

# Caterpillar Train

By

Erin Mallon

A note about the music: There is freedom to create your own melodies, though the "style" of the music should definitely be in the cheeseball kid's world. Treat yourself to some YouTube videos of the great Laurie Berkner Band and The Imagination Movers for some hints on tone:)

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### Cast of Characters

Ronnie: (F) Lead singer and ukulele player. She has spectacularly heinous teeth (note: these teeth are practically the 4th character in the play. Some good 'ol' fashioned snaggle teeth inserts you get at Halloween stores work great)

Bruce: (M) Drummer and tight pants wearer.

Ashley: (M) Tambourine player and rocker of sleeveless shirts.

### Scene

Tommy's Transformers-Themed Birthday Party.

### Time

Saturday Morning, 11am.

*Lights up on a smiling, wholesome-as-hell  
children's band. They sing...*

ALL

(singing)

Ponies and bears and frogs and lemurs...

They all have hearts and they all have femurs.

Bodies are great...

Bodies are true...

Take care of your heart and take care of you.

*Song ends.*

RONNIE

Yay! Oh! Looks like Mrs. Barbera is lighting FOUR  
birthday boy candles on Tommy's Decepticon cake! All  
Autobots transform your way to the dessert table STAT!  
Guys, we're blowing this joint apart with our sweet-ass  
grooves!

ASHLEY

(high-fiving her)

Yeah we are!

BRUCE

That Tommy's a little cocksucker huh?

RONNIE

Bruce!

BRUCE

(cradling his drum)

He is! He wiped his booger on Ja Rule here and I almost  
popped him in the nuts.

ASHLEY

So whadda we hit 'em with next Ronnie? "Potty Monster"?  
"Kangaroo in my Shoe"? "Artichokes are for Everyone"?

RONNIE

I was thinking "Dentists are Just Mouth Spelunkers."

ASHLEY

Oh hellz yes. They'll be creaming in their training  
pants with that one!

BRUCE

When you say words, do you hear them?

ASHLEY

Sure. Oh hey Bruce?

BRUCE

Yeah Ashley.

ASHLEY

I'm having trouble matching your rhythms in "Goblin Dance Party". Particularly during the bridge. Sync up with me for a sec?

BRUCE

Sure. Ja and I are busting out a little bit of this. He plays his drum.

ASHLEY

Gotcha! Then I should be serving a side dish of that!

*Ashley's sleeveless armpit is cradling Bruce's head as he shakes his tambourine.*

BRUCE

You know what, I've spent every Saturday morning of my adult life with your hairy armpit skin flapping in my face and I'm sick of it!!!

ASHLEY

Whoa. Sorry you feel that way Bruce, but don't expect subtle tambourine shaking from me anytime soon. Dousing my light won't make yours burn any brighter. Oh, places guys! Kids are coming back.

RONNIE

Everything ok Bruce?

BRUCE

Ever feel like you have a deep sultry groove inside you, and each day you squelch it you're being artistically castrated inch by searing inch?

RONNIE

Nope, I'm living my dream! We all are.

BRUCE

Clearly.

RONNIE

Change of plans boys. I think we need a little "Gentle Thermometer" in this piece.

ASHLEY

Oh bring it on. Bring that shit on girl.

RONNIE

(singing)

I don't need to get scared, when my immune system's  
impaired.

I don't need to get emotional or heady.

Why?

ALL

There are thermometers at the ready...

Gentle thermometers at the ready...

RONNIE

My mommy holds them steady while I lie in my beddy...

ALL

Gentle thermometers are always at the ready!

*Song ends.*

RONNIE

And now, that scary fellow dressed like Optimus Prime  
will give you temporary tattoos! Go glue violent robots  
onto your innocent baby flesh! Go on!

*Ashley has grooved his way over to Bruce's side.*

BRUCE

Dude. Some space please.

ASHLEY

I am just trying to groove with you as bandmates and  
brothas.

BRUCE

Well back off. You're making Ja uncomfortable.

ASHLEY

You are so self-important. Naming your car, your house,  
your drum! Lemme guess, YOU'VE NAMED YOUR DICK TOO?!

BRUCE

YOU BET I HAVE!

ASHLEY

REALLY? WHAT SHOULD I CALL HIM!?

BRUCE / RONNIE

*CARLOS!!!!!! / Carlos.*

*Silence.*

ASHLEY

Wait. What? Ronnie, have you and and "Carlos"... met?

BRUCE

Repeatedly.

ASHLEY

I'm not talking to you!

RONNIE

This is a cutting edge band Ashley. Sexual liasons and trysts are imperative.

ASHLEY

But we've never trysted together!

RONNIE

Of course not! You're my cutie pie!

BRUCE

Has anyone ever told you you look like a Bloodhound when you're sad?

ASHLEY

I AM NOT A SAD PUPPY! I AM A MAN! A MAAAAAAAAN!! I can't help that I have soulful eyes.

