



Upper KS1/Lower KS2 (SATS style) Reading Comprehension Booklet 12



Name.....

Useful words

encouraged

pedalling

Don't Give Up



"Never, I'll never be able to do that!" Alfie said to himself as he watched his sister Susie cycle fast up and down the path in the park. She whizzed and skidded and flashed by him, "How does she balance on those two thin wheels? I'll never be able to do that, I'll just stick to walking." thought Alfie sadly.

Questions

1 Where was his sister cycling?

Tick one.

in the garden

in the park

in the playground

in the garden

2 What was Alfie's sister called?

The next week was Alfie's sixth birthday, he was excited. When he woke up he went downstairs and there in the kitchen, was a pile of presents. There were lots of regular shaped presents but right by the back doors was a much larger one which Mum said was his special present. Alfie opened the other presents first. There were books, toys, games and chocolates. But when he got to open his main present...he was so disappointed, it was a bike! Red and shiny and something he would never be able to ride. Mum saw he was a bit worried and disappointed, "Don't worry, we'll soon get you going." Alfie gave a weak smile but was worried.

3 Who said, "Don't worry, we'll soon get you going." ?

4 What was Alfie's main present?

Tick one.

a play station

a scooter

a football

a bike

5 How did Alfie feel when he opened his main present?

Later that day, Alfie, Susie and Mum set off to the park with the children's bikes. Alfie walked very slowly. When they got to the park they found a nice quiet path away from other people. Susie started off on her bike. Alfie sat astride his bike with Mum standing behind him, firmly gripping the seat. He seemed to be wobbling already.

"Off you go! Pedal! Pedal! Pedal!" said Mum as he set off with her pushing him. Alfie wobbled, in fact he wobbled so much he stopped pedalling and fell off! He grazed his knee and tried not to cry.

6 Who went to the park?

7 Why do you think Alfie walked slowly?

8 What did Susie do?

9 Which part of his body did Alfie hurt?

Tick one.

his knee

his hand

his foot

his arm

"Come on try again." said Mum. Alfie sat on the bike, took a deep breath and tried again. This time he managed a bit further. This time, when he started to wobble he was able to stop and put his feet down without falling. "That's better!" encouraged Mum. Then, with Mum holding him tightly, he managed even further. He could hear Mum running behind him shouting, "Pedal! Pedal! Pedal!" He was going faster now and hardly wobbling at all. He was almost enjoying himself now.

He was suddenly aware that Mum's shouts were getting more distant, he didn't look back but carried on pedalling

"You're on your own! Fantastic! Well done Alf!" shouted Mum.

And he had done it. He continued to practice, fell off a few times, but had to quietly admit to himself it was fun. He was glad he hadn't given up.

10 Who held the bike for Alfie?

Tick one.

Alfie

Mum

Susie

Dad

11 Why do you think Alfie started to enjoy himself?

Useful words

Boneshaker

distinctive

aluminium

cycling

able-bodied

determination

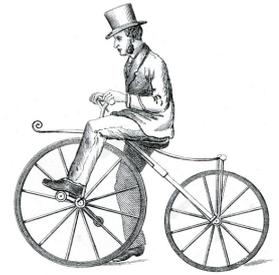
The History of the Bicycle

Bicycles have been around for about 200 years but have changed a lot in that time. Way back in 1817, a German inventor called Baron Von Drais invented a bicycle called "The Running Machine". It had two wooden wheels and a frame and was powered by the rider using their legs to push themselves along.



The Running Machine

In the 1860s, pedals were used for the first time. They were fixed to the front wheels but the wheels were still made from wood which made the ride very bumpy. They were known as "Boneshakers".



The Boneshaker

12

In which year did Baron Von Drais invent his running machine?

Tick one.

1817

1871

1885

1858

13

When were pedals first used?

14

Why were early bicycles known as "Boneshakers"?

The most distinctive of these early bicycles was the **Penny Farthing**. This had one large wheel at the front to which pedals were attached and a much smaller wheel at the back.

In 1885 an inventor called John Staveland had the idea of using a chain to power the back wheels. The wheels on his bike were both the same size.

A very important development was invented by a Scotsman called John Boyd Dunlop. He started to use rubber tyres filled with air. This gave the rider a much smoother ride.



The Penny Farthing

15

Who had the idea of using a chain to power a bicycle?

16

What was John Boyd Dunlop's invention?

Bicycles Today - what are they made from?

Bicycles are made in factories. Mostly the frame is made from steel. It is strong and won't rust when it gets wet. Sometimes frames are made from aluminium which is also a metal but much lighter than steel. Frames can even be made from bamboo!

The handlebars are often made from stainless steel which is shiny and attractive. The tyres are made from rubber which is soft, strong and flexible. Rubber is made from a juice which comes from a rubber tree.

The seat is made from foam, which is soft and comfortable, covered in plastic or leather which are both waterproof.

17

From what metal are most bike frames made?

18

Why are some frames made from aluminium?

19

What can be used to cover bicycle seats? Why are these materials used?

20

From where does rubber come?

Cycling as a Sport



Great Britain has a very strong cycling team. They had great success at the Olympics in Rio in 2016. They won 6 Gold Medals, 3 Silver and 2 Bronze Medals. People with disabilities also take part in competitions, especially the Paralympics. In Rio, they won 12 Gold Medals, 3 Silver and 6 Bronze medals

21 Where were the Olympics held in 2016?

Tick one.

London

Rio

Paris

New York

22 How many Bronze medals did the Paralympic team win in Rio?

23 How many medals did the able-bodied team win in Rio in total?

Sarah Storey



One of our most successful Paralympic cyclists is Sarah Storey. She was born with only one working hand, but through hard work and determination, she has been a great success. In fact, her first sporting success came in swimming when she won 2 Gold medals in the Barcelona Olympics in 1992.

Wanting a new challenge, she switched sports from swimming to cycling, where she enjoyed even more success. In the next three Olympics she won an amazing total of 9 Gold medals. These games were held in Beijing, London and Rio.

24 How many Olympic games has Sarah taken part in?

Tick one.

1

3

2

4

25 What was the first sport that Sarah tried?

26 How many Gold medals has Sarah won altogether?
