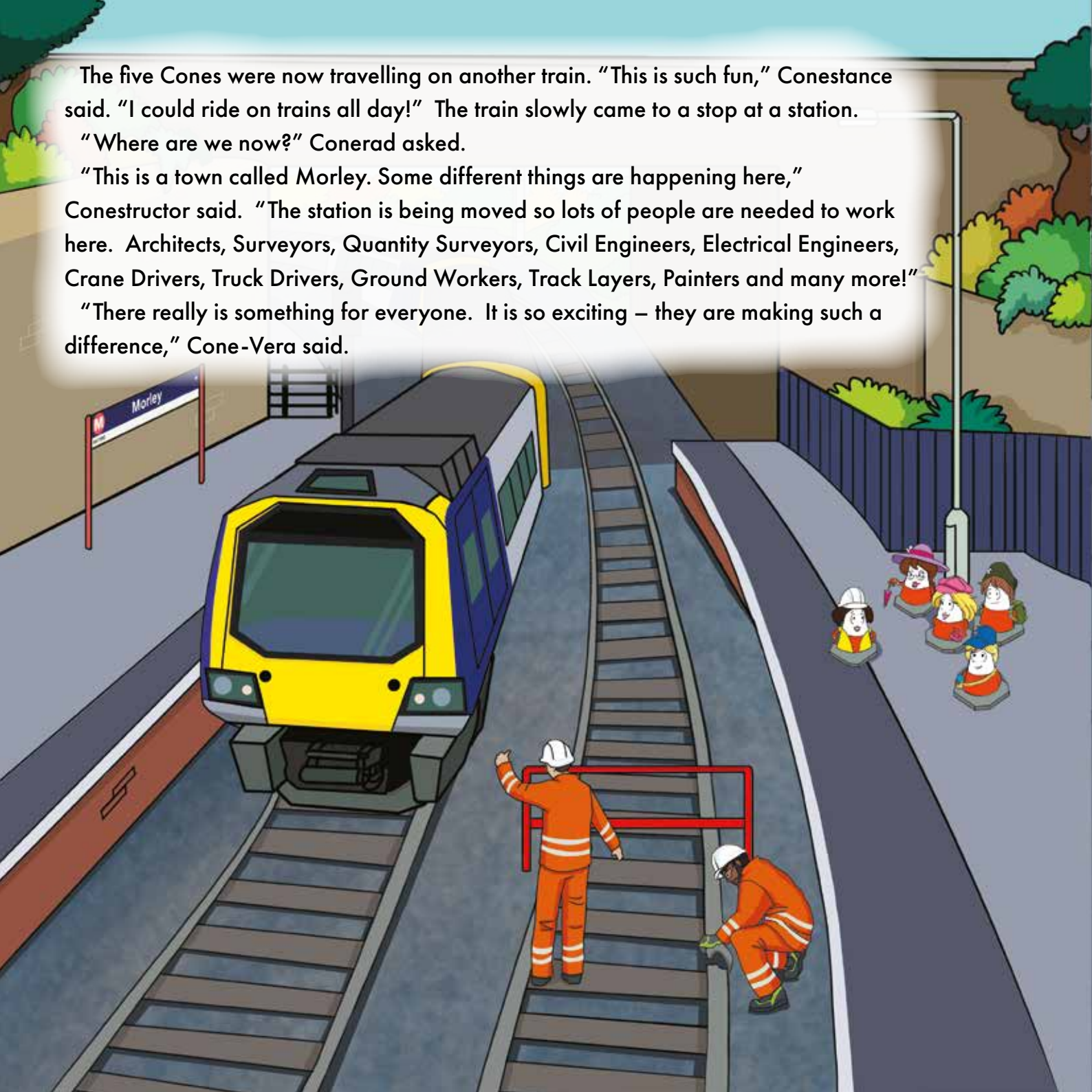
"All this will be re-painted – it will be so smart when it is finished. The station platforms will be tidied too, they'll look just like new! There is an old underground platform beneath this one which will be filled in to make it safe and tidy," Conestructor said. "This work costs a lot of money so we need someone to work out how much material we need so we can plan to pay for it. These people are called Quantity Surveyors. We also have workers called Accountants. They pay the bills as they come in and make budgets to make sure money isn't wasted."

