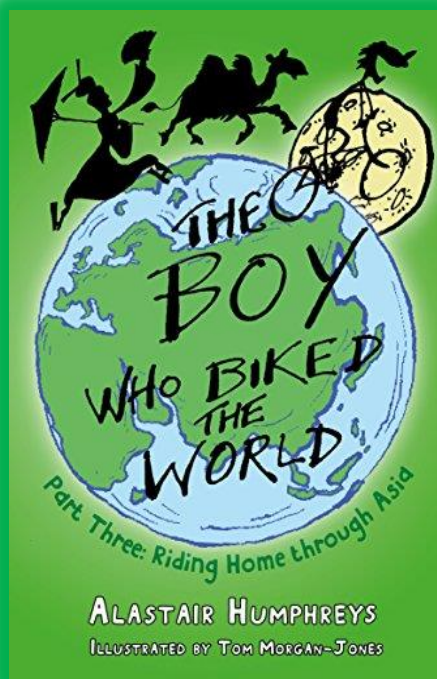


***The Boy Who Biked The World: Riding Home Through Asia* by Alastair Humphreys**

7-9



Tom dreamed of being an adventurer. But people told him he was crazy, so he decided to prove them wrong by cycling round the world! Books One and Two follow Tom crossing Europe and descending Africa, then pedalling through the Americas to Alaska. In Part Three - the final leg of his journey - he continues to have amazing experiences. He tackles the freezing temperatures of Siberia, rides behind reindeer in Russia, floats in a Japanese pool watched by monkeys and follows the Great Wall of China. Finally, he bikes back home to England. Tom learns about the world, and himself, as he tackles this epic journey.

Before reading...

Ask the children to look at the front cover. What do you think the book will be about? What things can you see on the front cover?

What sort of story will it be? Who might enjoy it?

Now read the blurb – were any of your predictions correct?

The following questions are designed as prompts only – allow the children to come up with their own questions and ideas. They will be much more engaged this way!

Reading Vipers

Vocabulary
Infer
Predict
Explain
Retrieve
Sequence or Summarise



Battling Snow In Siberia	
Vocabulary	Why might someone have to 'battle' snow? What is a snowdrift?
Infer	Why did no one hear Tom scream? Why did Tom declare his situation as 'stupid'? Why do you think Tom decided to whistle a cheerful tune?
Predict	What do you think will happen in this book?
Explain	How do you feel about Tom at the start of this book? Why?
Retrieve	Why was Tom going to crash? Where is Siberia? Name three things Tom was wearing.
Summarise	Choose one word to describe Tom's predicament and explain your choice of word.

Half A World Away	
Vocabulary	What does it mean if something is 'blurted out'? What does 'half a world away' mean? What is 'permafrost'? How do you think this word was created?
Infer	What had made Tom determined to take this trip? Name two reasons why Tom might have shivered.
Predict	Use a map to predict where Tom might go next.
Explain	Why do you think the author recapped Tom's journey so far?
Retrieve	Where did Tom's journey start? Name two interesting things that Tom has seen. Where does the third leg of Tom's journey begin? What did Tom buy for his journey?
Summarise	Summarise Tom's thoughts about Russia in one sentence.

Pancakes And Reindeer	
Vocabulary	What does it mean if something plummets? 'Winter arrived silently in the night' - what does this mean? Define 'hibernate'. Define 'gradually'.
Infer	Why were there no road signs? Why was Tom grinning? Why was Tom happy when cars went past?
Predict	Predict what Tom will do next.
Explain	What do you think is the main hardship in cycling through Siberia?
Retrieve	Why did the water make Tom gasp? What made it hard to cycle? What was the growling noise that Tom heard? Who did Tom find in the forest? Why did the houses have no running water? What food did he make for Tom?
Summarise	Summarise Tom's journey in this chapter by explaining it to your partner.

Riding The Wild Winter Road	
Vocabulary	What are 'consequences'? What is a thermos flask?
Infer	Why did Tom not enjoy going to the toilet? Why couldn't Tom sleep? Why would wearing tight layers of clothing be a bad idea? Why did Tom put the pie down his pants? How did Tom feel when he saw the river was frozen?
Predict	Before Tom takes his chosen road, predict what will happen.
Explain	Which road would you have taken and why?
Retrieve	What were the two roads called? Which road led to the Lena River? Which road did Tom decide to take? What is the name of the coldest town in the world? Where is Tom going next?
Summarise	Summarise the events of this chapter into one or two sentences.

Steaming Through Japan	
Vocabulary	What might the word 'steaming' mean in the chapter title? What is a 'culture shock'? Define 'novelty'. What is an onsen?
Infer	Why was Tom so smelly? Why would it have been easy to mistake Tom for a monkey?
Predict	What else might Tom see in Japan?
Explain	What is Tom's first impression of Japan? Do you think he prefers it to Siberia? Why?
Retrieve	How was Japan different from Russia? Where did Tom wash himself? What are the four main Japanese islands? What type of poem did Tom write?
Summarise	Choose one word to describe this chapter and explain your choice of word.

Tokyo Tower Blocks, Temples and Mount Fuji	
Vocabulary	What does it mean to be overwhelmed? Define 'heartfelt'.
Infer	Why was Tom finding cycling in Tokyo to be frustrating? Why do you think Mitch found it funny to not tell Tom what he was eating?
Predict	Predict what might happen in China.
Explain	How does the author make Japan sound like a place worth visiting?
Retrieve	What was the name of Tom's friend? How much bigger is Tokyo than London? What present did Mitch's parents give to Tom? What is interesting about Mount Fuji? Where is Tom going next?
Summarise	Write a diary entry from the perspective of Mitch about Tom's time staying with the family.

