

Does my
“BUT” look
big in this?

1 Samuel
17:31-37



hope central

What are the excuses we allow to avoid
the challenges that faith calls us to?

Is your “BUT” bigger than your faith?

3 most common “BUTS”

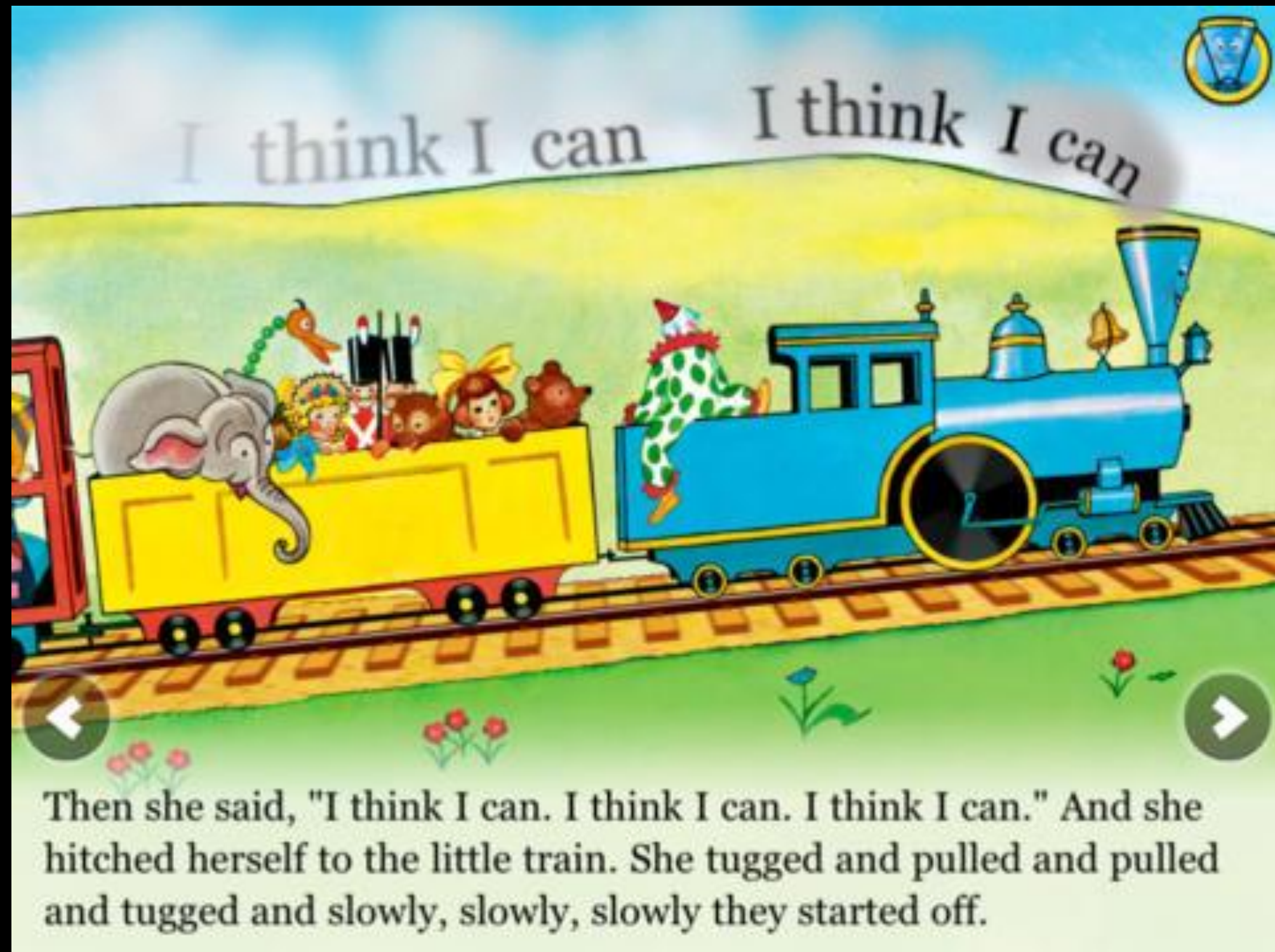
1. The Booty of FEAR
2. The Caboose of CAN'T
3. The Plumbers Crack of WON'T

2. The Caboose of CAN'T

“Whether you think you can, or you think you can't-you're right.” Henry Ford

“The man who says he can and the man who says he cannot- both are right” Confucius

There are so many stories of the power of positive thinking.

