

奇幻鐵道博物館

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Fantasy Railroad Museum

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Author: Kevin Cheng **Illustrator:** Cindy Wume **Publisher:** Taiwan Interminds Publishing

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BFT2.0 Translator: Michelle Kuo

Fantasy Railroad Museum invites readers to imagine and explore a dream version of Taiwan's National Railway Museum. Written by award-winning children's author Kevin Cheng, the story sparks diverse discussions about the museum. The vibrant illustrations by award-winning artist Cindy Wume bring lively, playful imagery to life, infusing real-world locations with energy and charm.

In the story, readers join the main character, Little Kai, on an exciting tour of the National Railway Museum. They engage in thrilling activities such as navigating a steam pipe maze, swinging on cranes, enjoying a concert in the diesel workshop concert hall, and exploring the carriage library—all while meeting the magical dog Hunky. Along the way, they uncover the mystery of Little Kai's grandfather's work at the Taipei Railway Factory.

The book encourages children to design their own railway museum and nurtures an appreciation for cultural heritage. It will inspire young readers to engage in and contribute to historic preservation efforts.



Author **Kevin Cheng**

Kevin Cheng is a renowned children's author, committed to creating meaningful and enjoyable works. He has won several literary awards, including the Nine Songs Modern Children's Literature Award and the Golden Tripod Awards. His works include over a hundred books, such as *Adventures in the Forbidden City*, *Teacher Miao*, and the *Detective Pighead* series.



Illustrator **Cindy Wume**

Cindy Wume holds a Master's degree in Children's Book Illustration from the Cambridge School of Art. She uses visual art to express imagination, concepts, and issues, often combining line art with watercolor, colored pencils, or digital media. Her works, shortlisted for the Bologna Illustration Exhibition, have been published in the UK, U.S., and Canada, and translated into traditional Chinese, including *Snuggle Time in the Bookshop* and *Ten Little Dumplings*.

An Inspiration to Young Train Enthusiasts: Reading *Fantasy Railroad Museum*

by Tzu Ning Huang

Throughout the history of Taiwan's main island, railroads—established over a century ago as a key national infrastructure—have become deeply integrated into daily life. Their influence in society has been transformative. The National Railway Museum is dedicated to railway-related research in Taiwan and, in recent years, has launched myriad projects to promote public engagement with railway culture. These efforts encourage people to reflect on the connection between railways and their own lives.

The National Railway Museum Picture Book Series focuses on the industrial heritage of the Taipei Railway Workshop, regarding it as a cultural monument. Through five picture books, readers are introduced to this precious national historic site from thematic perspectives, allowing them to experience

the human spirit, historical significance, and cultural value embedded within the site.

Among these, *Fantasy Railroad Museum* is centered around the theme of "imaginative visions." The National Railway Museum's purpose is to help the public rediscover its essence and spark diverse discussions surrounding it. From the perspective of children participating in outdoor education, the book guides readers on a journey through the museum's different buildings. The story takes place within a real-world landscape, yet the narrative blends elements of fantasy. It creates a fun and whimsical adventure that leaves the reader yearning for more.

This book is particularly suitable for adults and children to read together. Children often develop their first fascination with railroads and trains, and

this story portrays the Railway Museum as a giant playground. Children climb through a pipe maze, swing on cranes, and partake in a concert. In so doing, this book encourages children to think creatively about unexpected uses for the workshop's buildings. Through this book, children not only gain a deeper understanding of Taiwan's railway history, but also delight in the book's other features—among them music, family, and cute little animals. These elements are used to introduce readers to the many historical relics preserved at the Taipei Railway Workshop.

The author and illustrator's warm, childlike storytelling breaks away from the rigid, formal nature of historical buildings and museums. Their playful style fosters creativity, pushing the boundaries of imagination for both adults and children. By presenting the museum as a lively

place, the book transforms what might traditionally be seen as a static, serious environment into a dynamic space for fun and exploration. This allows both children and adults to engage in imaginative thought and enjoy a unique, whimsical journey into the history of Taiwan's railways.

In short, *Fantasy Railroad Museum* offers a delightful adventure through the lens of imagination while educating young readers about Taiwan's rich railway heritage. It nurtures creativity and expands perspectives on how we view museums and history.

Tzu Ning Huang is an editorial consultant. She loves to listen and tell stories, enjoys conversations and encounters with others, and appreciates time alone. She also loves to use photography and writing to explore the world.



In the afternoon, they flip through all kinds of books about trains in the main office.

"Take turns reading with your classmates and finish this world's longest train story together!" says Hunky.



The passenger car factory is a concert hall where you can enjoy different train melodies.

How does the EMU100 train play its theme song?


Choo, Choo.

Train departs.

Clickety-clack, clickety clack.

Choo, Choo.

Little Kai is totally immersed in the music.



Outside, the children can swing under a crane and ride more trains.

Little Kai swings and swings. "Ninety eight, ninety nine, one hundred!"

Hunky, I've swung a hundred times—"

"Woof, woof. It's so hot out here. Let's go to the other buildings to play."