

RIDE THE L

Data Centers #5 · A Channel 5 Kids Adventure
with Lena Ashgrove and the Infrastructure Guard



CREDITS

Ride the L · Data Centers #5 · Kids edition (ages 6–9)

Story and production: GOTB Consulting, Chicago

Starring Lena Ashgrove, Gridline, Commons and Undertow

AI-GENERATED ART, FICTIONAL CHARACTERS

All characters, the town of Prairie Bend and Channel 5 are fictional. Any resemblance to real people is a coincidence. No real logos are shown.

Facts in this book were checked against public sources before printing.

Train safety: stay behind the yellow line, never go on the tracks, and hold a grown-up's hand on the platform!

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MEET YOUR GUIDES



**LENA
ASHGROVE**

Channel 5 host. She asks the big questions.



GRIDLINE

Keeps the power moving.



UNDERTOW

Water hero. Knows every tunnel.



COMMONS

Public works boss. Lantern up!



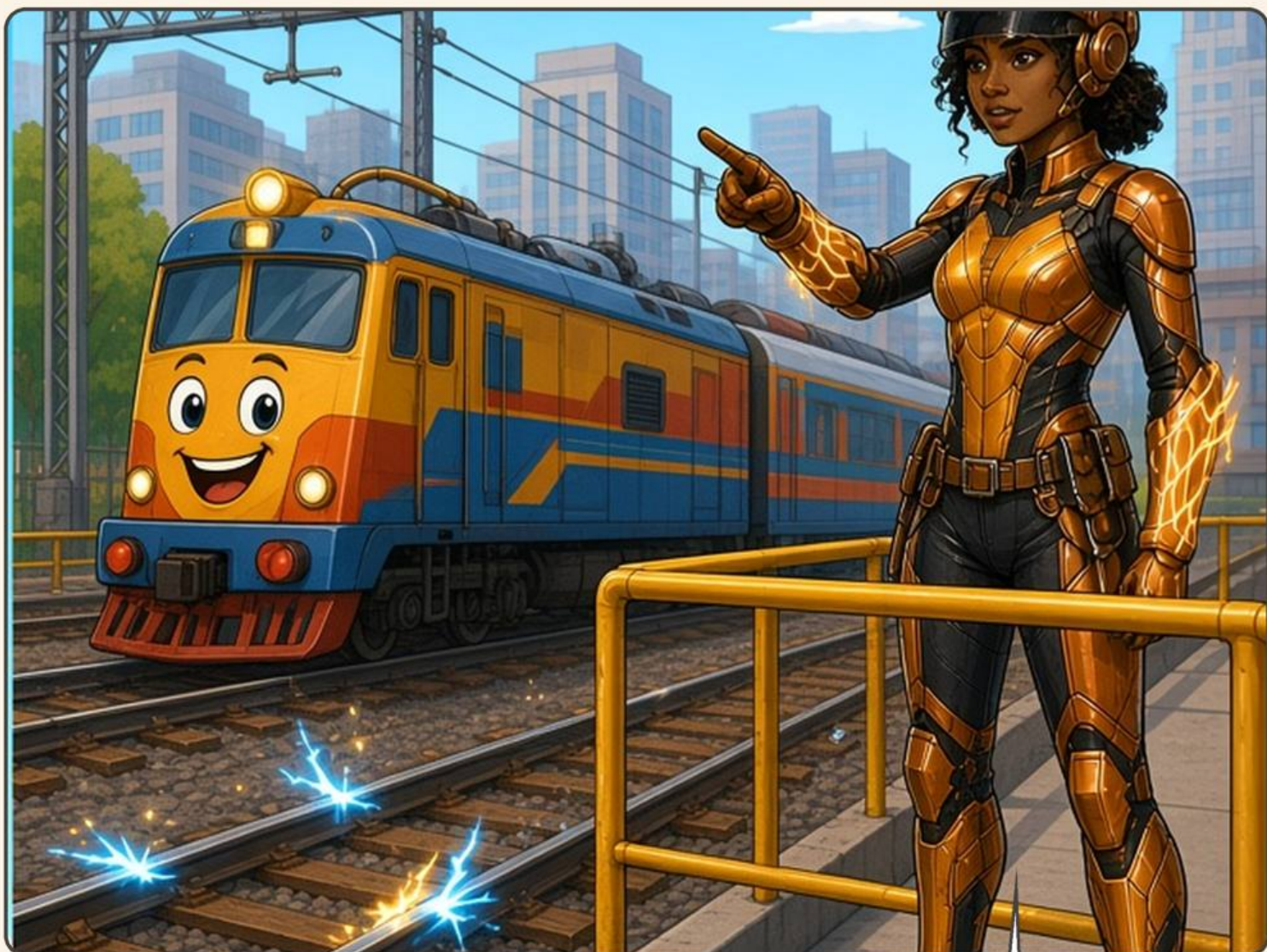
LENA

NEW ADVENTURE! WE'LL FOLLOW HOW PEOPLE
AND DATA MOVE. FIRST STOP: CHICAGO'S
TRAINS, THE L!



oo

It's called the L because many tracks are elevated, up high above the street.



GRIDLINE

L TRAINS RUN ON ELECTRICITY FROM A
SPECIAL THIRD RAIL. IT'S SUPER DANGEROUS,
SO NEVER GO ON THE TRACKS!



LENA

VERIFIED

THE L HAS 8 LINES, 146 STATIONS AND 1,660
RAIL CARS!



COMMONS

ON A NORMAL WEEKDAY, ABOUT 421,000 RIDES
HAPPEN ON THE TRAINS!



LENA

BUSES HELP TOO: MORE THAN 2,000 BUSES
AND OVER 10,000 BUS STOPS!



Chicago's first L line opened in 1892, more than 130 years ago!



UNDERTOW

SOME L TRAINS GO UNDERGROUND IN
SUBWAYS. THE FIRST ONE OPENED IN 1943!



LENA

THE BLUE LINE GOES TO THE BIG AIRPORT.