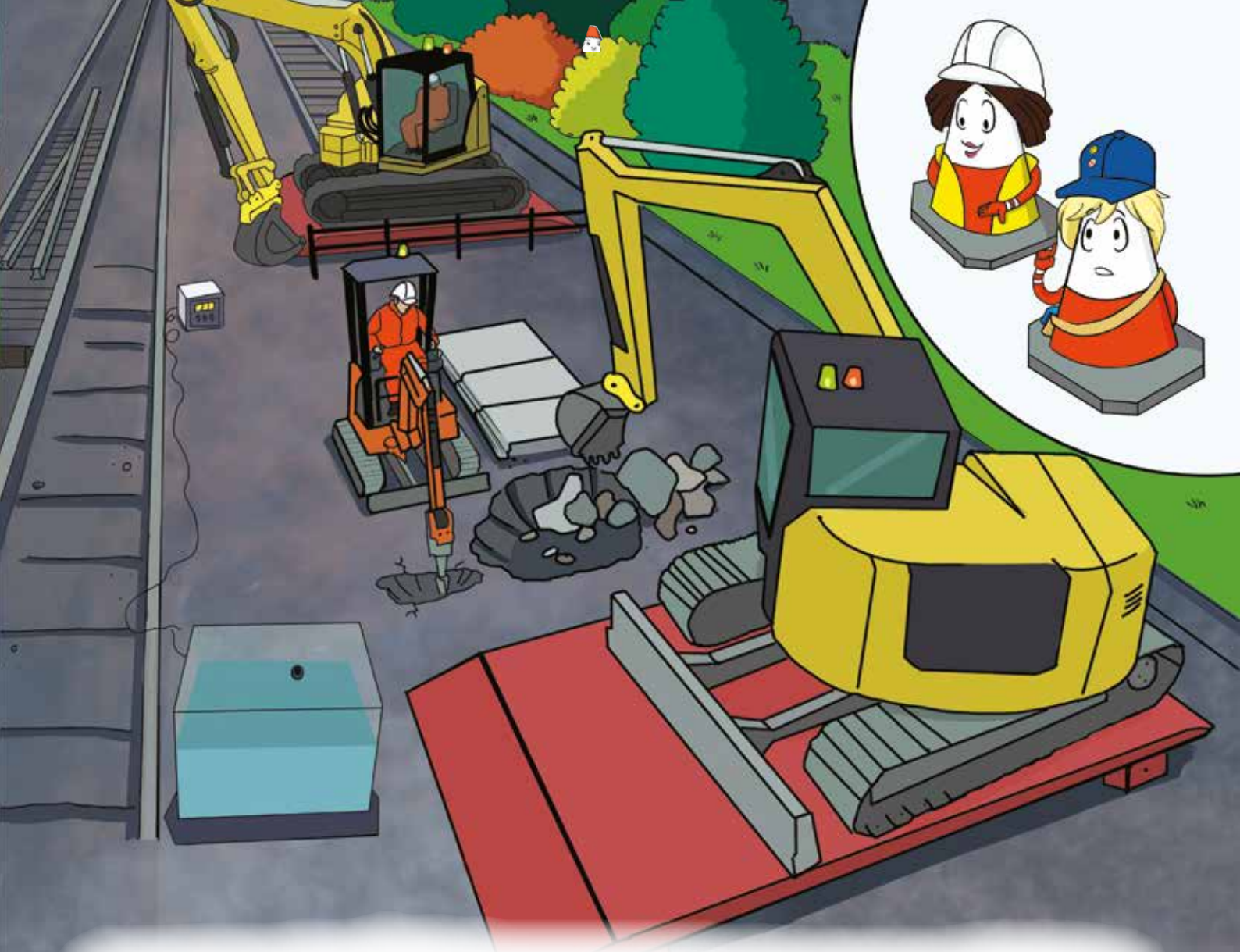
The five Cones were now travelling on another train. "This is such fun," Conestance said. "I could ride on trains all day!" The train slowly came to a stop at a station.

"Where are we now?" Conerad asked.

"This is a town called Morley. Some different things are happening here," Conestructor said. "The station is being moved so lots of people are needed to work here. Architects, Surveyors, Quantity Surveyors, Civil Engineers, Electrical Engineers, Crane Drivers, Truck Drivers, Ground Workers, Track Layers, Painters and many more!"

