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# Activity Guide

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## The Bear's Bicycle

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### ABOUT THE STORY

A young boy demonstrates the proper way to ride a bicycle safely. As he does, his stuffed bear comes magically to life and shows clearly—and painfully— the results of ignoring the rules of bicycle safety.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Inspired by her own children's bike mishaps, the late Emilie Warren McLeod set out to write an effective primer on bicycle safety. Her keen sense of humor allows readers to learn important safety rules while enjoying the antics of a giant hapless bear.

### ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

In addition to his delectable depiction of a reckless bear on a bicycle, David McPhail has written and illustrated other humorous books about bears. Among them, and also available as Live Oak Readalongs, are *The Bear's Toothache*, *Fix-It*, and *Emma's Pet*.

### INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask children to state some of the rules of bicycle safety. Write their suggestions on the board. Then tell them that the book they will read shows what bicycle riders should do and what may happen if they do not obey safety rules.

### READING ACTIVITIES

#### **Comprehension/Thinking Skills**

- "What happened to the bear when he failed to watch for open car doors?"
- "What did the boy do when he met another bicycle?"
- "What happened to the bear when he failed to slow down on the hill?"
- "Why do you think the author chose to show a bear breaking all the rules?" (Analyze)
- "Did this book teach you something about bicycle safety? If so, what did you learn?" (Draw conclusions)

### Vocabulary

Write these columns of words on the board. Have children copy them and draw lines matching each pair of words to make a compound word that is used in the story. Then children can use each compound word in a sentence.

after	bars
handle	way
drive	noon

### CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

#### **Art: Safety Poster**

Have children work in small groups to create bicycle safety posters. Encourage them to include all of the safety rules given in the book. Children can illustrate their posters and then hang them around the classroom.

#### **Health: Safety Speech**

Assign each child one of the following situations and ask the children to write down the rule or rules that apply to each. Children can then take turns stating the safety rule for each situation aloud.

- before starting out
- before turning
- crossing the street
- passing marked cars
- approaching obstacles
- approaching dogs
- meeting another bicyclist
- approaching people
- going downhill

#### **Social Studies: Bicycle History**

Have children find out when and how the bicycle was invented. Ask them to work in small groups to prepare a report on the history of the bicycle. If they wish, groups can include illustrations of bicycles of the past in their reports and can present them to the rest of the class.

#### **Science: Bicycle Machinery**

Provide encyclopedias and other reference books for children to use to find out about the machinery that makes bicycles go. Children can choose one of the following: pedals, gears, brakes, or wheels. They can write a brief explanation of how the machinery of their choice works.

### INTERNET ACTIVITY

Before you send children to do research using any of the keywords listed below, you may wish to try them yourself to be sure the sites are suitable.

#### **More Safety Rules**

Using the keywords bicycle safety, have children go online to find at least one other rule for bicycle safety that is not included in *The Bear's Bicycle*. Children can present the rules they find to the rest of the class.