



LESSON – 4

GOING DOWN THE HILL 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. Teacher may put the question on the blackboard. Students will answer only after they have listened the whole poem from their teacher.
 - 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 the 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

GOING DOWN THE HILL ON A BICYCLE.



With lifted feet, hands still,
I am poised¹, and down the hill
Part² with heedful³ mind:
The air goes by in a wind.

Swifter and yet more swift
Till the heart with a mighty⁴ lift
Makes the lungs laugh, the throat cry -
“O bird⁵, see, see, bird, I fly” !

Is this, is this your joy ?
O bird, then I, though a boy,
For a golden moment share
Your feathery⁶ 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 'feathery 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 the air.

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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 a great speed.

Swifter and yet more swift

- a) The boy holds the handlebar firmly.
.....
- b) The air turns into wind.
.....
- 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 ?

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.....

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

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.....

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

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.....

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

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