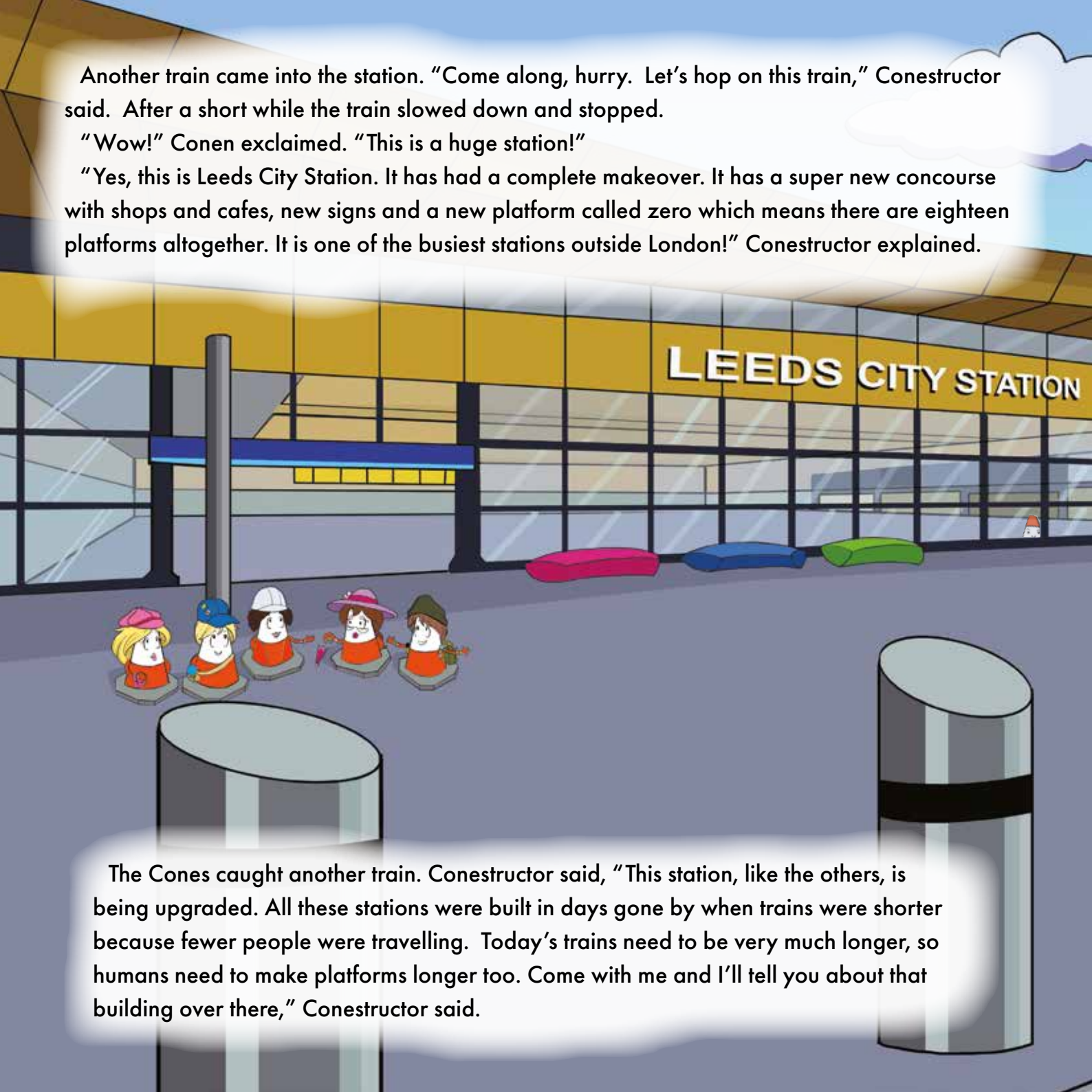
"There really is something for everyone. It is so exciting – they are making such a difference," Cone-Vera said.





"So, how do you move a station?" Conerad asked. "Aren't they a bit heavy to pick up?"

"No!" Conestructor laughed. "The location is being changed and the old station demolished. The new station is being built 75 metres from the tunnel. There will be longer platforms, waiting shelters and new lifts too. The humans do enjoy travelling by train and, to make sure everyone is safe, a new signalling system is being installed!"