Chaos And Chopsticks In China	
Vocabulary	What are chopsticks? What is 'jostling'? Define 'mingling'.
Infer	Why is Tom excited? Why did people stare at Tom? Why did Tom spit the milk out? Why were people making fun of Tom? What do you think the 'chaos' in the chapter title was?
Predict	Predict where Tom might go next, using a map.
Explain	What other phrases do you think would have been useful for Tom and why?
Retrieve	How was China different to Japan? Which city is Tom in? What game were the old men playing? Why did the lady cyclists wear masks? How did people react to Tom's newspaper cutting? Name two foods that Tom did not want to try.
Summarise	Summarise Tom's character in this chapter by choosing one word to describe him and explaining why you chose that word.

Beijing To The Great Wall	
Vocabulary	What does it mean if something is spotless? What does it mean if an engine is 'spluttering'? What is a barge?
Infer	Why is Beijing kept so clean? Why doesn't Tom really like to cycle in cities? Why did the police arrive? Why was Tom so excited about the Great Wall of China?
Predict	Use a map to predict where Tom might go next.
Explain	'Maybe even BAD NEWS' - why does the author use capitals here?
Retrieve	What is the capital city of China? Where did Tom get a punctured tyre? Which river did Tom arrive at? What was the issue he encountered? How did Tom cross the river? What is the land like in Inner Mongolia? Retrieve 3 facts about the Great Wall of China.
Summarise	Write a diary entry as Tom - one paragraph when he reaches the Great Wall of China.

The Taklamakan Desert	
Vocabulary	What is an 'oasis town'? What is a 'depression' in the context of this chapter? Define 'ascend'.
Infer	Why did Tom talk to the animals? Why did the waitress bring hot water to Tom?
Predict	Knowing Tom is headed to Central Asia, predict where he might go.
Explain	Explain Tom's 'have you got the hump?' joke.
Retrieve	Where did Tom first see the desert? Why would the Taklamakan have been easier than other places? What is the Turpan Depression?
Summarise	Summarise Tom's restaurant experience in one sentence.

Cycling The Stans	
Vocabulary	Define 'complicated'. Define 'sympathetic'. What type of movement is a 'pootle'? What does it mean if something is communal?
Infer	Why did Tom prefer the evenings? Find two examples of Tom being smart.
Predict	Using a map, predict where Tom might go next.
Explain	Would it be worth Tom taking a watermelon with him? Why?
Retrieve	What are the Stans? What woke Tom up every morning? Why were the ovens outside?
Summarise	Sum up what the Stans are in one sentence.

Nomads Along The Silk Road	
Vocabulary	What is a nomad? What is a yurt? What is a 'generation'? Define 'mirage'.
Infer	Why did the men ride to Tom's tent? Why does Tom often think he is a nomad? Do you think he is one? Why didn't Tom get his tent out here? Why does Tom brush his teeth whilst cycling?
Predict	Look at the title of the next chapter and predict what will happen.
Explain	What do you think the mood of this chapter was supposed to be? Do you think the author achieved it, and if so, how?
Retrieve	What does the Kyrgyzstan flag look like? How many generations live in the yurt? How did they keep the fire burning? Where had Tom been dreaming of visiting and why? What is the Silk Road? Why was Tom too excited to sleep?
Summarise	Summarise Tom's time on the Silk Road to a partner.

Goodbye Asia, Hello Europe	
Vocabulary	What is a ferry? Define 'rural'. What does it mean if a country is fertile?
Infer	Why would the ferry feel like a treat? What does it mean if you rely on your nose for something? Why was arriving at the Bosphorus an important moment?
Predict	Predict how the final stretch might play out.
Explain	'He had changed' - how had Tom changed?
Retrieve	Where did the ferry stop? What excited Tom about going to Georgia? How is Georgia said to have gotten its name? What reminded Tom of his Mum and Dad? What new food did Tom 'invent'?
Summarise	Summarise Tom's thoughts as he leaves Turkey.

Pedal Power And The Final Push	
Vocabulary	What does it mean to drool? What does it mean to reminisce? Why does Tom reminisce so much in this chapter? Define 'impatient'.
Infer	What made Tom pedal even faster? Why do you think the old lady was suspicious of Tom? Why would Mr Field be furious with Tom? Why do you think Tom had tears in his eyes? How do you know the ferry woman recognised Tom?
Predict	Predict how the story will end.
Explain	How does the author use exclamation marks at the start of this chapter? Do you think Mr Field will be furious with Tom? Why?
Retrieve	What chased Tom in Macedonia? How did Tom escape the dogs? What was the second to last country?
Summarise	Summarise this chapter in one sentence.

Round The World And Home Again	
Vocabulary	Define 'confident'.
Infer	Why does Tom like visiting other places so much? What did Tom learn on his adventures? How did Tom's family react to seeing him? Why does Tom groan seeing the sandwiches?
Predict	If there were another book in this series, predict what it would be about.

Explain	Did you enjoy this book? Why? Write a review.
Retrieve	What was Tom looking forward to?
Summarise	Summarise the whole story in fewer than 100 words.