

# Thomas and the secret message

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*My first story!*

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# 1 - The secret Language

It was a lovely summer's day on the Island of Sodor. The Birds were Singing, the Sun was shining, It was a perfect day!

Thomas was having fun on his Branch line, pulling His faithful coaches, Annie and Clarabel, Backwards and Forwards along his branch line. His Friend Percy was taking some freight up and down the same line. The two engines were happy and content working on their Branch line. So were the other two engines, Toby and Daisy.

At the Loop at the middle station, Thomas had to be driven onto the other line to let Percy pass. Percy was pulling Oil wagons to take them to the oil rig on the other side of the line. However, He had to be stopped by thomas who had noticed that a piece of Paper had drifted onto the track.

"Stop!" Yelled thomas. "There's Some Paper on the line!"

Percy's Brakes were Applied, and He stopped just in front of the paper.

"Isn't This a bit silly?" He asked Thomas. "It's just Some old Piece of Paper, with mold around the edges!"

"I want to know what it says! It could be a letter for Me that got lost In the Post!"

His Driver clambered down, and picked the piece of paper up.

"I can't read it!" He said. "It's in a different language!"

He showed it to Thomas. Thomas read it loud and clear.

"emn izd morn omfigus pumnijos jumni inmu j lkangf qdsv prdn nooi most gumf!"

Thomas was puzzled.

"Hmm. That can only be one language! French!"

It was good luck for Thomas that no. 230 D116 from the Nene Valley Railway Was visiting Sodor. He used to live in France, and should remember most of the language.

Thomas showed the large black engine the piece of paper with the writing. 230 D116 eyed the paper doubtfully

"Ah Cannot read Zis! Eet eez gibberish! Eet eez not French at all!"

"But... What other language could it be?" Asked Thomas to 230 D116.

"Ah du not know, but Ah can Speak French, English and German, and Ah can tell yu zat eet eez not any of zem!"

"Where Did you learn German?"

"Un of ma friends at ze Nene valley railway taught me. He eez German. Ah learnt english from Your twin brotherre, no. dix-huit-cent!"

"What's his name?"

"Thomas!"

"Hmm... and hes 1799 times better than me you say?"

"Oui!"

"I'll give him a piece of my mind when I get to the Nene Valley Railway!"

"Everyone at Wansford thinkz he's you!"

"Well, See you, 230 D116."

"Auvoir!"

Thomas went back to His branch line. He Started thinking dark thoughts about languages, and why didn't everyone in the world use the same language, and why are engines from the mainland so stupid. His Driver Told Thomas that It was Probably An Aincient Language from Before The Fat Controller was born.

"Before the fat controller was born? THE FAT CONTROLLER? Now that is something!"

"What's Ancient?" He added.

"Ancient means that It was a long time ago, before the year zero."

"I thought the Universe started in the year zero!"

"No, Thomas. The year zero was when Jesus was born. His parents couldn't have been born in the year zero or they'd be too young to be parents! Besides, Think about Dinasours, and The fiery explosions before life began. The first life ever was bacteria, that formed a substance called algae, which produced Oxygen that made the sky and the sea blue!"

"Wow! Said Thomas. If it wasn't for bacteria, My branch line wouldn't be as picturesque without its nice blue sky!"

"If it wasn't for bacteria you wouldn't **exist!** The air was filled with poisoness gases before bacteria, and

we humans wouldn't be able to breath and we'd immediately die. That means we wouldn't be able to build engines or railways."

Thomas had been put to sleep with boredom. Now he couldn't stop! His driver applied the brakes, but it was too late, and thomas derailed on a nasty curve.

## 2 - Another Discovery

Thomas had derailed and his front was dirty. Duck came along with Rocky, the breakdown crane. Thomas was gently Lifted onto the truck that was coupled to rocky, where they examined him. After he was cleaned, They were able to see if he was hurt. He was a bit shaken up, but there was No damage, and he was able to be put back onto the rails and couple back up to Annie and Clarabel. Thomas backed down on his coaches and set off, and he thanked Rocky and the workmen for rerailing him.

"That was *your* fault, Driver!" Said Thomas. "Fireman, Make Sure He doesn't yabber on about ancient history anymore!"

"Hoi!" Said the Driver. "I could work In a museum If I wanted to. I've got a degree in History and could write a book about the history of history!"

"Quiet!" Said The fireman. "Thomas told me to make sure you didn't yabber on!"

"What we have to find out," Said Thomas the tank engine, "Is what this piece of Paper actually Says! Who writes like this, as scruffily as this?"

"Don't know."

"Well," Said Thomas Brightly, "It could be another engine! We can't write, let alone write neatly, we can barely read, but we're not taught to."

He asked Percy At the top station loop. "I didn't do it!" Said Percy. "I'm only just learning how to write my name!"

Thomas Didn't stop at the end of the branch line, he went to the big station, where there was Gordon, Henry, James, Bear, Murdoch and Emily. They all hadn't done it, and Thomas wondered if he had to ask the Narrow Gauge or Culdee Fell or Small engines.

He asked the skarloey railway engines first. They also said they had done nothing of the sort. However, Duncan needed to say something.

"Hey Thomas!" He said. "Can ah shae ye somethin' a' culdee caves?"

"Well, My line doesn't go to culdee caves. Could you bring it here?"

"It's kinda stuck. It won't come aff. Ma Driver could tak' a peecture!"

"Ok," Said thomas.

Thomas waited a while. Duncan and his driver soon came back to Crovan's Gate to show thomas the picture. Thomas could Unmistakably see the cave-drawings in the inside of the caves in the photograph.

"Well!" Said Thomas. "Now *that* is a discovery and a half! "we'll Go and hand it in to the museum! They might tell us what this piece of paper means!

"Good Luck!" Whistled Peter Sam.

"Thanks!" Steamed Thomas, and Pulled his coaches to the Sodor Museum.

### 3 - The New exhibit

Thomas Steamed into the station near the museum, and His driver handed the photo and mysterious piece of paper into the reception.

The receptionist said "Hand Them into the new exhibits desk. It's Over there."

She pointed to the left. Thomas' Driver ran across. He handed them in to the new exhibits desk. The person behind the desk eyed the piece of paper and the photo.

"And This is...?" He pointed to the photo.

"That's a photograph of the cave drawings at culdee caves!" Said Thomas' Driver.

"Hmm... I never new that." Said the man. "What's this? A piece of paper with writing on it?... I've seen similar writing somewhere... Could It be? He said when he compared it with a piece of paper that was in his stock cupboard. "It is! It *is!*"

"It's What?" Asked Thomas' Driver.

"The second half to an ancient scroll I found!" Siad the man. "Congratulations, You've just made an excellent discovery! I'll give you a lot of money for this and the Cave drawings!"

Thomas' Driver Raced out of the museum and Told Thomas the good news.

"Wowzy!" Said Thomas. "I'm gonna be RICH!"

The staff at the museum also informed Thomas and his crew that they would arrange special event days where the narrow gauge engines could give tourists a tour through culdee caves. This was also exciting news to the engines at the culdee fell railway, because more tourists would also ride on their railway. All in all, practically every narrow gaugeengine on sodor thanked thomas for his help, and Thomas smiled.

"I love a happy ending!" He smiled.