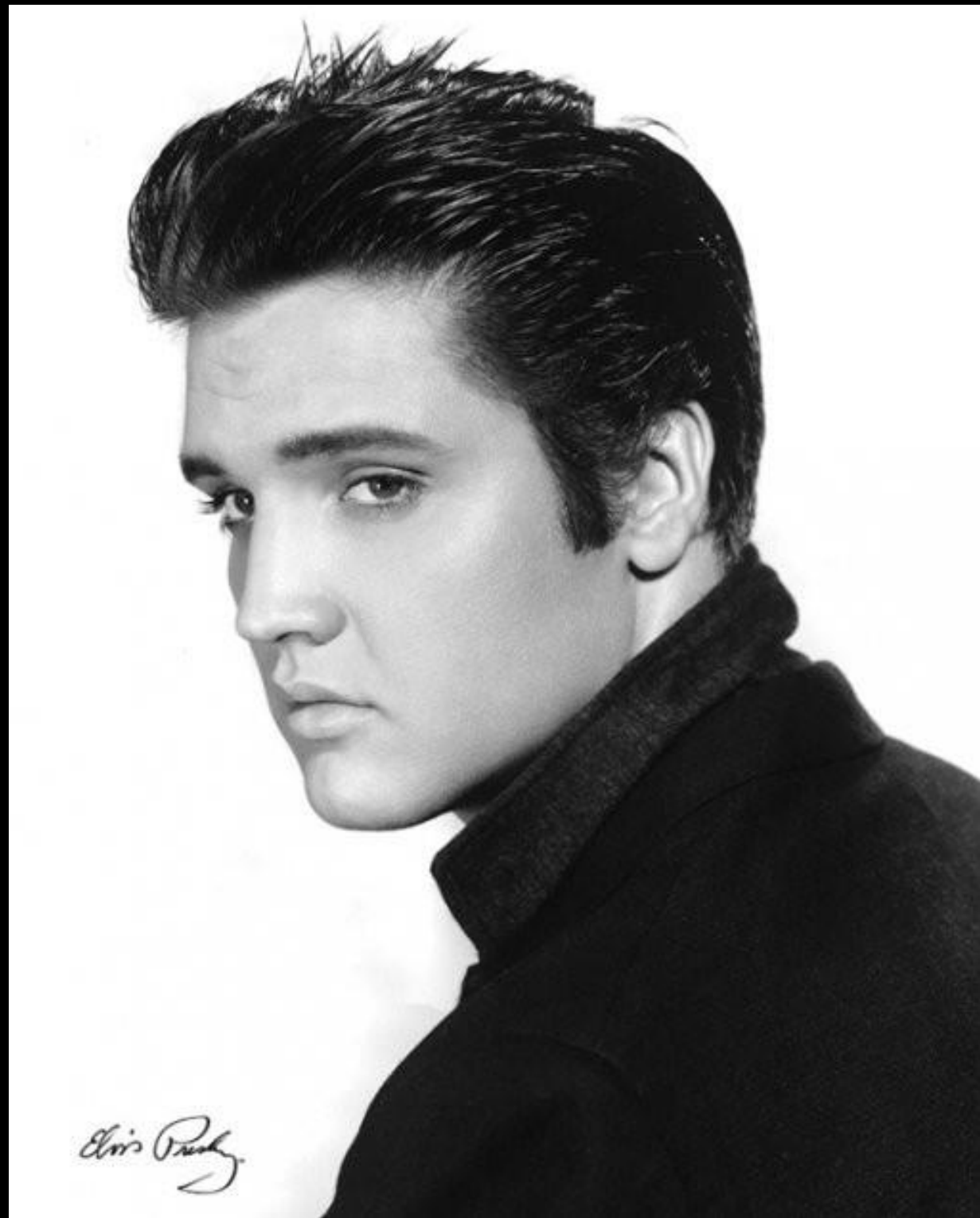


Then she said, "I think I can. I think I can. I think I can." And she hitched herself to the little train. She tugged and pulled and pulled and tugged and slowly, slowly, slowly they started off.



