Teacher's

guide

The Terrible Red Racer

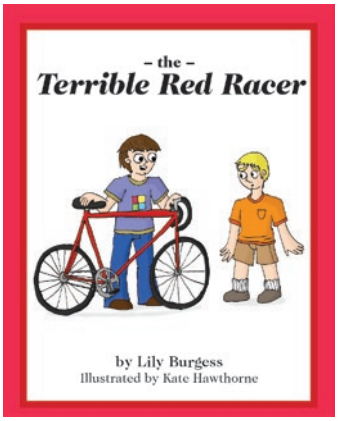
words from Daddy's mouth

The Terrible Red Racer

By Lily Burgess

Illustrated by Kate Hawthorne

ISBN: 978-0-9922716-1-9



Teachers' Notes

Prepared and written by a teacher with experience in both whole class and special education.

These notes are made available free of charge for use in schools.

They may not be reproduced and sold commercially.

Index

Synopsis 5
Background 5
Themes 5
Writing style 6
Study notes 6
Activities 7
Drama 8
Mathematics 8
Writing 9
Health 9
Social science 9
Science 9
Music 9
About the author 9
About the illustrator 10
Worksheets available 12

The Terrible Red Racer

1 Synopsis

The Terrible Red Racer is the second book in the *Words from Daddy's Mouth* series. In this story, the father recounts how, as a child, he broke his arm when he fell off his friend's bike while riding to soccer practice. He recalls how he was thrown on to the road, and was nearly hit by a car. Although he managed to struggle to the school office to get help, he was turned away. After an agonising wait, his mother arrived on the scene. She took him to the nearest hospital, where he was given a local anaesthetic. However, there was some unexplained delay, and by the time the doctor attempted to re-align the bones in his arm, the anaesthetic had worn off and the procedure was unsuccessful. He was then transferred by ambulance to a second hospital for an operation.

2 Background

While it might seem incredible that so many misfortunes could occur to one child in one day, this story is based on a actual event (with a few embellishments). It took place in the 1980s, in the Australian Capital Territory.

3 Themes

- Reminiscing about childhood experiences
- Overcoming misfortune

- Perseverance
- Learning that life is not always fair and just, and sometimes things go wrong.

4 Writing style

This story is written in the conversational style of a father recounting a childhood event to his daughters, as told through the voice his daughter, Lily.

The text involves some narration and considerable dialogue. Direct speech is marked by quotation marks (inverted commas). Where there is extended direct speech, continuing over more than one paragraph, the text follows the convention of beginning each paragraph with quotation marks, but only using closing quotation marks at the conclusion of a section of dialogue.

The story also includes an occasional digression, as the father explains concepts and interacts with his daughters.

5 Study notes

To introduce the story:

a Explain that this is a story a father tells to his daughters, and read the introductory notes.

- Show the students the front cover, read the title, and ask them to predict what a story about a terrible red racer might entail.
- Ask the students if they have ever attempted to ride a bike that is too big for them, and if so what happened.
- Read the story for enjoyment.

Following the reading of the story:

b Discuss the two layers to the story (Dad telling a story to his daughters, and the story about the broken arm). Discuss this with reference to the illustrations on Pages 6 and 7.

- Identify the main characters in each layer (Dad, his daughters Stephanie, Jasmin and Mum in the first layer, and Dad as a young boy, his friend Jeremy Tobin, the lady driver, the lady in school office, his mum and medical staff in the second layer).
- Ask the students to draw two pictures – one depicting the family listening to Dad telling the story, and the other, showing Dad as a young boy, falling off the red racer.
- Create a story line, showing the events in sequence.
- Identify the digressions. Examples include, early computers (Pages 8-9), cassette tapes, (Page 10), mobile phones (Page 22).
- Discuss how the digressions help to provide context and background to the main story.