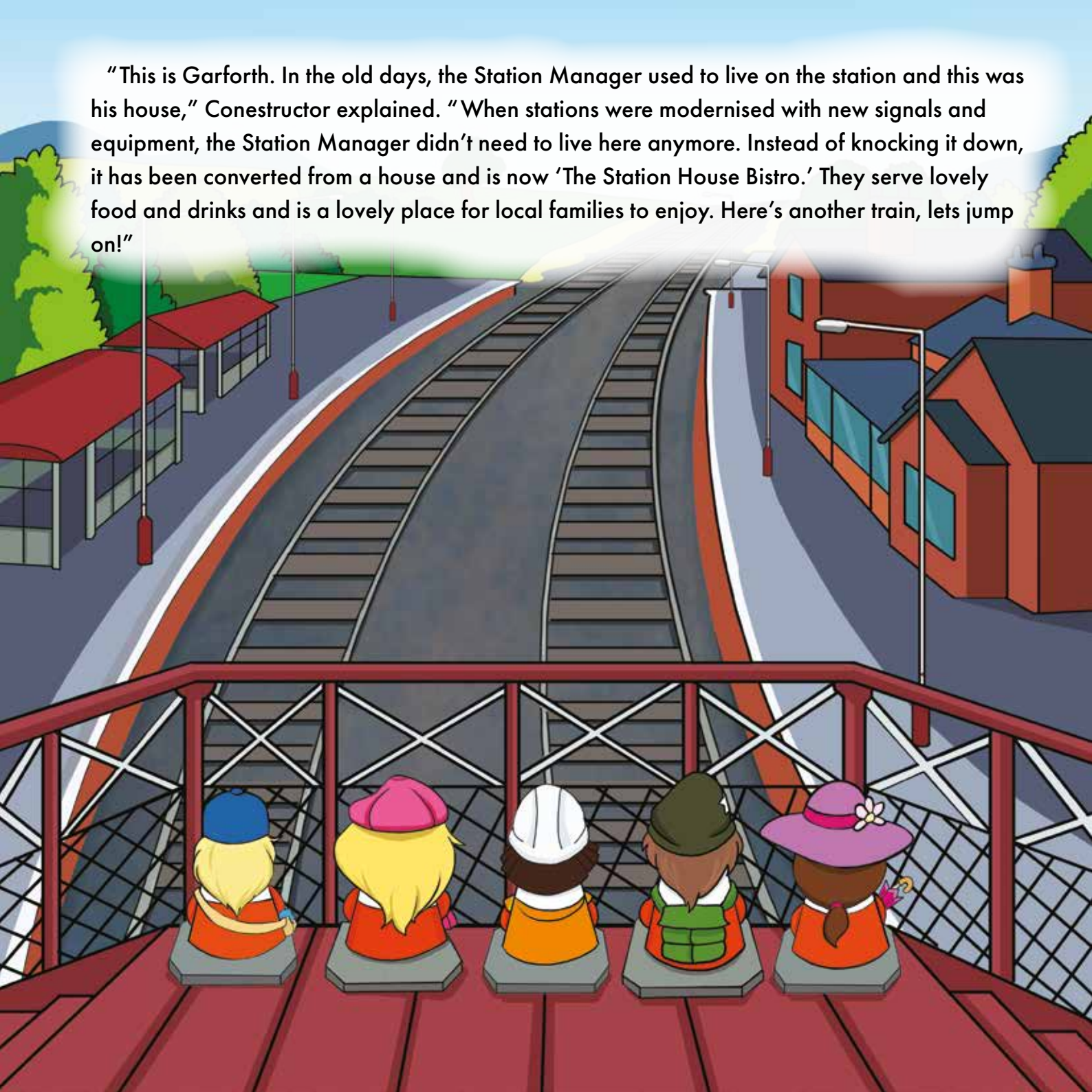


Another train came into the station. "Come along, hurry. Let's hop on this train," Conestructor said. After a short while the train slowed down and stopped.

"Wow!" Conen exclaimed. "This is a huge station!"

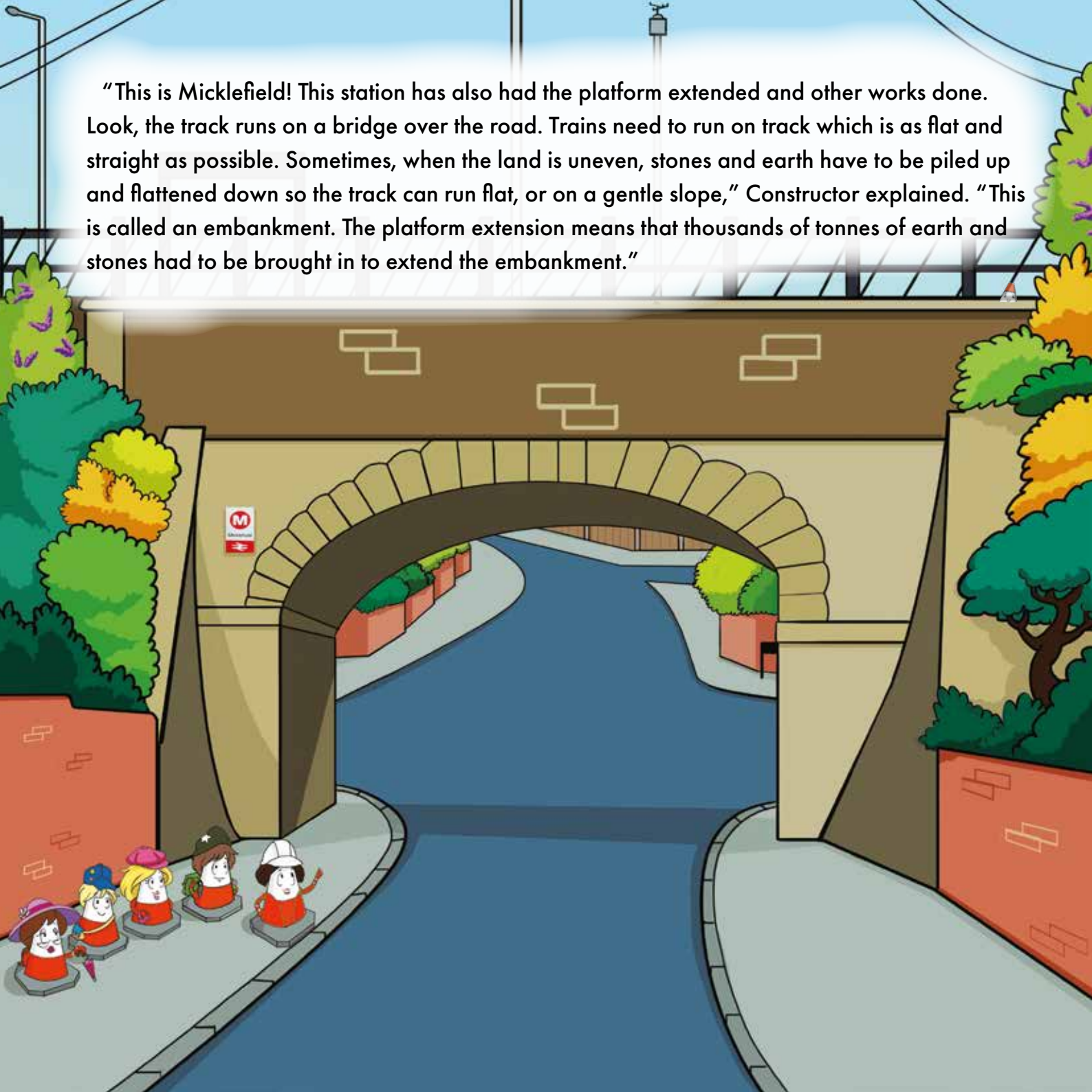
"Yes, this is Leeds City Station. It has had a complete makeover. It has a super new concourse with shops and cafes, new signs and a new platform called zero which means there are eighteen platforms altogether. It is one of the busiest stations outside London!" Conestructor explained.

