

Realistic
Fiction

Bikes Forever

by Vanessa York
illustrated by
Eric Scott Fisher



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Hill

PAIRED
READ

Recycle-a-Bicycle

STRATEGIES & SKILLS

Comprehension

Strategy: Summarize

Skill: Point of View

Vocabulary Strategy

Homographs

Vocabulary

conservation, discouraged,
frustrated, gazed, jubilant,
recycling, remaining,
tinkered

Content Standards

Science

Earth and Space Science

Word count: 1,788**

**The total word count is based on words in the running text and headings only. Numerals and words in captions, labels, diagrams, charts, and sidebars are not included.



Education

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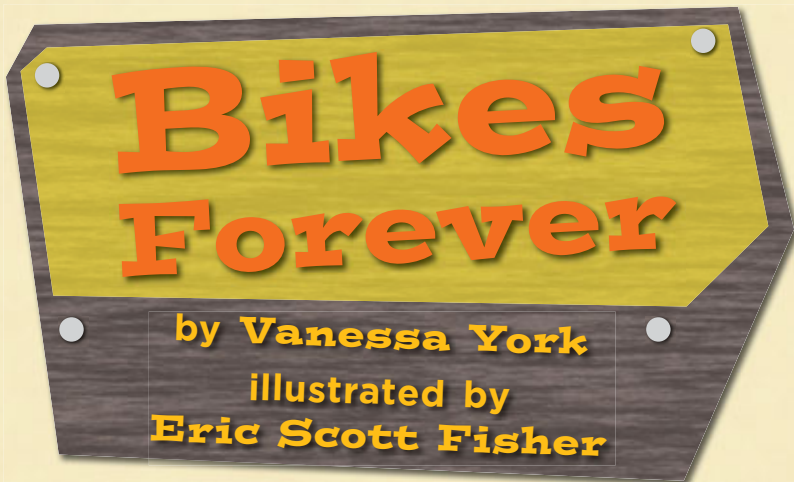
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 DOC 15 14 13 12 11 10

A



Essential Question

How can we reuse what we already have?



Chapter 1

The Bike Meet 2

Chapter 2

A Broken Bike 6

Chapter 3

The Swap-Meet 11

Respond to Reading 16

PAIRED READ

Recycle-a-Bicycle 17

Focus on Genre 20

Chapter 1

The Bike Meet

Marcy, Tegan, Charlie, and Samuel were best friends. They had grown up together, going to the same schools and hanging out on weekends. Their favorite activity was riding their bikes. They all belonged to a bike club, called Ride Club, that met after school on Wednesdays and on Saturdays. They spent a lot of time riding to different parks and trails around the city. Steve, the club's grown-up organizer, led the rides.

When school finished for the day on Friday, the four friends gathered at the bike stands.

"I'm really looking forward to tomorrow's ride," said Tegan.

"Steve said he'd take us to a park we've never been to before," said Charlie. "I like it when we ride to a new place."

"See you all tomorrow!" said Marcy, as they all got on their bikes and headed home.



“I love Saturdays,” thought Tegan, as she jumped out of bed and got dressed in jeans and a sweatshirt. “And it’s going to be a fun day!”

She ate breakfast quickly, and then headed to Ride Club. When she got there, Charlie and Samuel had beaten her, but there was no sign of Marcy.

“Where is she?” asked Tegan.

“Let’s go and see if we can see her coming,” said Samuel.

“Great idea, come on!” said Charlie.



“I’ll just let Steve know that we’ll be back in a minute,” said Tegan. “I don’t want them to start without us!”

“Okay, but hurry up,” said Steve. “We want to get on the road as soon as possible. If Marcy isn’t here soon we’ll have to go without her.”

Marcy’s house wasn’t far away, so Samuel, Charlie, and Tegan were able to ride there quickly. Samuel rang the doorbell, and Marcy came to the door. “Come on, you’re late for Ride Club,” said Charlie.

“I can’t go,” said Marcy. “You guys have a good time, okay? I’ll see you at school on Monday.”

“But why aren’t you coming?” asked Tegan. “You were looking forward to it as much as we were.”

“I don’t want to talk about it,” said Marcy. “See you later.” And she shut the door, leaving her three friends staring at it.

“We’d better hurry,” said Charlie. “We promised Steve we’d be back quickly. We’ll have to find out what’s going on with Marcy later.”

Tegan, Samuel, and Charlie flew back to the park where the rest of the club members were waiting for them, and they all set off. They all wore high-visibility vests and helmets, and their bikes were flagged with orange reflectors. There were 25 of them, and they made a real cavalcade as they went through the streets.

They got to the park after an hour's ride, and as they were all hot and hungry, they first stopped to drink from their water bottles and eat their picnic lunches.

