

Finding Billy's Bike

by Guy Belleranti

Rose Salazar's voice poured out of the telephone.

"Jenna, I need your help."

Jenna hesitated. She had a pile of new library books she wanted to read. She didn't want to go anywhere, even to her best friend's house. "I'm kind of busy, Rose, and—"



"It's really important that I find this bike for Billy."

"I'll be right there."

Rose waved her hand and bought it for his birthday.

"Wow! I bet Billy loves it."

Rose shook her head. "When he comes home he'll be missing it."

"At you?"

"Yes. I promise. But I forgot."

"Where was the bike?"

"I'll show you."

Jenna saw a picnic table and a skateboard, but no bike. "How about his bedroom?" she asked.

"Nope," Rose said. "I checked."

"How about your bedroom?"

"I checked there, too."

"Hmm." This really was a mystery, Jenna thought.

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loved mysteries!

d. "I saw it at a yard sale

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en I put my own away.

Name : _____

"It looks like someone stole it, doesn't it, Jenna?"

"Yeah."

"We have to find it. Billy looks up to me, but this time I blew it! How do we begin looking for his bike?"

Jenna scowled. A good question. She walked into the yard, eyes to the ground.

"What are you looking for?" Rose asked.

"Clues. The rain yesterday made the ground soft and – look! Tire tracks!"

Rose hurried over. "You're right! And they're bike tracks."

"They go down

"Come on," Ro

The two set ou

"Hey," Jenna s

Rose shrugged

"What color?"

"Oh. Blue. And

"Could that be

Rose stared. "I

Jenna followe

"It's not Billy's.

"Then let's see if the tracks continue," Jenna said.

Rose brightened. "Yeah." She hurried back to the alley. "Hey - the tracks go on!"

"Wait up," Jenna called.

Rose was already several houses ahead. Suddenly, she turned into another yard.

Jenna puffed in behind her. A blue bicycle stood on a bright green lawn. Rose had a hand on one handlebar and an older girl had a hand on the other handlebar.

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"Look," the girl was saying, "I don't know anything about this bike. But I do know my little brother doesn't steal."

"Well, see that scratch." Rose said. "That's how I know it's my brother's."

"And the tracks lead from Rose's house to here," Jenna added.

A voice piped up behind them. "What's going on, Brenda?"

The three girls swung around.

Rose blinked. "Marcus?"

"Oh, hi, Rose." The boy grinned, exposing a missing tooth and two small dimples.

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"It's great!" Ma

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"Oh, well - tha

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our grandmother's. He

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her house. "I can't

mystery!"

- Originally published in the Kid's Reading Room section of the Los Angeles Times in March 2007

Name : _____

Finding Billy's Bike

1) Complete the words and write their meanings.

shru ____ ed - _____

m ____ tery - _____

2) Make sentences using the given words.

brightened

hesitated

3) What is the bigg

a) They are se

b) Marcus and

c) They had g

d) None of th

4) Does Brenda tru

5) What are the character traits that Rose and Brenda have in common?

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quotes from the story.
