

# BICYCLE STORIES

## AIM

- To engage students in the topic of active travel through reading books and writing stories that relay experiences of riding.

VELS: 2-4

GRADE: 2 - 6

- [English](#) Level 2-4

The *Writing* dimension involves students in the active process of conceiving, planning, composing, editing and publishing a range of texts including writing for print and electronic media and performance. Writing involves using appropriate language for particular purposes or occasions, both formal and informal, to express and represent ideas, issues, arguments, events, experience, character, emotion and information and to reflect on such ideas.

## DURATION - Variable

- Tuning In - Reading
- Writing
- Illustrating
- Sharing
- Publishing

## LINKS

- [Bicycle Victoria - Ride On Magazine](#)
- [David Hornsby Curriculum Consultant - \(Literacy Education & Book Lists\)](#)
- [Back to Contents Page](#)



# BICYCLE STORIES

## LESSON SUGGESTIONS

### EQUIPMENT

- Bicycle literature
  - For example: [Mulga Bill's Bicycle, by Banjo Paterson](#)
- Writing equipment or Microsoft Word
- Illustrating equipment.

### LESSON

- **Tuning In:** Read students a story that has bicycles or riding as the main theme.
- **Class Brainstorm:** create a list of topics for students to choose from to write their story, for example:
  - The first time you learnt to ride.
  - Receiving your first bike.
  - Watching the first time your sister or brother learnt to ride.
  - Your experience of Ride2School Day.
  - An experience from Bike Education.
  - A riding excursion with your school or family.
  - Experience of learning BMX tricks.
  - Document a story about riding told by your parents or grandparents.
  - Write about an amazing riding act that you have seen, such as circus acts or street performers.
- **Writing:** Students write and edit their stories with teacher guidance and peer feedback throughout the drafting process. Stories may incorporate a genre study.
- **Illustrating:** Once the final draft is completed and presented in a book format, students illustrate their stories using mediums such as; coloured pencils, textas, crayons, paints, photos, collage, or Microsoft Illustrator.
- **Sharing:** Allow students to share their stories with their peers, either in small groups or with the whole class.
- **Publishing:** Contact the following organisations to publish selected student stories:
  - Bicycle Victoria's *Ride On Magazine*. (Ideal story length 300 words).
  - Your local newspaper
  - Your school newsletter or annual school magazine

# Mulga Bill's Bicycle

By Banjo Paterson

'Twas Mulga Bill, from Eaglehawk, that caught the cycling craze;  
He turned away the good old horse that served him many days;  
He dressed himself in cycling clothes, resplendent to be seen;  
He hurried off to town and bought a shining new machine;  
And as he wheeled it through the door, with air of lordly pride,  
The grinning shop assistant said, 'Excuse me, can you ride?'

'See, here, young man,' said Mulga Bill, 'from Walgett to the sea,  
From Conroy's Gap to Castlereagh, there's none can ride like me.  
I'm good all round at everything, as everybody knows,  
Although I'm not the one to talk -- I HATE a man that blows.  
But riding is my special gift, my chiefest, sole delight;  
Just ask a wild duck can it swim, a wild cat can it fight.  
There's nothing clothed in hair or hide, or built of flesh or steel,  
There's nothing walks or jumps, or runs, on axle, hoof, or wheel,  
But what I'll sit, while hide will hold and girths and straps are tight:  
I'll ride this here two-wheeled concern right straight away at sight.'

[ride2school.com.au](http://ride2school.com.au)

'Twas Mulga Bill, from Eaglehawk, that sought his own abode,  
That perched above the Dead Man's Creek, beside the mountain road.  
He turned the cycle down the hill and mounted for the fray,  
But ere he'd gone a dozen yards it bolted clean away.  
It left the track, and through the trees, just like a silver streak,  
It whistled down the awful slope, towards the Dead Man's Creek.

It shaved a stump by half an inch, it dodged a big white-box:  
The very wallaroos in fright went scrambling up the rocks,  
The wombats hiding in their caves dug deeper underground,  
As Mulga Bill, as white as chalk, sat tight to every bound.  
It struck a stone and gave a spring that cleared a fallen tree,  
It raced beside a precipice as close as close could be;  
And then as Mulga Bill let out one last despairing shriek  
It made a leap of twenty feet into the Dead Man's Creek.

'Twas Mulga Bill, from Eaglehawk, that slowly swam ashore:  
He said, `I've had some narrer shaves and lively rides before;  
I've rode a wild bull round a yard to win a five pound bet,  
But this was the most awful ride that I've encountered yet.  
I'll give that two-wheeled outlaw best; it's shaken all my nerve  
To feel it whistle through the air and plunge and buck and swerve.  
It's safe at rest in Dead Man's Creek, we'll leave it lying still;  
A horse's back is good enough henceforth for Mulga Bill.'

[ride2school.com.au](http://ride2school.com.au)