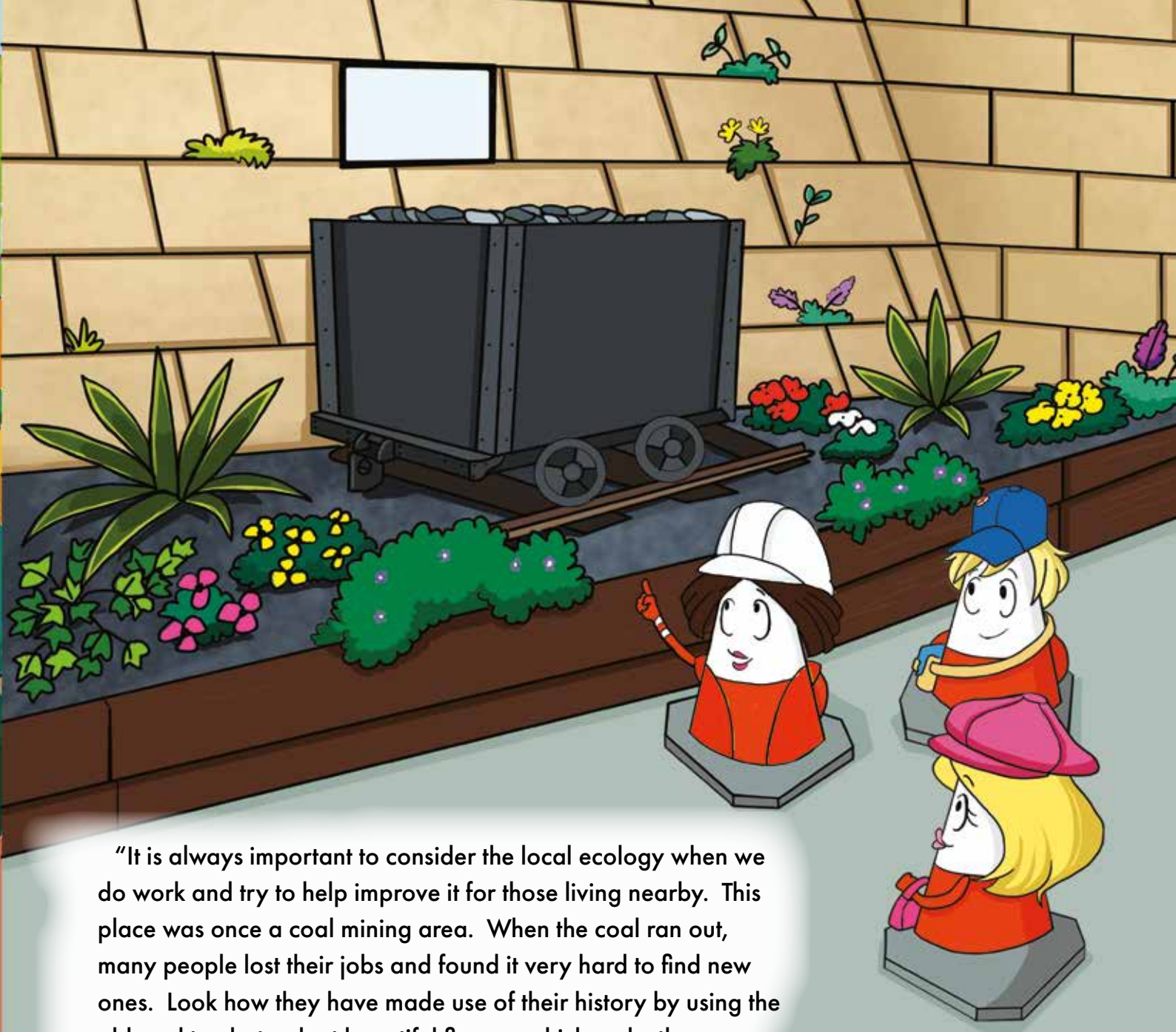
The Cones caught another train. Conestructor said, "This station, like the others, is being upgraded. All these stations were built in days gone by when trains were shorter because fewer people were travelling. Today's trains need to be very much longer, so humans need to make platforms longer too. Come with me and I'll tell you about that building over there," Conestructor said.