“I wish Marcy was here,” said Tegan. “It’s just not like her to miss a ride.”

They spent the afternoon cycling along the smooth bike paths of the huge park. It was fun, but it wasn’t the same without Marcy.



Chapter 2

A Broken Bike

At lunch on Monday, the four friends sat together in the cafeteria.

“Marcy, why didn’t you come on Saturday?” Tegan asked. “We really missed you.”

“My bike is broken,” said Marcy. “I couldn’t come with you because I didn’t have any wheels.”

“Oh, is that all,” said Charlie. “Now’s your chance to get a new bike!”

“No it’s not,” said Marcy gloomily. “That’s just the problem. My parents can’t afford to get me a new bike.”

“What about a secondhand one?” said Samuel. “You can get some real bargains secondhand.”

“I thought of that, and I suggested it to my parents,” said Marcy. “But since my father was laid off, they don’t want to spend money on a bike. Even a secondhand bike would cost too much.”

“Don’t be discouraged,” said Charlie. “We can figure this out. We just need to make some money and then we can buy you a new bike.”

“We could sell our old books and clothes at the market,” said Samuel.

“We could have a bake sale,” said Tegan.

“I’m no good at baking,” said Charlie.

“I am good at baking,” said Samuel. “But I don’t think that’s going to make enough money to buy a new bike. Hey, I’ve got a better idea! Why don’t we fix Marcy’s bike?”



It was such an obvious idea that no one said anything for a minute. They hadn't even thought of fixing the bike. It might be something really easy to repair!

"I don't know," said Marcy doubtfully. "My bike's not really going at all. It's been getting harder and harder to pedal. I don't think it will be easy to fix."

"Let's ask Steve," said Tegan. "He knows all about bikes. He'll be able to tell us if it's fixable or not."



On Wednesday after school, Marcy's dad brought the broken bike to the Ride Club. Steve put it on his workbench and tinkered with it. He spun the wheels and checked the tires. He got his spanner and undid a few nuts and bolts.

"The good news is that it can be fixed," said Steve, when he had checked everything out. "It needs a new chain drive, that's what drives the wheels. And it needs new wheels, too."



“Are those parts very expensive?” asked Marcy, looking worried.

“They can be,” said Steve. “But we don’t need to buy them. We can make this a real recycling project and use spare parts from another bike or two.”

“But where will we get the spare parts from?” asked Marcy.

“We’ll have a swap-meet,” said Steve. “People can bring along their old, outgrown, or broken bikes, and either donate them to the club, or swap them. I’m sure we’ll manage to find some serviceable wheels and a chain drive from the bikes that come in.”



Chapter 3

The Swap-Meet

Steve organized the swap-meet for the next Saturday. He advertised it in the local newspaper, as well as among the Ride Club members. Everyone was very interested in Steve's idea to recycle bikes, and they thought that it would be a great way to practice conservation. On the day, people turned up with all sorts of bikes—one or two of the bikes even looked like they were still roadworthy. But most of them were in various states of disrepair, and by the end of the morning, the workshop was overflowing with bicycle parts.

“Have a good look through the pile, kids,” Steve said to Marcy, Tegan, Charlie, and Samuel. “You need to look for a set of wheels that are in good shape, and I'll look for the chain drive. That's a bit more technical.”



The children searched through the pile of bike parts with determination, checking the tread on all the tires. At last Tegan found what seemed to be a set in good condition. She took them to show Steve, and he agreed that they were in excellent condition and would be great on Marcy's recycled bike.

"Well done, they'll do nicely," he said. "Put them there on the bench." Meanwhile, he had found a rusting bike frame with a surprisingly good chain drive on it that he was in the process of taking off.

People were enjoying themselves, and they were still milling around and swapping bike parts at lunchtime. Steve was swamped with questions about repairing bikes, and he promised to hold a workshop in the future.

“There are still a lot of leftover bikes,” said Samuel. “What should we do with all the remaining bikes?”

“I think we’ll keep all the spare parts that are in good condition and offer an ongoing spare parts service,” said Steve. “What do you think?”

“Great idea,” said Charlie.

“It will encourage everyone to think about recycling their bikes instead of just buying new ones,” added Marcy. “And speaking of recycling bikes, when do we get started on mine?”



Steve laughed. "I'll get started this afternoon," he said. "I know you'll be feeling a bit frustrated without a bike."

"That's for sure," said Marcy. "Lost and left out. I can't keep up on two feet, even with all my determination!"

"We can help you, can't we?" asked Charlie. "You said you'd show us what to do."

Steve explained to them how he'd fit the new wheels to Marcy's frame and attach the chain drive.

It took a few days, but at last the bike was finished. Steve had even painted it a shiny blue.

"Here it is, Marcy," said Steve. "Your new recycled bike!"