THE ORANGE LINE GOES TO THE CITY'S OTHER
AIRPORT. NEXT TIME: AIRPORTS!



COMMONS

THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE KEEP IT RUNNING:
DRIVERS, MECHANICS AND TRACK CREWS, DAY
AND NIGHT.



LENA

REPORTED

NEIGHBORS ASK GOOD QUESTIONS ABOUT
TRAINS AND BUSES. GOOD QUESTIONS MAKE
GOOD PLANS.



LENA

ALL ABOARD! THANKS FOR RIDING THE L WITH
CHANNEL 5!

Made with GOTB Consulting, who help plan the power, water and public works behind places like this.

WORDS TO KNOW

THE L

Chicago's trains. Many tracks are up high, or elevated.

ELEVATED

Built up high, above the street.

SUBWAY

A train that runs in a tunnel underground.

THIRD RAIL

A powered rail. Very dangerous. Never touch!

PLATFORM

Where you wait for the train.

STATION

A stop where people get on and off.

TRACK CREW

Workers who fix the tracks.

TOWN HALL

A meeting where neighbors share ideas.

HOW A TRAIN RIDE WORKS

Trace the path with your finger, from start to finish.

POWER

Electricity flows to the tracks.



STATION

You wait behind the yellow line.



BOARD

Step in carefully. Mind the gap!



RIDE

Up high, at street level or underground.



CREWS

Workers keep it safe day and night.



ARRIVE

Off you go: school, work or the airport!

WORD SEARCH

Find these words. They go across, down, or slanted.

M	L	M	G	T	O	M	W	B	A	I	T
H	A	H	T	F	R	A	W	U	C	D	D
Y	N	S	U	B	W	A	Y	S	R	F	A
E	T	Y	P	U	U	A	C	W	I	O	R
F	E	S	J	S	O	M	B	K	D	Y	M
R	R	T	U	I	S	R	F	K	E	U	P
J	N	A	R	P	W	D	L	S	M	C	U
S	T	L	I	A	O	W	C	M	A	A	O
U	T	V	O	L	I	D	H	R	P	Y	L
W	S	O	F	O	D	N	H	Y	E	J	D
H	N	B	P	N	L	O	S	Y	A	W	F
U	Y	D	P	K	R	D	Y	R	H	W	S

TRAIN

TRACK

RAIL

BUS

STOP

SUBWAY

RIDE

CREW

MAP

LANTERN

QUICK QUIZ

Circle the best answer!