Oprah Winfrey

She was an evening news reporter and apparently got fired because she couldn't sever her emotions from her stories.



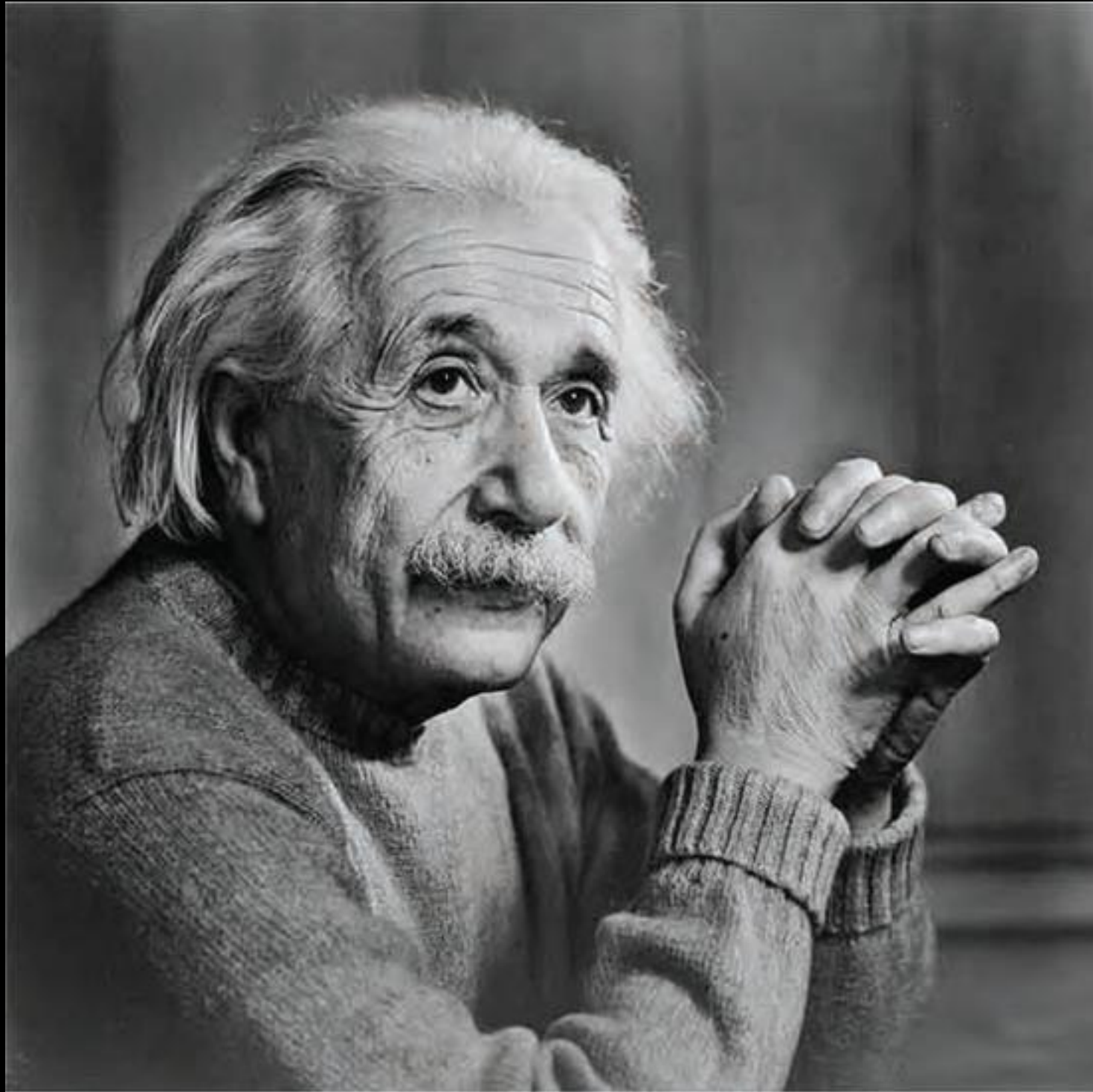
Elvis Presley

After a performance at Nashville's Grand Ole Opry, Elvis was told by the concert hall manager that he was better off returning to Memphis and driving trucks (his former career).