6 Activities

- Encourage children to bring examples of 'old' technology to school and set up a display. Items could include early mobile phones, early telephones, cassette players, record players, film cameras, etc. Where possible, date the objects, and ask the students to list their advantages and disadvantages over modern versions.
- The red racer had special locking device (Pages 12-13) that locked unexpectedly (Page 16). This innovation proved a useless and dangerous invention. Have the students suggest/ research other useless/ dangerous inventions (examples range from a rotating icecream cone, to the segway, to hydrogen blimps). Make a class list of these inventions, and have the students debate the pros and cons of each.

- Discuss how the decision to swap bikes led to a series of disastrous events.
- Discuss the reaction of the lady driving the car (Pages 18-21). Was she in shock?
- Discuss the reaction of the receptionist at the school (Pages 21-24).
- Discuss the consequences of delaying the reduction (realigning the bones in the arm) until after the local anaesthetic had worn off (Pages 28-31).

7 Drama

Roll-play the decision to swap bikes, the reactions of the lady driver and the school receptionist, and the delay at the hospital, and have the students suggest alternative scenarios.

8 Mathematics

- Geometry – discuss / revise triangles. Use rulers and protractors to draw the locking device (Pages 12-13).
- Geometry - Discuss / revise right angles (Page 20). Use rulers and protractors to draw right-angled triangles.
- Measure 30 cm – the length of the big needle (Page 35). Would it have really been this long?

9 Writing

- Students write a recount of a visit they, or a member of their family, made to a hospital.
- Ask the students to imagine what it would be like to break their writing arm. Brain storm what school activities they could and couldn't participate in. Could they do more than just play computer games? (Page 7). List the suggestions.

10 Health

- Discuss healthy food, and in particular foods that are rich in calcium, and promote strong bone growth.

11 Social Science

- As this story refers to several generations, this could provide starting point for a discussion of family trees, and the connections between different generations. For example, on Pages 24-26, Dad attempts to explain to his daughters that his mum is their gran. Children could be invited to bring family photos to school, and explain the different generations to the class.

12 Science

- In this story, the father tells how he fell off a bike while going down a hill, and the locking device malfunctioned as he attempted to turn. This is an ideal starting point for a science lesson that investigates how the angle of an inclined plane affects the speed of toy cars released from the top of the plane. The experiment can then be extended to discover what happens when an obstacle is placed at the bottom of the inclined plane, and the toy cars are forced to turn.
- As the story also mentions the shoulder bone and forearm bones, the nature of the human skeleton could be investigated.

11 Music

- Learn 'Dem dry bones' song.

15 About the author

About how this all began (and why Lily Burgess is the author on the cover of the books)

By Matthew Burgess

Being a full time lawyer Matthew needed a creative outlet, and in 2010, he began writing business books for other professional service providers.

However there was still something missing. His wife said she married me because he made her laugh with the crazy stories he told her when they first met and that he should write a book.

Many years later they began to raise 1, then 2, then 3 and finally 4, precious girls and Matthew started to share stories of his childhood with his children.

It soon became one of the family's favourite pastimes. Often embellished and seldom kept on track the girls would be absorbed. What was fact became blurred in the magic of the stories told.

A strong undertone in the stories are various life lessons, while also ensuring a healthy dose of humour and role playing.

When his third daughter, Lily, was about four years old, she said "Daddy, please tell me another story from your mouth".

From that day on, the stories became known as "Words from Daddy's mouth". Over time, the stories became known as "Lily's stories". It was therefore a natural progression that Lily Burgess would became the pseudonym for the authoring of the children books to help distinguish them from his other publications.

With so many stories, a list was created to remember them all (at last count the list was nearing 500). So over time a game developed where the girls would choose a number from the list. Whatever story related to the number chosen would be the story that would be told.

With so many stories, a list was created to remember them all (at last count the list was nearing 500). So over time a game developed where the girls would choose a number from the list. Whatever story related to the number chosen would be the story that would be told.

16 About the illustrator

Kate Hawthorne has two Bachelors degrees, one in Fine Arts and one in Arts & Sciences. She illustrates primarily for theatre and graphic novels, though in the past she has illustrated for her college newspaper, posters, and many other contests.