1. Why is it called the L?

Tracks are elevated

It is long

2. What powers L trains?

Electricity

Gasoline

3. Where should you stand?

Behind the yellow line

On the tracks

4. When did the first L line open?

1892

2020

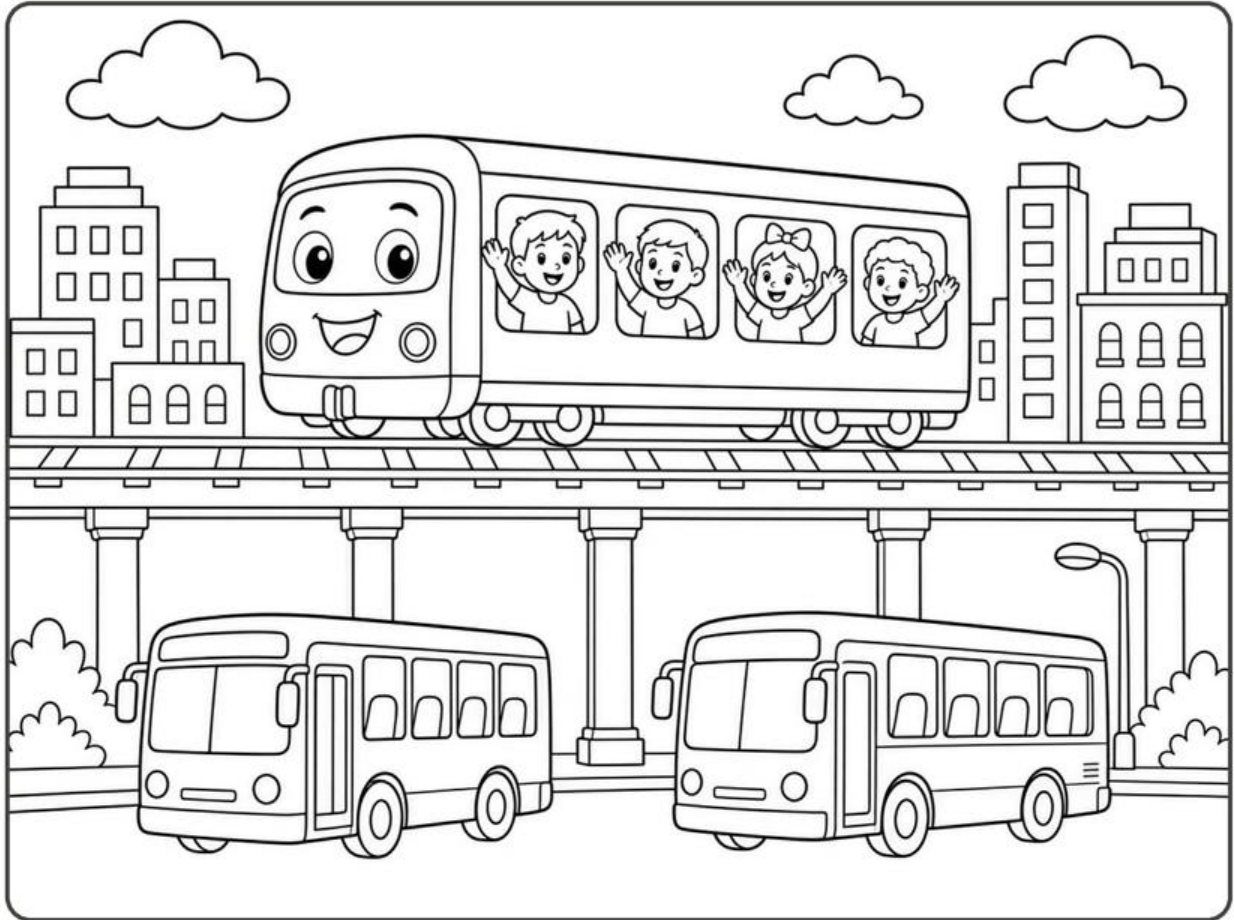
5. Who keeps the trains running?