Sidney Poitier: After His first audition, he was told by the casting director, “Why don’t you stop wasting peoples time and go out and become a dishwasher or something?”



Albert Einstein

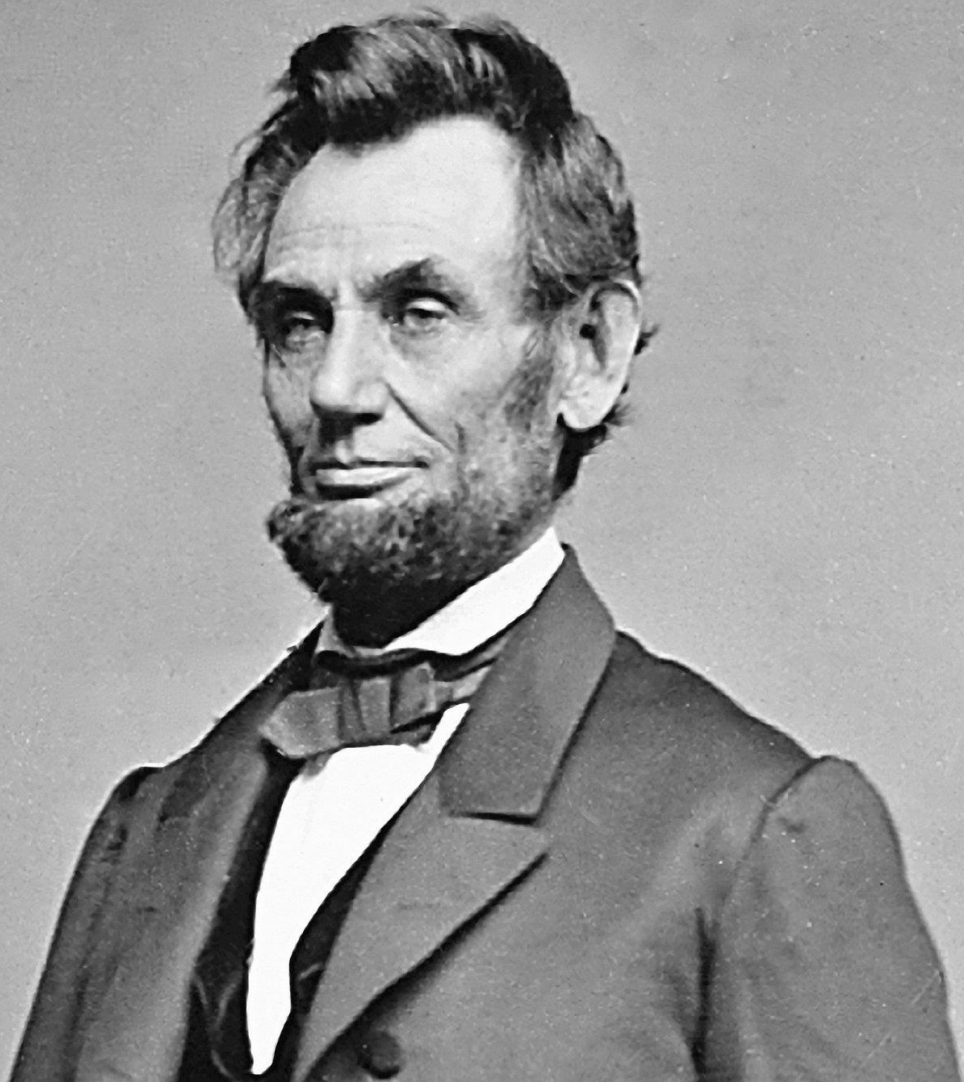
He didn't speak until he was four, didn't read until he was seven and unable to speak fluently until age 12 . He was expelled from high school at age 16 for failing several subjects. His teachers believed that Einstein was mentally challenged.