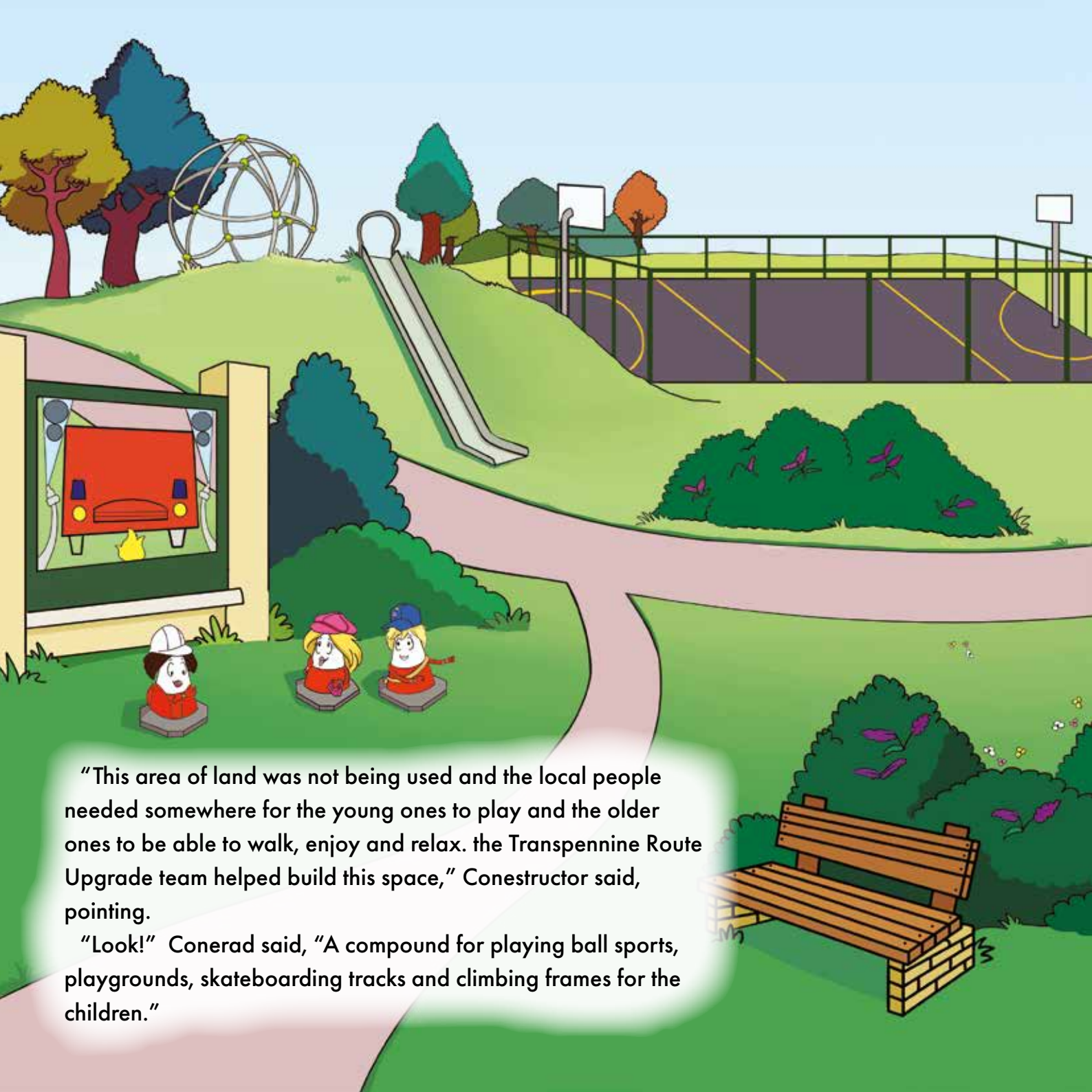
"This is Garforth. In the old days, the Station Manager used to live on the station and this was his house," Conestructor explained. "When stations were modernised with new signals and equipment, the Station Manager didn't need to live here anymore. Instead of knocking it down, it has been converted from a house and is now 'The Station House Bistro.' They serve lovely food and drinks and is a lovely place for local families to enjoy. Here's another train, lets jump on!"