Thousands of workers

Robots only

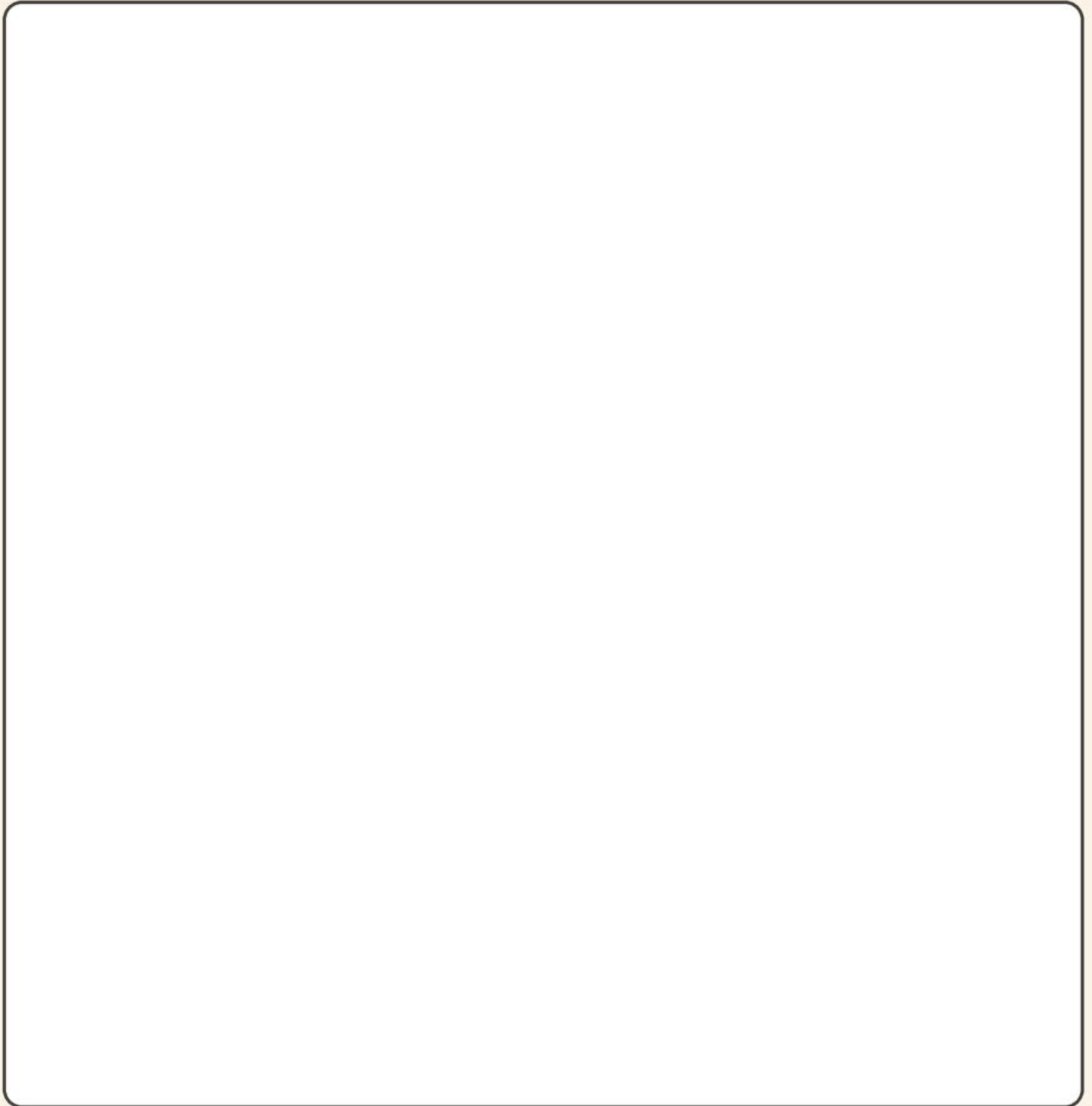
Answers: 1 tracks are elevated · 2 electricity · 3 behind the yellow line · 4 1892 · 5 thousands of workers

COLOR THE L TRAIN



DESIGN YOUR TRAIN

Draw a train for your city!



My train goes to: _____

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

Questions to share with a grown-up

HAVE YOU EVER RIDDEN A TRAIN OR BUS?
WHERE DID YOU GO?

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO STAY OFF THE
TRACKS?

WHO DO YOU THINK WORKS ON THE TRAINS
AT NIGHT?

WHAT WOULD MAKE TRAINS BETTER IN YOUR
TOWN?

ABOUT GOTB CONSULTING

GOTB Consulting is a Chicago team that helps plan the big systems towns depend on.

We work on four things you saw in this book:

DATA CENTERS

Where the cloud lives

POWER

Electricity for homes and buildings

WATER

Clean water and smart cooling

PUBLIC WORKS

Roads, pipes and places for people

THE END!



THANKS FOR RIDING WITH US!

Next time: more adventures with the Infrastructure Guard!

GOTB CONSULTING • CHICAGO

Data centers • Power • Water • Public works

AI-generated art, fictional characters