Marcy was jubilant. "Thank you! Thank you all," she cried, as she gazed at her bike. "It's so cool!"

Everyone watched from the cool shade of a tree as Marcy hopped on her new bike and rode a circle.

"I've done a good job, if I may say so myself," Steve said. "And I enjoyed it, too. I think I'll get started on recycling another one."



Respond to Reading

Summarize

Summarize *Bikes Forever*.
Use your Point of View chart
to help you.

Details

↓

Point of View

Text Evidence

1. How can you tell this story is realistic fiction?
Identify one feature that tells you this. **GENRE**
2. How do we know that Marcy is grateful to Steve
and her friends? **POINT OF VIEW**
3. Can you find the homograph on page 14? What
clues in the sentence help you figure out its
meaning? **HOMOGRAPHS**
4. Write about how this story would be different
if it were told from Marcy's point of view. **WRITE
ABOUT READING**

Compare Texts

Read about a new way of recycling.

Recycle-a-Bicycle

Biking is a cheap, fun, and environmentally friendly way to get around. In New York City, there is a very special bike group. Recycle-a-Bicycle is an organization that works to educate people about bikes and the environment. It also provides job training by teaching people—young people in particular—how to build bikes. In just one year, Recycle-a-Bicycle can save up to 1,200 bicycles that would otherwise end up at the dump. These bikes are refurbished, then sold, or donated to someone who needs one.

Bikes that are too damaged to repair are broken up into parts, and the aluminum and steel is separated for recycling. This adds up to 12,000 pounds of metal recycled each year.



People can buy refurbished bikes at the Recycle-a-Bicycle stores.

The money raised from bike sales helps to fund Recycle-a-Bicycle's youth and environmental programs. The programs include Bike Bonanzas, which offer free biking activities to families.

Recycle-a-Bicycle also offers training courses that teach people how to build and repair bikes. Through a program offered in some schools, students have the opportunity to earn their own bicycle. Students learn how to fix old bikes. Then they can volunteer their time in exchange for a bike of their own.



Young people (top) learn from bike mechanics.

Teenage members of the Kids Ride Club (left) enjoy biking together.



As well as refurbishing bikes, Recycle-a-Bicycle encourages recycled arts. They hold workshops that focus on turning old bike parts into art, crafts, and jewelry. Workshops that teach people how to maintain and repair their own bicycle are also very popular. Recycle-a-Bicycle is an organization that is working hard to educate people about both bikes and the importance of caring for the environment.

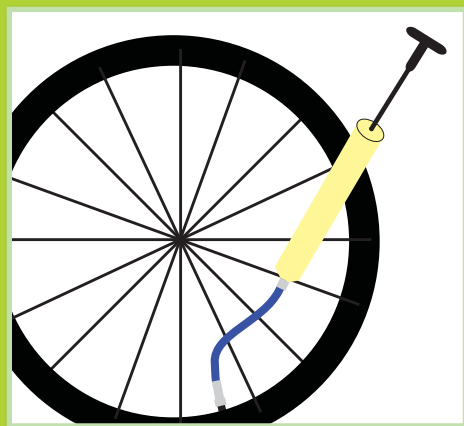
Pump Up a Bike Tire

You Need

- a bike
- a bike pump

What to Do

1. Take the cap off the tire valve.
2. Fit the end of the pump to the valve.
3. Pump up the tire.



Make Connections

Think of a way to reuse something that you no longer need. **ESSENTIAL QUESTION**

What do the characters in *Bikes Forever* and the people who work at Recycle-a-Bicycle have in common? **TEXT TO TEXT**

Focus on Genre

Realistic Fiction Realistic fiction tells a story that is set in the present. The characters in realistic fiction do the things that real people do. The things that happen to them are things that happen in real life. It is usually easy for readers to relate to the characters in realistic fiction, because readers often have a lot in common with the characters.

Read and Find Reread Chapter 3 of *Bikes Forever*. What did people bring along to the swap-meet? What did the children find in the pile of bike parts? Could this happen in real life?

Your Turn

In *Recycle-a-Bicycle* you read about a real bike store in New York City. Brainstorm a realistic story that involves the store. It can be about someone finding a new bike at the store, learning how to repair a bike, or creating art from a recycled bike.

Thinkmark

Characters

Who are the main characters in *Bikes Forever*?

Who are the other characters?

What characteristics do the main characters have?

Sequence of Events

What happens in *Bikes Forever*?

What happened *first, then, next,* and *finally*?

Author's Purpose

What is the author's purpose for writing this text?

Make Connections

How are the characters in *Bikes Forever* like your friends at school?

Reuse and Recycle

GR R • Benchmark 40 • Lexile [t/k]

Grade 3 • Unit 5 Week 2

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