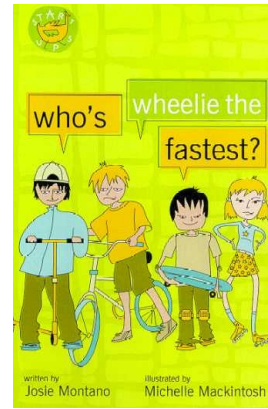


who's *wheelie* the fastest?

written by
Josie Montano

illustrated by
Michelle Mackintosh



Teacher's Notes
Nancy Mortimer

This fun easy-to read story by Josie Montano has a lot of things to which pupils from 6-9 years old can relate. It is about a group of children living in the same street who play on different forms of “wheels”. When one of the boys claims his bike can go faster than the narrator’s new scooter, the situation arises that in order to prove which is the faster, a race is to be held.

What follows is a build up to the race and a description of the actual event – until in the end the seriousness of the competitive situation is debunked – by a very funny joke.

Young children will be able to relate to the competition, the rivalry, the set of children who comprise the neighbourhood – and the amusing ending.

The large print, swiftly moving story and accessible language makes this another title in the **Start-ups** series that pupils in their first years of reading will take up with relish.

Michelle Mackintosh’s simple illustrations contribute to the text.

**These notes can be photocopied for class use.
They and other resources are available at no charge from the
Lothian Books’ website:
www.lothian.com.au**

READING

- Where is the story set?
- Who tells the story?
- How is the story told?

- Where does the title come from?

Explain that the story is told by someone in the first person narrative
Portions of the text are in direct speech - talking

- Find instances of this

- What does Carlo want to do with his new scooter?
- What is the challenge?
- Who is it made by?
- Make a list of competitors for the race
- How was the race to be judged?
- Where was it to take place?
- What was the prize?
- Who provided it?
- How did the children prepare for the race?
- What did Carlo do the night before the race?
- Describe the day of the race.
- What did his Mum make him do?
- Why?
- What was the surprise at the end?

- Who won the race?

- What did Michael have?
- How did he get these?
- Why did the kids groan at the end?

- Outline the conditions of the race
- Describe what happens

Activities

- Divide the class into groups, allowing one person from each group to read the story. Each group can read one chapter, allocating the parts amongst themselves.

Ending

- Have children explain the ending to a friend

WRITING

- Compile a list of characters from the story, putting their attributes and characteristics up on the board.
- From the story, make a list of things that can be classed as a “wheelie”
- Do a review of the story **who’s wheelie the fastest?** written by Josie Monatano and illustrated by Michelle Mackintosh

SPEAKING / LISTENING

- Ask different children to tell the story to the class

Activities

Talk about:

- friends
- neighbours
- rivalry
- competition
- comparisons

- Describe the race
- Have children give a commentary on the race as though they were broadcasting it - allow several children the opportunity to do this.

Ask the class to:

- give instances of antagonism from the story
- outline Carl’s final preparation for the race.
- What role did Michael have?
- Why?
- Allow pupils to tell stories of how they interact with other children in their street.

- Make a poster telling about the race
- Describe what each participant looked like, what they had on when they lined up and what they were using as their 'wheels'
- The title is a double play on words – talk about this.
- Devise word games to do with the story so that pupils see words are fun and can be played with to good effect.
- What were the rules for the race?
- Were they complied with?
- Find stories about neighbourhood kids interacting
- Find stories about different sorts of “wheels”
- Make up a wider list of “wheels”
- Draw your favorite means of wheels
- Choose one character from the story and tell what happened from your point-of-view

Drama

Have children:

- pretend they are the judge of the race and act out this role
- act out the race, putting themselves in place of one character from the story on their particular form of “wheels”