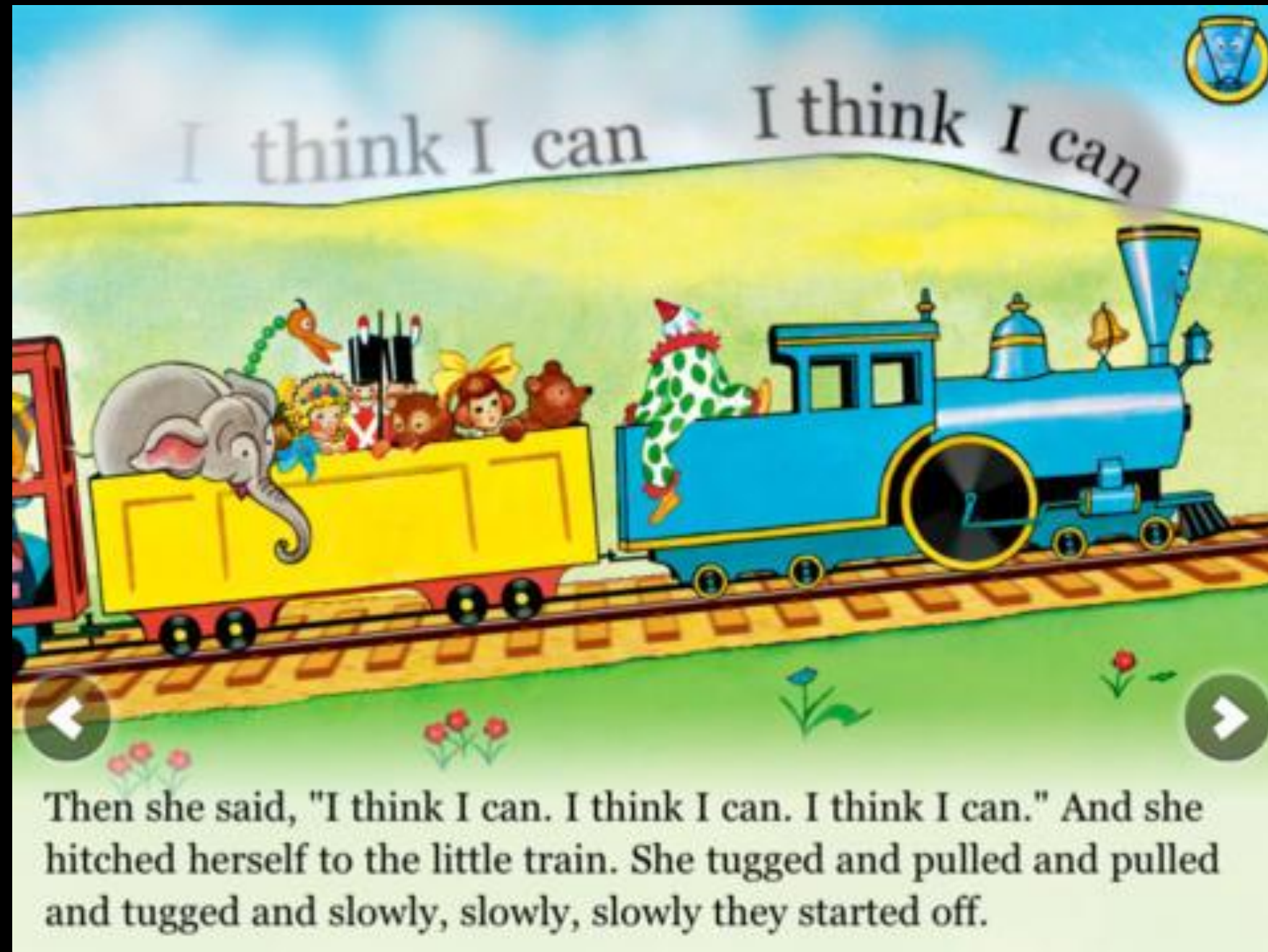
Rudyard Kipling: He was fired as his role as contributor to the *San Francisco Examiner* in 1889 because he was told by an editor, "I'm sorry Mr. Kipling, but you just don't know how to use the English language."