"This is Micklefield! This station has also had the platform extended and other works done. Look, the track runs on a bridge over the road. Trains need to run on track which is as flat and straight as possible. Sometimes, when the land is uneven, stones and earth have to be piled up and flattened down so the track can run flat, or on a gentle slope," Constructor explained. "This is called an embankment. The platform extension means that thousands of tonnes of earth and stones had to be brought in to extend the embankment."





"It is always important to consider the local ecology when we do work and try to help improve it for those living nearby. This place was once a coal mining area. When the coal ran out, many people lost their jobs and found it very hard to find new ones. Look how they have made use of their history by using the old coal trucks to plant beautiful flowers which make the area look pretty!" Conestructor said, pointing.



"This area of land was not being used and the local people needed somewhere for the young ones to play and the older ones to be able to walk, enjoy and relax. the Transpennine Route Upgrade team helped build this space," Conestructor said, pointing.

"Look!" Conerad said, "A compound for playing ball sports, playgrounds, skateboarding tracks and climbing frames for the children."

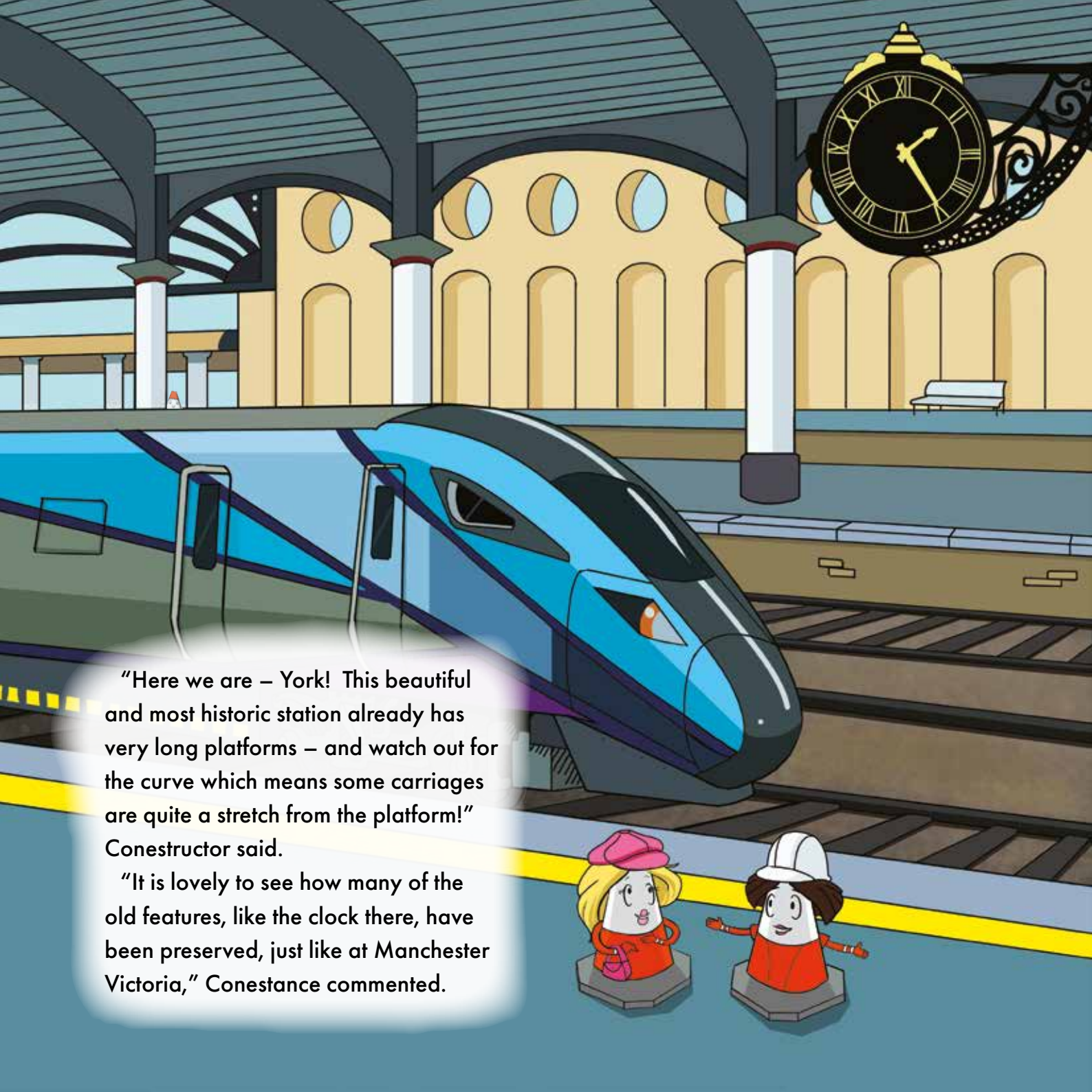
Conestance said, "There are lovely, interesting walks, places to sit and lots of wild flowers."

