The Train with an Extra Stop



A kind driver changes the journey.

A short story to enjoy together

The Train with an Extra Stop

Mei lined up four cushions on the rug. She placed a toy rabbit on the first, a penguin on the second, and an elephant on the third.

Bear sat beside her at the front.

"All aboard," Mei called. "Next stop, the mountains!"

She made a chuffing sound and rocked gently from side to side. The passengers rocked too. Rabbit leaned against Penguin. Elephant's trunk pointed towards the sofa.

"We are going through a tunnel," Mei announced.

She closed her eyes for one breath, then opened them wide.

"Sunshine again!"

But Bear had slipped sideways. His soft head rested on her arm. His little paws lay still in his lap.

Mei listened close to his nose.

"Snoring," she whispered.

The mountains were a long way away. So was the pretend seaside, where she had planned to stop for lunch.

Mei looked around the room. Beside the bookcase stood an empty basket with a folded blanket inside.

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She made a gentle bell sound.

"New stop. Sleepy Bear Station."

The train slowed down. Chuff, chuff, shhh.

Mei carried Bear to the basket and tucked the blanket around him. She placed a small cushion beneath his head.

"You can travel later," she told him.

Back on the train, Rabbit was waiting. Penguin was waiting. Elephant looked ready for a snack.

Mei picked up the pretend steering wheel.

"Thank you for waiting, passengers. Next stop, the mountains."

Then she changed her mind.

"First, we will pass very quietly through the valley. Someone important is sleeping nearby."

The little train set off with its softest chuff.

THE END

LET'S TALK

Why did Mei add a stop? When could changing your plan help someone else?

Original story and illustration created with AI assistance. MimoMango, 2026.