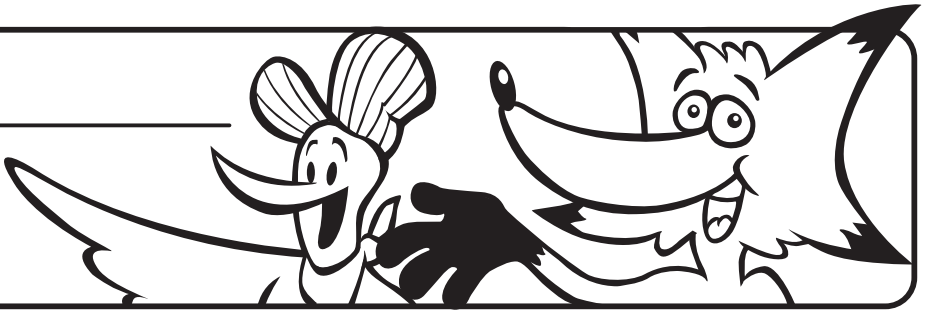




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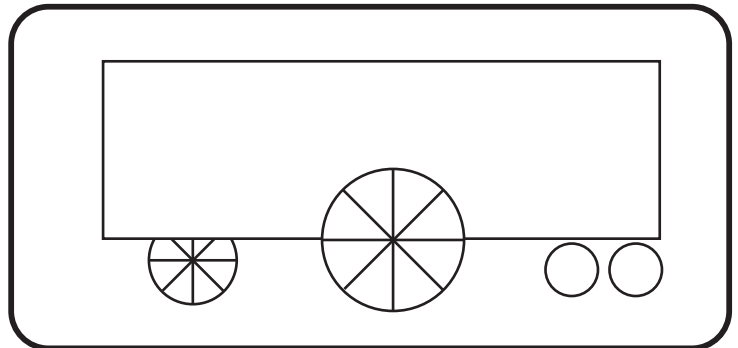
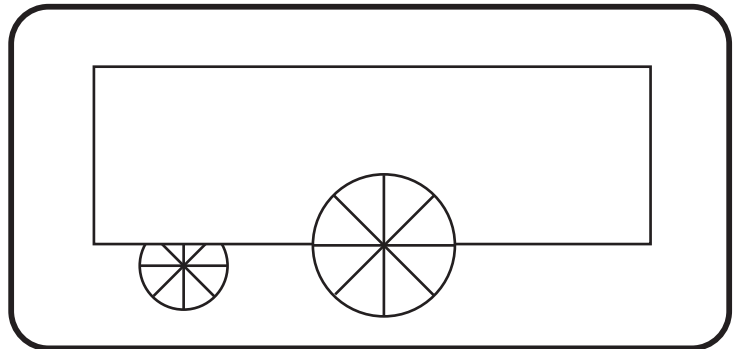
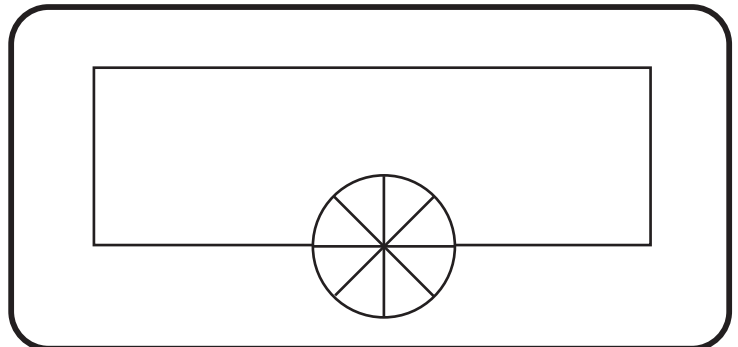
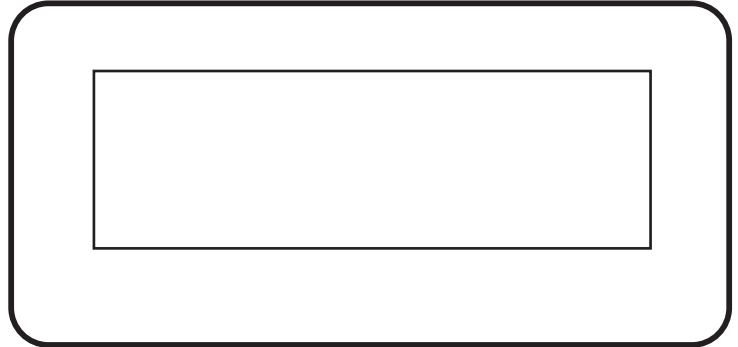
The Picnic Lesson

