GENIES DON'T RIDE BICYCLES

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READING RIGHT

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GENIES DON’T RIDE BICYCLES

Synopsis

This is a humorous tale of four students who think things at school and at home might be better if they were different. However, as they make wishes, which somehow come true, the effects are not at all what they've hoped for. A snowstorm gets them out of school for the day but ends up in a causing a cancellation of a concert they want to attend. From food in the cafeteria changing to Eddie’s father getting a sports car, events keep happening that seem good at first but quickly turn sour. This story will keep you laughing from start to finish.
1. What is the setting of this story?
   Time period -
   Place -

2. Who are the 4 main characters?

3. Eddie throws the bottle into a junky yard. Where is the junky yard located?

4. What makes the junky yard look so messy?

5. What time of year is it?
   What in the story makes you think that?

6. Who do you think Eugene is?
   Why do you think that?
1. Give 2 examples of things Mrs. Jeepers does that make her students think she is strict.

2. The authors say the tree’s branches “...looked like sticks with white cotton candy.” Draw a picture of the tree on the back.

3. Do they usually have snow in Baily City? What in the story suggests that?

4. The 4 friends thought it would be fun not to have school. Why did they change their minds?

5. The weather went from warm to snow and back to warm. What problems did that cause for Baily City?

6. Why doesn’t Eddie believe Eugene is a Genie?

7. Do you think the children’s wishes were being granted? Why do you think that?
GENIES DON'T RIDE BICYCLES
LESSON 3
Chapters 5 - 6

1. Where do the 4 friends meet each morning before school?

2. Eddie can't talk. The girls think it was from Melody's wish. What is Eddie's opinion?

3. The friends want to find out if Eugene is a genie so they decide to make an unusual wish and see if it comes true. What do they wish for?

4. What reason does Mrs. Jeepers give her class for the cafeteria not having chicken and broccoli for lunch?

5. The boys still don't believe in genies. Why do you think that is so?

6. If you thought you'd found a genie what one wish, besides money, would you wish for?
1. Why is Eddie sad about his father getting a neat sports car?

2. What does Howie find that makes all of them think Eugene is a genie?

3. How did the children figure out they should have 12 wishes?

4. Chapter 8 is called “Nice Surprises.” Give 2 examples of people doing nice things from this chapter.

5. All the wishes seem to cause problem. Pick any wish from the story and tell what problems happened when the wish came true.

6. What do you think the Genie thinks about the children’s wishes? Explain why you think that.
1. What was the plot of this story and what was the solution?

2. Why is Melody the one who has to make the wish to fix everything?

3. What were 2 signs that things had returned to normal in Baily City?

4. Why didn’t Eddie’s friends want him to open the second bottle they found?

5. The note says you can make your own wishes come true.
   What do you think that means?

6. Tell about the part you thought was the funniest.
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Answer Key

LESSON 1
1. The setting is modern times and the place is Baily City.

2. The 4 main characters are Melody, Eddie, Howie, and Liz.

3. The junky yard is next to the schoolyard.

4. The yard looks so junky and messy because it has a broken fence, and broken bottles, and no one lives there.

5. It would appear to be around Christmas as people are putting up lights to decorate their houses.

6. Answers will vary.

LESSON 2
1. Things that Mrs. Jeepers does that seem strict are: she gives lots of homework, she doesn't let them yell in class, and she doesn't let them watch videos.

2. Pictures will vary.

3. No they don't usually have snow in Baily. Support will vary.

4. The friends changed their minds about school being canceled as fun when the concert they wanted to attend was also canceled due to snow and the school closing.

5. When the weather quickly turned from the snow back to warm temperatures it caused flooding.

6. Eddie doesn't believe Eugene is a genie because he rides a bicycle instead of a flying carpet.

7. Answers will vary.
LESSON 3
1. The friends meet by the tree in the back of the schoolyard each morning.

2. Eddie thinks he has laryngitis and that’s why he can’t talk.

3. The unusual wish to test the genie theory is that pizza and chocolate will be served in the school cafeteria for lunch.

4. Mrs. Jeepers announces the delivery truck broke down so the cafeteria will not be serving chicken and broccoli for lunch.

5. Answers will vary.

6. Answers will vary.

LESSON 4
1. Eddie is sad about his father getting a sports car because now he has to work more and be gone for Christmas as part of the deal for getting the car.

2. Howie finds a book at the library that makes the children think Eugene is a genie.

3. The children figure that if each one of them gets three wishes they should have a total of 12 wishes.

4. Some of the nice surprises in Chapter 8 are:
   Lisa’s mom took her shopping; the store clerk gave Lisa an extra dress for free, Eddie’s dad didn’t yell at home when he spilt paint, Eddie helped pick up Carey’s dropped papers.

5. Answers will vary.

6. Answers will vary
LESSON 5

1. The plot of the story is whether or not the Genie is real. The solution is indecisive but seem to suggest that Eugene might have been a genie. Have children explain why they think Eugene was or wasn't a genie.

2. Melody has to make the last wish because she is the only one who hasn't used all three of her wishes.

3. Delivery trucks dropping off broccoli and corn dogs for the cafeteria, cool air, and a littered yard were all signs that things had returned to normal in Baily City.

4. Answers will vary.

5. Answers will vary. It may refer to the idea that you can work to make things happen.

6. Answers will vary.