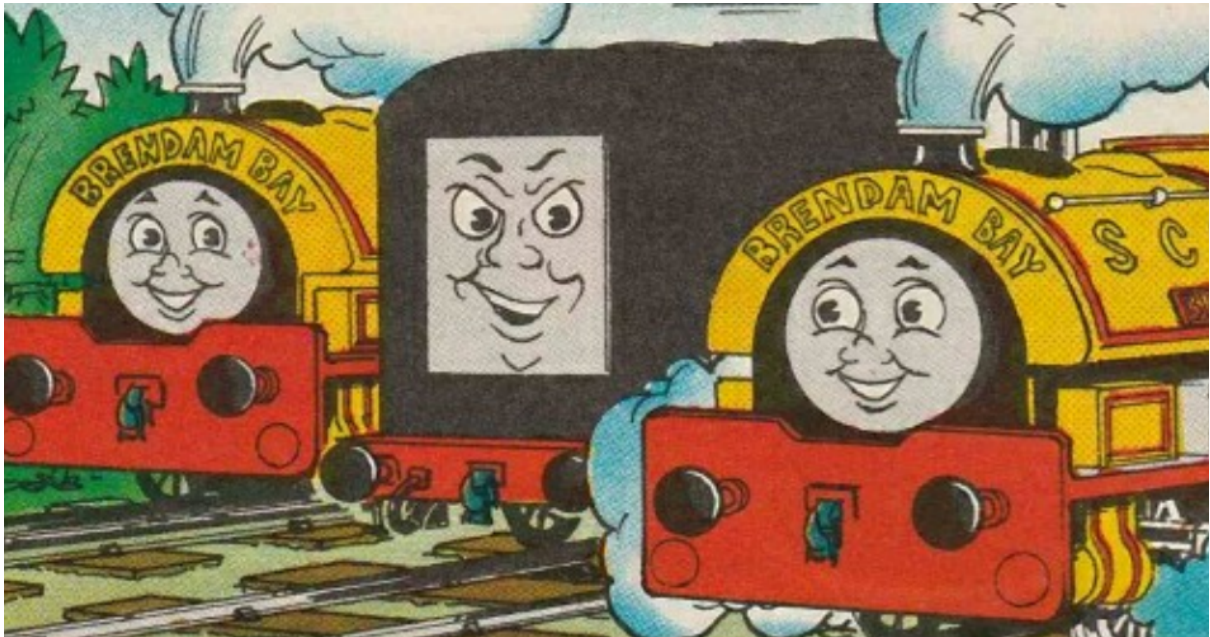


Dockside Diesel

Written By FamousEngines



Diesel had been sent to work at the Harbour Yard. The other engines were not happy. "Take care with Diesel," BoCo warned Bill and Ben, "He's trickier than the pair of you. Don't let him get up to his usual nonsense." "Trickier than us?" laughed Bill. "We'll get the best of him easily!" giggled Ben.

But no matter what the twins tried, Diesel seemed to know every trick in the book. The twins quickly grew frustrated whilst Diesel grew ever devious. "Little steamies like you should be neither seen nor heard," he jeered one morning as the twins brought some clay wagons. "We can do what we like, where we like," retorted Bill and he blew his whistle loudly.

Diesel just cackled; "Call that a noise? That's nothing like my horn," and he gave a sharp blast of his horn. "That's hardly an improvement," sniffed Ben. "The ships all make louder sounds than you," echoed Bill. Diesel was cross; "I'm better than silly ships! I'm a proper machine!" The twins just laughed as they rolled away. Diesel was annoyed.

For the rest of the day, whenever he saw the twins, Diesel would blow his horn loudly. But the little engines took no notice. Diesel grew crosser and crosser; whilst Bill and Ben grew cheekier and cheekier.

Next morning the tank engine twins were shunting trucks on the quay when Diesel oiled alongside. As he did he heard the hoot of a tugboat nearby.

“Think that’s a proper noise?” Diesel jeered, “Just listen to this!”

And he blew his horn with all his might! It echoed all around. It was such a noise the nearby crane swung around suddenly, dropping its cargo!

CRASH!

A crate of flour was upset all over Diesel!

Bill and Ben roared with laughter; “Is that a ‘proper machine’ or an iced bun?!” they guffawed.

Diesel, who had quite had enough of loud noises for one day, scuttled away without another word!

The End