



## LESSON – 4

# DOWNHILL ON A BICYCLE

### A. Pre-reading

#### Activity – 1

Discuss the following questions with a friend.

- a) Do you ride a bicycle?
- b) How do you feel when you ride a bicycle?

Let us listen to a poem about a bicycle ride.

### B. Let's listen

1. Close your books. Your teacher will read aloud the poem. Listen to him mindfully so that you can answer the following questions.
  - a) What is the poem about?
  - b) Say any three words in the poem which you remember.
2. Now open your book. Listen as the teacher reads aloud for a second time. This time you can look at the text of the poem while listening to the teacher.
3. Now read the poem silently.

## C. The Poem

### DOWNHILL ON A BICYCLE.

With lifted feet, hands still,  
I am poised<sup>1</sup>, and down the hill

Part<sup>2</sup> with heedful<sup>3</sup> mind:  
The air goes by in a wind.

Swifter and yet more swift  
Till the heart with a mighty<sup>4</sup> lift  
Makes the lungs laugh, the throat cry -  
"O bird<sup>5</sup>, see, see, bird, I fly"!

Is this, is this your joy?  
O bird, then I, though a boy,  
For a golden moment share  
Your feathery<sup>6</sup> life in air.

1. balanced
2. to move away
3. attentive
4. full of joy and excitement
5. the rider laughs and shouts out to a bird in flight while coming down on a bicycle.
6. as light as feathers.



H.C. Beeching

## D. Let's understand the poem

### ACTIVITY - 2



1. Who is riding a bicycle? In which line do you find the answer?

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2. Is he moving down the hill carefully? How do you know?

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3. How does he feel when he is moving down on the bicycle?

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4. What does the boy shout while moving down the hill?

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5. Who lives a 'feathery life' in air? Why is it called a 'featherly life'?

.....

6. The cyclist talks about 'a golden moment' because

a) the air goes by in a wind.

b) it is very difficult to ride a bicycle.

c) he feels like a bird flying swiftly in air.

.....

## E. Let's look at the words

### ACTIVITY-3.

Say the words 'still' and 'hill'. Mark that they sound alike. Make a list of the words which sound alike in the poem.

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.....

### ACTIVITY-4

Read the lines from the poem written below. Some words are missing from these lines.

Remember the words and put them in the blanks.

- a) With \_\_\_\_\_ feet, hands still, I am poised, and down the hill.
- b) For a golden moment share your \_\_\_\_\_ life in air.
- c) Swifter and yet more \_\_\_\_\_.



## F. Let's write

### Activity-5

1. Write down the line/words from the poem that express the following ideas or meanings.

Example : The bicycle was moving down the hill at great speed.

#### Swifter and yet more swift

- a) The boy holds the handlebar firmly.

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- b) The air turns into wind.

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- c) The boy is very excited and happy.

.....

- d) The boy feels that he is flying

.....

**ACTIVITY - 6**

Answer the following questions, each in about 25 words.

a) How is the boy poised before moving down the hill ?

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.....

b) How does the air turn into wind ?

.....  
.....

c) Why does the boy shout 'O bird, see, see, bird, I fly !' ?

.....  
.....

d) Why does the boy ask the bird "Is this, is this your joy" ?

.....  
.....

e) Why does the boy feel it to be 'a golden moment' ?

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