

Botsville USA

BUILDER TEAM · EPISODE 2

The Big City Ride

A read-along picture book for ages 7–11

Made with love by a Nana and her grandkids, with help from the bots of Botsville USA.



Narrator Every morning, the friendly old Botsville train went chugging around the city, carrying bots to school, to the park, and to the market.

Zipley There it goes! Right on time, like always.



Narrator **But one night, a big storm rolled in. The rain went pitter-patter, and the wind went whoosh. Everyone stayed safe and cozy inside, until the storm was over.**



Binley Oh no. The rain washed the tracks away, and the old train tipped right over.

Planzo Nobody was on board, so nobody got hurt. But it's too broken to fix.



Remixa **Look at the train stop. Bots are waiting and waiting, and nobody can get anywhere. Builder Team, let's build a brand new way to get around!**



Planzo First, we plan. Where do bots need to go?

Binley The school, the park, the market, the library, and home.

Planzo So we draw one big loop that connects them all, with a stop at each place.



Binley Sort it, spot it, snap it! Track pieces here, wheels there, and windows over here.

Zipley And this time, the track sits on a strong, raised base, with drains, so rainwater can flow away.



Remixa Now let's remix it! Big windows, comfy seats, and a ramp, so everyone can roll aboard.

Zipley Hey, what if the new train could drive itself?



Professor Tinkersby Hello, Builder Team! A self-driving train? What a wonderful idea. Let's wonder together!

Planzo Some real cities already have trains with no driver, like the little trains at some big airports.



Professor Tinkersby First, it needs to see. Cameras work like eyes. They spot signals, signs, and the color of the lights.



Professor Tinkersby Then there are sensors. They send out invisible waves, and time how long it takes for them to bounce back. That tells the train how far away things are.

Zipley Whoa. It's kind of like a bat, listening for echoes!



Professor Tinkersby And it carries a map, so it always knows where it is, and where every stop is. A computer inside follows the safety rules. Green means go. Red means stop.



Narrator Then it was time for the very first test ride, nice and slow.

Zipley All aboard! Next stop, the park!



Remixa **Wait! Noodle is at the crossing!**

Narrator **Remixa pressed the big stop button, and the train rolled to a gentle stop, far away from Noodle. Everyone was safe.**



Professor Tinkersby But a little puppy, close to the ground, was hiding below what the camera could see.

Binley Then let's add a sensor down low, right on the front bumper!



Narrator This time, the new sensor spotted the ball right away, and the train stopped all by itself.

Zipley It worked! Problem found... problem fixed!



Remixa The train is great. But what about the bots who live way up on the hills?

Zipley Flying cars! Zoom, zoom!



Professor Tinkersby Just like roads on the ground, the sky needs lanes. Each car follows its own sky lane, at its own height, and keeps a safe space from the others.

Binley And landing pads!



Narrator On opening day, the whole city came to ride.

Binley School, park, market, library, and home. The whole city is connected!

Remixa And Noodle gets the window seat.

Can you remember?

Point to the answer, or circle it!

Why does the Builder Team plan one big loop?

- 🔁 It connects every stop, and the train never has to turn around
- 🎢 Loops are faster than straight tracks
- 🌧️ Loops keep the rain away

How do the train's sensors tell how far away things are?

- 🎵 They listen for music
- 📡 They time how long invisible waves take to bounce back
- 🤔 They take a guess

How does the crew fix the problem?

- 🔦 They add a bright headlight on top
- 🐢 They make the train go backward
- 📍 They add a sensor down low on the front bumper

Answers: It connects every stop, and the train never has to turn around · They time how long invisible waves take to bounce back · They add a sensor down low on the front bumper



You did it!

Professor Tinkersby **Wonderful work, builders!**

Planzo **Today's builder tips: plan your route before you build.**

Binley **Give a self-driving machine good eyes: cameras, sensors, and a map.**

Zipley **Test it slowly. Find the problem, and fix it.**

Remixa **And keep everyone safe, on the ground and in the sky!**

I am a **City Planner!**

Name: _____

For grown-ups: Draw a map of the places your family goes, then plan one loop that connects them all. On your next walk with a grown-up, look for crosswalks and signals that help everyone stay safe!

Made with love by a Nana and her grandkids, with help from the bots of Botsville USA.