Below are her steps for illustrating The Big Rusty Nail and all of the books in this series. The steps below are very common in the industry for illustrators and graphic novelists to employ. However different illustrators may make different choices at each step based on the story and style they are trying to achieve for their unique work.

1. First, the entire story is read to see what is to be drawn and what the overall story and progression of the pictures should be.
2. Then the story is divided into chunks of text that go together and that allows a good unique picture for.

3. Next Kate sketches the pages in pencil so that they can easily fixed or changed if necessary. This step tends to be the most daunting as it's creating something from scratch and getting all the proportions correct.

4. After that she slowly and precisely inks the pages with a micron pen, as ink cannot be erased, then there will be a clean copy of the lines that will be kept from the illustration. This also provides the best image to scan as scanners do not pick up pencil very well. It's also harder to convert a pencil drawing into something that can color as they are very messy.

5. This next step has a lot of mini steps that include scanning the pages, several steps that convert them into a smooth digital copy, several more that clean up the lines and pages, and then the last part of this step is to color.

6. Next everything is shaded by hand from the smallest details to the largest objects so that the exact shading is created.

7. The final step is to add line shading, black lines/tic marks along where the shading goes. This adds extra character and design and makes the drawings seem more complete. Detailed work on this step such as putting the entire cross hatching on the school kids hats or filling in lines that got erased or covered during all the previous steps.

16 Worksheets available

- Word Search
- Word Study
- Crossword
- Comprehension

Name: _____

The Terrible Red Racer

Comprehension Sheet

Who is listening to Dad's story telling?

_____

Who was Jeremy Tobin?

_____

Describe a 'Commodore 64'.

_____

_____

Why do you think Jeremy wanted to ride the yellow BMX bike, rather than his new red racer?

_____

_____

_____

What would you do if you won a prize of $1000 on a radio competition?

1

2

Which route would you choose? Explain why.

Why do you think the lady driver screamed and yelled?

Why do you think the lady in the school office refused to allow a phone call?

Draw four pictures to show what happened when they got to the first hospital

If your arm was broken, would you go to the first or the second hospital?

Why?

Do you think Dad exaggerated when he described the last needle as being thirty centimetres long?

Why?

Imagine you are going to visit a friend who has just broken his or her writing arm. You want to take a small gift. Look at the list below and decide whether or not each idea is suitable. Give reasons for your answer.

Gift suggestion	Is this gift a good idea? Yes or No	Reasons
Bunch of flowers		
Pack of cards		
Box of chocolates		
Bag of grapes		
Colouring in book		
My suggestion		

Pretend you are the lady driver. Give your version of what happened.

Name: _____

The Terrible Red Racer

Word study. Write down meanings for these words.

explain _____

popular _____

approach _____

chopstick _____

dislocate _____

mobile _____

plead _____

Read these words:

break	brake

Write a sentence for each:

Now complete this table

Read	Sound	Write word	Draw a picture
brake	br-ake		
stake	st-ake		
make	m-ake		
fake	f-ake		
lake	l-ake		

cake	c-ake		
quake	qu-ake		
take	t-ake		
wake	w-ake		
break	br-eak		
steak	st-eak		

Word building – read and write these words:

