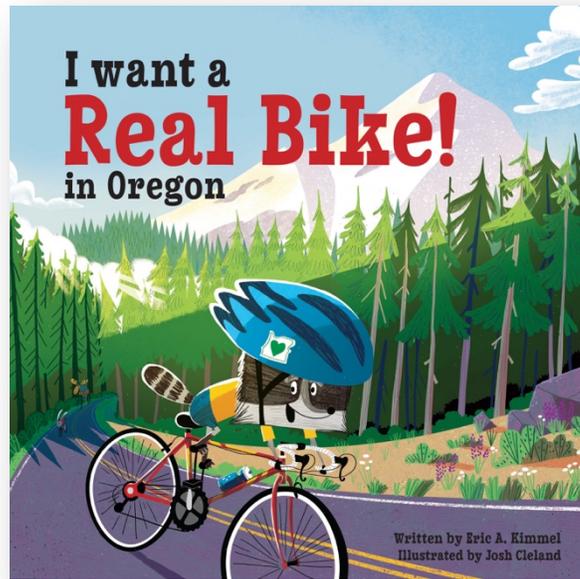


I Want a Real Bike! (in Oregon)



About the Author

Eric A. Kimmel has written more than a hundred books, including *The Runaway Tortilla* and *Rattlestiltskin*, and won numerous awards. He believes biking is a way of life. Eric lives in Portland, Oregon, where he enjoys riding his recumbent, his favorite kind of bike. Visit him at ericakimmel.com.

About the Illustrator

Josh Cleland is a professional illustrator for children's books, magazines, games, and more. He's been published by *Highlights for Children* and *Storytime Magazine* for his whimsical art. Josh lives in Oregon and enjoys riding rental bikes in Sunriver. Visit him online at joshcleland.com.

Pre-Reading Discussion Questions

1. Look at the different kinds of animals represented on the front and back cover. Can you identify them all? Which one do you think is the main character and why?
2. Notice what all the animals are doing. Based on this, what do you think the book will be about?
3. The title has "Real Bike!" in a bright red color. Discuss what a "real bike" could mean and give predictions about what the story will be about.
4. The title also mentions Oregon. What are some other hints on the front cover that this book will take place in Oregon?
5. Talk about your own bike experiences. Can you or anyone you know ride a bike? Discuss what your first time riding a bike was like and what the bike looked like.

Post-Reading Discussion Questions

1. Study the raccoon's old bike and describe it. What does it look like? What are some things the raccoon loves about it?
2. The raccoon defines a "real bike" to mean something specific. What does it mean? Why isn't the raccoon's old bike a "real bike"?
3. There are several different types of animals who ride bikes in the book. Name as many animals as you can and point out which ones you like best.
4. List the different places in Oregon that the book shows. Have you visited any of the sites? Did you see anyone bicycling there? If you haven't been to any of the sites, which place would you want to visit the most based on the illustrations?
5. Name the different types of bikes featured in the book. Talk about why each bike is special and how it works in the location it's shown.
6. Have you seen or ridden any of the bikes in the book? Which one would you want to ride as your own real bike and why?
7. Look at the illustration where the raccoon is in bed at night. What are some signs here that show a love for bikes? What about signs that the raccoon lives in Oregon? What other things in the illustration do you notice?
8. In the end, the raccoon gets a "real bike" after all. Why? Point to specific things in the art that prove your point.

Activities

1. Write a short story about getting a bike for your birthday. How do you get it? What does it look like? Draw a picture of the scene you describe.
2. Imagine you could bike anywhere in your state and write about where you would go. Draw or print out pictures of the places you would visit with your bike.
3. Find a local bike event in your area and organize a group to go together. There is a list of family-friendly Oregon bike events on the last page in the book.

Find these parts of a bike in pictures in the book:

axle	frame	spokes
basket	hand brakes	saddle
bell	handlebars	tassels
chain	pedals	wheels