Abraham Lincoln

When Lincoln was young and entered war, he entered as a Captain but came back as a much lower Private. Later on, he tried to start up several businesses, all of which failed, and before becoming president, he lost several runs for public office



There are so many stories of the power of positive thinking.
- But is that going to pull Moses' Caboose of CAN'T?



Then she said, "I think I can. I think I can. I think I can." And she hitched herself to the little train. She tugged and pulled and pulled and tugged and slowly, slowly, slowly they started off.

Exodus 4:10-12, But Moses said to the LORD, “Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue.” Then the LORD said to him, “Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the LORD? Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak.”

Re-Learning CAN for Problematic Pessimism

1. Pessimism of the Mind

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NATIONAL BESTSELLER

LEARNED OPTIMISM

How to Change
Your Mind and
Your Life

WITH A NEW PREFACE

MARTIN E. P. SELIGMAN, Ph.D.

Author of Authentic Happiness

"Vaulted me out of my funk. . . . So, fellow moderate pessimists, go
buy this book." —Marian Sandage, *The New York Times Book Review*



hope central

Your “Explanatory Style”: Dr. Martin Seligman

Personal: It’s because of me

Pervasive: It spreads to other areas of life

Permanence: It is always or never

David:
a “can-do” guy

1 Samuel 17: 31-37



1Samuel 17:33, And Saul said to David, “You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him, for you are but a youth, and he has been a man of war from his youth.”

1Samuel 17:34, But David said to Saul, “Your servant used to keep sheep for his father. And when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb from the flock...”

1Samuel 17:35-36, “I went after him and struck him and delivered it out of his mouth. And if he arose against me, I caught him by his beard and struck him and killed him. Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God.”

What if David hadn't managed his first bear?

Personal: It's because of me

Pervasive: It spreads to other areas of life

Permanence: It is always or never

David's Explanatory Style:
God is Personal, Permanent and Pervasive

1Samuel 17:37, And David said, "*The LORD*
who *delivered me* from the paw of the lion
and from the paw of the bear *will deliver me*
from the hand of this Philistine."

And Saul said to David, "Go, and *the LORD*
be with you!"

Re-Learning CAN for Problematic Pessimism

1. Pessimism of the Mind
2. Pessimism of the Heart

1Samuel 17:32, And David said to Saul, “Let no man's heart fail because of him. Your servant will go and fight with this Philistine.”

What did your Heart learn when you couldn't?

Judges 6:12-13, And the angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, "The LORD is with you, O mighty man of valor." And Gideon said to him, "Please, sir, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us?"

Does God know Moses can't speak
well when He asks Him to speak?

Does God know you can't?

Why does God deny your reality?

Robert Keith Reed: Missionary to Portugal



Did Jesus know when He called him?

Corrie Ten Boom

“Lord Jesus,” I prayed, “forgive me and help me to forgive him....Jesus, I cannot forgive him. Give me your forgiveness....”. And so I discovered that it is not on our forgiveness any more than on our goodness that the world's healing hinges, but on his. When he tells us to love our enemies, he gives along with the command, the love itself.

The advice of my Pastor,
“Joe, you need to stop trying to be in
ministry, you’ll never make it.”

When we took on this church
“Joe and Jodie will never succeed,
they haven’t got what it takes.”

Matthew 14:16-18, But Jesus said,
“They need not go away; you give
them something to eat.”

They said to him, “We have only five
loaves here and two fish.”

And he said, “Bring them here to me.”

We can't, but God can.

Exodus 4:10-12, But Moses said to the LORD, “Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue.” Then the LORD said to him, “Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the LORD? Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak.”

Philippians 4:13, “I can do all things through him who strengthens me.”

What is your Caboose of CAN'T?