

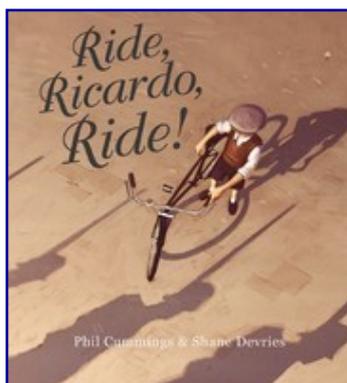
Ride, Ricardo, Ride!

By Phil Cummings & Illustrated by Shane Devries

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Ricardo loved to ride his bike through the village. He rode under endless skies, quiet and clear. He rode every day... But then the shadows came.



Themes:

- Impact of war
- Important & symbolic items
- Freedom

Discussion Points:

- Ricardo loved to ride his bike. Is this something that you like to do? If so, what do you enjoy about it?
- Where and when do you think this story is set? What clues do we have?
- Do you think war is an important theme of this story? Is the word 'war' used at all throughout the book?
- How have the author and illustrated been able to tell a story about this topic without actually mentioning it?
- Discuss how important Ricardo's bike was to him and to the memories of his relationship with his father. What did it symbolise?
- Do you have something that is as special to you like Ricardo's bike was special to him? If so, what it is and why is it so important to you?
- Choose three words to describe the emotions that you think Ricardo felt throughout this story.
- What does the concept of 'freedom' mean to you?
- Do you think that 'freedom' is something that we take for granted in a country like Australia? Why or why not?

Activity:

- The illustrations and the use of shadows in this book are very powerful. Choose a scene out of the story and re-create your own picture of it.
- Think about something that is special to you. Draw a picture of your special thing and write a sentence explaining why it is special to you.