RONNIE

And we're back!

(singing)

Feelings happen. Feelings happen.

BRUCE

(spoken)

Oh not this one...

RONNIE

And when they doooooo? It's. Best. To. Mooooooooooooooooo!

ASHLEY

Moo moo moo moo moo!

BRUCE

(spoken)

This one makes me wanna rip my face off...

RONNIE

What does the donkey say when he's sad?

ASHLEY

(donkey sound, donkey sound) Better get glad!!!

RONNIE

What does the chicken say when covered in muck?

*Beat. Bruce is stewing, scheming.*

What does the chicken say when covered in muck?

BRUCE

Y'know what the chicken says? He says WHAT THE FUCK!!

*Bruce tears his shirt off, and raps like a mo fo.*  
Don't moo yer feelings, don't cluck yo pain.

Go balls-to-the-wall. GO FUCKIN INSAAAAANE!

Wanna cry? Cry.

Wanna scream? Scream.

And while you're at it son?

GO ON AND LIVE YOUR DREAM!!!!

*Silence.*

RONNIE

That had a surprisingly positive message.

BRUCE

Thank you.

RONNIE

But the rampant pumping of your pelvis was perverse.

BRUCE

YOU WEREN'T SAYING THAT LAST NIGHT SNAGGLETEOTH!!!!

ASHLEY

Oh snap.

*Beat.*

RONNIE

What did you call me?

BRUCE

Look Ron, I think we can all agree, you're hot as all hell. But there is no excuse for your dental failures.

RONNIE

DO YOU THINK THIS IS HOW I WANTED MY LIFE TO TURN OUT?  
LISPING SONGS ABOUT SPAGHETTI THROUGH MY BUSTED-ASS  
GRILL?!! I WANTED TO BE ENYA GODDAMNIT!!!

*A long silence. Ronnie is in tears.*

ASHLEY

Your busted grill is one of my favorite parts of you.  
Each snaggle tells a story. The story of a succulent  
woman who won't be braced or bracketed. A woman who'll  
walk her own path even if it means periodontal disease  
and halitosis. Oh. You have something there, beautiful.

RONNIE

What is it?

ASHLEY

White cheddar goldfish? No, leave it. I've always  
thought "Whyte Cheddah" should be your stage name, you  
know that?

RONNIE

Really?

ASHLEY

Really.

*He leans in. It looks like they miiiiiiiiiiight  
kiss..... and then she turns her head.*

RONNIE

I'm sorry Ashley, I just-

ASHLEY

Nope. It's fine. But hey, could we do "I Got the  
Wiggles" next? When I'm feeling lost, I really need to-

RONNIE

Reconnect with your body. I know. I know you.

*Ronnie and Bruce begin a slow and sad version of  
"I Got the Wiggles". Ashley does an interpretative  
dance, just him, his body and his tambourine.*

RONNIE & BRUCE

(singing)

I got the wiggles deep down in my heart.

Down in the tender spots where feelings start.

I get them in my fingers and I get them in my toes.



RONNIE & BRUCE

I get them when my life really ebbs and blows.

When I can't explain my wiggles & what they really mean.

I wiggle my arms!

And my spleen!

I wiggle my nose!

Like a jelly bean!

I wiggle... I waggle...

I woggle 'til I feel clean.

*Silence. The dance is done.*

BRUCE

I think I just died a little watching that.

RONNIE

Yeah that was difficult. Guys. If we're all so unhappy together then maybe.... maybe we should call Tommy's Transformers party what it really is. Our last gig.

ASHLEY

No. Nonono, why are you doing this?

RONNIE

Because! We shouldn't be here. I should be all Enya'd-out on horseback, throat-singing about my love of the ocean and celtic firepits.

BRUCE

You should.

ASHLEY

It's what I've always wanted for you Ronnie.

RONNIE

And Bruce, you're a lyrical and pelvic wizard who should not be working with preschoolers.

BRUCE

You really get me girl.

ASHLEY

But what about me?! I love this band!

RONNIE

Do you Ashley? Really?

ASHLEY

No. I guess I just love you. The music itself makes me want to break the children. And that's not good.

RONNIE

No, it's not.

*Beat.*

ASHLEY

I hurt.

BRUCE

Yeah, there's pain happening.

*Ronnie touches Bruce's cheek. Bruce touches Ashley's cheek. A little too hard. Ashley touches Ronnie's cheek. Also a little too hard. This sets off a pain circle of continual slapping. Maybe they cry. Maybe they laugh. Maybe they just bear the sting. It slows and settles...*

RONNIE

Alright boys, this is it. You know what to do.

*They take their positions.*

This is Caterpillar Train signing off. It's been a hell of a ride kids. Now, for one last blessed moment in time, we're gonna rock you toddlers like a sonofabitch. And a 1, and a 2...

ALL

And a 1, 2, 3, 4!

*Lights out on their bright cheeseball smiles.*

*End of play.*