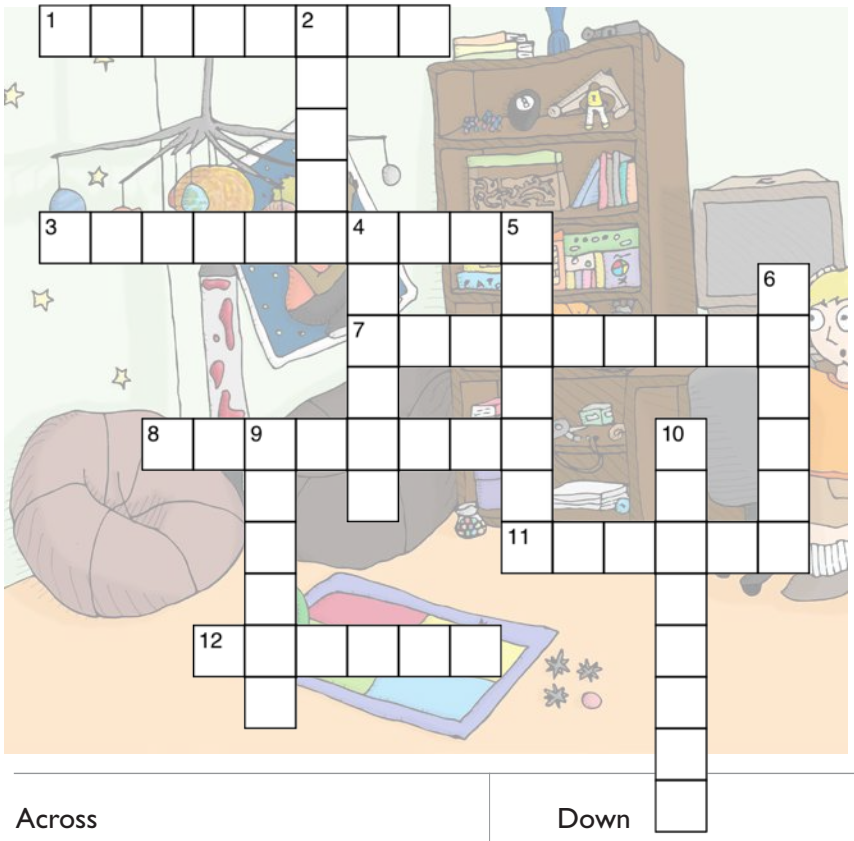
race	racer	races	raced	racing

What happens to the **e** when you add **-ing** to **race?**

Draw pictures for these words:

ambulance		red racing bike	
forearm		yellow BMX bike	
cassette player		zebra crossing	
phone		X-ray	

The Terrible Red Racer



Across

1 The' Commodore 64' was an early _____ .

3 The red racer had a special device that locked the _____ .

7 The boy travelled to the second hospital by _____ .

8 Early computers had to have games loaded on to them with a _____ tape.

11 How many centimetres long was the very big needle?

12 What was the colour of the BMX bike?

Down

2 How many red buttons did the triangular locking device have?

4 The lady in the car slammed on her _____ .

5 The receptionist at the school wouldn't allow a phone call because it was a _____ free day.

6 _____ Tobin owned the red racing bike.

9 The boys were on their way to a _____ practice.

10 Jeremy was given the red racing bike for his _____ .

The Terrible Red Racer

v	c	i	b	o	d	z	i	j	k	p	u	v	w	d
p	m	w	e	a	z	u	p	m	f	l	k	r	i	n
m	g	j	j	v	l	d	a	n	w	c	f	h	u	j
h	h	e	p	y	p	f	x	o	m	m	i	g	b	u
p	u	y	b	h	m	s	q	g	f	y	s	f	e	d
g	b	k	h	h	i	q	t	e	f	u	d	z	z	h
c	i	y	x	r	d	z	v	s	p	a	r	k	a	d
u	f	r	s	p	b	l	s	s	w	w	i	s	r	q
d	t	e	j	z	o	a	x	p	o	g	m	q	y	t
q	o	q	s	r	p	d	f	x	u	x	r	a	o	c
i	j	p	u	c	f	d	m	h	q	w	w	y	x	h
m	j	t	f	m	j	n	o	b	i	g	q	u	i	z
y	d	w	w	g	w	s	m	l	p	f	b	v	k	l
d	u	t	c	g	a	z	p	g	b	i	k	k	e	y
i	k	b	m	n	c	x	c	x	i	q	o	j	i	u

ambulance	arm	bones	break	broken
cassette	computer	crossing	doctor	handlebars
invention	needle	numb	plaster	racer
reception	school	shoulder	sleep	smartphone
soccer	terrible	treatment	triangular	

words from Daddy's mouth