

Dear Watty Piper,

As a little kid I always wanted someone to read me your book *The Little Engine That Could*. As I get older each day, I feel like I can relate to your book more and more. Some days I feel like the little red engine that is broken down and can't move anymore. I get the feeling that I am stuck and I can't seem to move or do anything right no matter how hard I try. Other days I feel like the brand new engine that feels fine but doesn't want to be around people or help them. Most of the time though, I feel great but I can tend to have a negative way of thinking about life. When this happens, I try to think about the little blue engine that comes along and agrees to try and help the red engine. Sometimes challenges seem overwhelming, but I have found that if you go in with a positive attitude you can overcome all obstacles.

Your childhood book still helps me overcome hard challenges and prevents me from giving up quickly like the blue engine who knows that there is a big challenge ahead and keeps trying. While I try, I begin to think about happy, encouraging thoughts to help me. Sometimes I might tell myself that I am really good at whatever I am doing. I may also try to encourage myself, like the little blue engine does using thoughts like I think I can, I think I can or I can do it, I can do it to help myself get over the "mountain" I am facing. Doing this, I am almost always able to complete the task at hand all because I was able to convince myself. This boosts my confidence when I am faced with a similar task in the future. Thank you for bringing *The Little Engine That Could* into my life so I could use the little blue engine to face my every day challenges.

Yours Truly,

*Christopher Breemen*