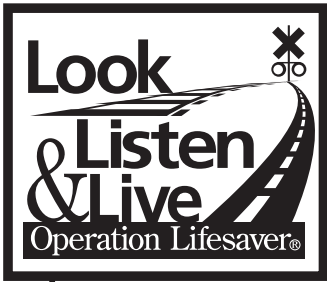
Amy and Todd's families were going on a picnic together. Amy and Todd were in the same Kindergarten class at school and their families had been friends since they were babies. At the park they got to choose the **PICNIC TABLE**. They chose the one next to the pond. Across from the pond were railroad tracks and next to the pond were a set of swings and a slide.

While their parents were getting the picnic ready Todd wanted to play with the ball. Todd threw it to Amy. It hit the edge of the picnic table and the wind took it sailing into the pond. They both went running down to the pond's edge, but they knew they could not go in after the ball. It was too dangerous.

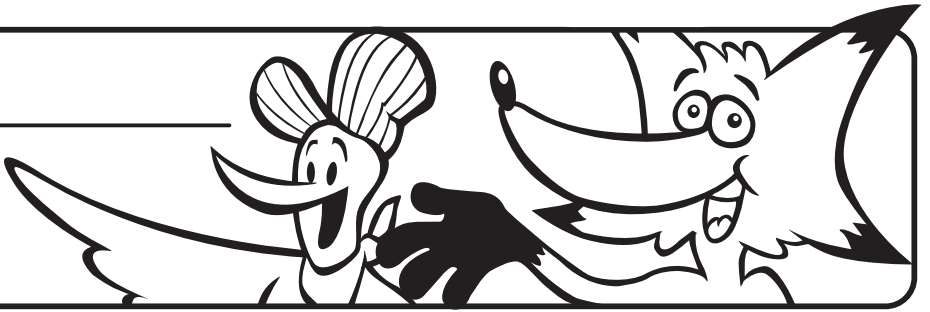
Their dads had seen what had happened and came running down to the pond. They saw the beach ball going farther and farther out to the middle. Todd was very upset. The beach ball had been a present from his grandparents who lived far away. Todd watched the ball drift towards the center, but it was a windy day and the ball kept drifting until it reached the other side by the railroad tracks. Todd's father ran over to get the ball and Amy and Todd decided to keep it safely **HIDDEN** beneath the heavy picnic table so the wind would not take it again.

Amy and Todd decided it would be best to play with the **TENNIS BALLS** instead. They had each brought one with them and they were heavier than the beach ball and wouldn't be carried away by the wind. They wanted to take the balls over to the tracks and bounce them between the tracks. Amy's father saw them going towards the tracks and yelled to them that they were too close to the tracks and they had to play far away from them. "But we just wanted to bounce the ball between the rails," said Amy. "You can't play on the tracks Amy," explained her father, "it's too dangerous to play on the tracks and besides it's against the law. The tracks are for trains only, not people." To get them to come back to the picnic, he said. "We are just about ready to put our dinner in the smoker. Why don't you come and help us?"





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Todd and Amy loved to help pick up sticks to keep the fire under the **SMOKER** going. Their dinners were wrapped in foil and all ready to put in the tall **SMOKER** to cook.

The wind was still blowing hard and it made the **SMOKE** blow over by the picnic table. Their mothers said at least it would keep the bugs away from their food. At last their dinner was ready and they all sat around the table to eat.

For dessert, Amy's mom had made peanut butter chocolate **PIE**. It was Amy and Todd's favorite kind of pie and they each had a huge piece. Just as they were finishing their pie, they heard a loud whistle.

They turned and looked. There was a huge train coming down the **TRACKS** through the park. Everything around the train looked so small. "Wow Dad!" said Amy, "I never knew trains were so big. No wonder you didn't want us playing near the tracks."

So, Amy and Todd learned a lot that day, and they want you to remember:

We need trains to carry things that we use every day across the country and we also need trains to carry people around the country. But, trains are very large and we need to be very careful when we are around them. A train cannot stop quickly because it is so large. Even if the **ENGINEER** sees you, he cannot stop the train quickly if you are in the way of the train.

Always play away from railroad tracks and be careful when you're around them!

