

The Gorgeous Bicycle



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BEFORE YOU READ:

SOUND SPELLINGS:

The target sound spellings are /N/ spelled PN - pneumonia, pneumatic, and /Z/ spelled X - xylophone.

SNAPWORDS®: LIST E: bicycle, passenger. LIST V: study, succeed.

SUFFIXES: EOUS /Ē-US/ words: gorgeous, courteous (polite), advantageous, courageous, spontaneous. E is pronounced Long E, and OUS sounds like US. UOUS /Ū-US/ words: arduous, continuous, impetuous. UOUS, has U that sounds like Long U, and OUS that sounds like US. See *Sounds & Their Spelling Patterns, 3rd Ed.*, p. 138. The OUS suffix means "turns a noun into an adjective." Courteous is a person who shows courtesy. Courageous is a person who shows courage.

PREVIEW: Scan the story, searching for SnapWords®, suffixes, and sound spelling words.

WHILE YOU READ:

- Ask the children to picture the action as they read each page.
- They may use scratch paper to record names of characters as you read.
- Have them practice retelling the story to a partner.

AFTER YOU READ - COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS:

- What did Ben want to design and why?
- What makes a bicycle tire so strong?
- Why did Ben get sick?
- What happened while Ben was sick but starting to feel better?

1. He wanted to design a new bicycle that would carry a passenger safely. 2. The spokes pulling to the center of the wheel. 3. Ben got pneumonia from working and studying too much. 4. He had a sudden inspiration for a good bicycle design.



Ben wanted to study bicycles because he planned to design a new kind of bike that could carry a passenger more safely.

Ben also learned that early bike tires were wood or metal frames covered first with leather, and later with solid rubber. These tires made for a very bumpy ride!

But then in 1888, John Boyd Dunlop designed the first pneumatic tire for bikes. Suddenly riding a bike was a lot more comfortable because of the air-filled pneumatic tires.