"Love it!" Cone-Vera said, flopping down by the wild flowers.

"I'm off to check out that skateboarding track – it looks ace!" Conen said.

"Time to catch the train to York." Conestructor said and they hurried up the steps to the platform.

"Who would have thought that so much work is involved in upgrading a train route," Cone-Vera panted as she collapsed onto a seat.


"Here we are – York! This beautiful and most historic station already has very long platforms – and watch out for the curve which means some carriages are quite a stretch from the platform!" Conestructor said.
"It is lovely to see how many of the old features, like the clock there, have been preserved, just like at Manchester Victoria," Conestance commented.

"Here are a few of the many different jobs there are for the humans to do." Constructor said. "There are also engineers, finance, project managers, communications, site managers, tree surgeons and many more different jobs – there's something for everyone!"

Carpenter

Concrete Layer

Track Surveyor

Planner

Community Engagement

Ecologist

"Time to go to sleep, everyone," Cone-Vera said. Thank you for a great day, Conestructor."

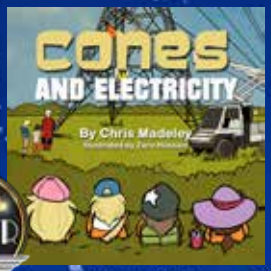
Police Car stopped at the side of the Cones with Wise Owl perched on his blue lights. "Our Cones have had a great adventure today learning about upgrading this important rail route. No wonder they are so tired!" Police Car purred softly.

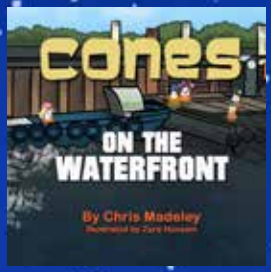
"Twooohooo Troohooo," hooted Wise Owl and flew off into the dark. New Moon came slowly across the night sky, dropping Magic Moondust on the Cones as they slept.

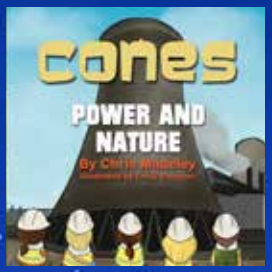
Good night, Cones, see you again soon.

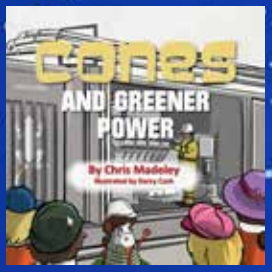
TRANSPENNINE
ROUTE UPGRADE

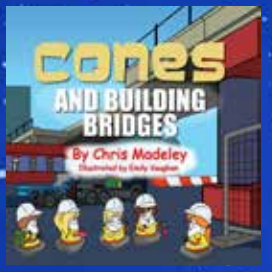
With thanks to **BAM Nuttall, Amey, Arup, Siemens, Network Rail, Volker Rail, Murphys and Systra**, *for their support in the creation of this story.*

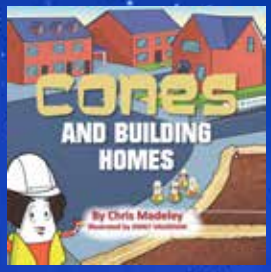


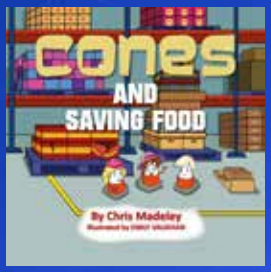


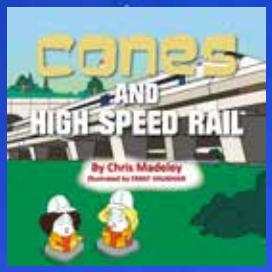












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