

The Patchwork Bike

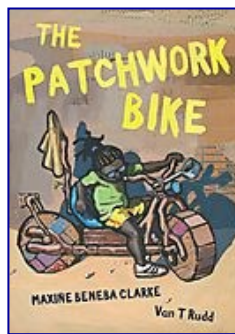
By Maxine Beneba Clarke & Illustrated by Van T Rudd

Publisher: Lothian/Hachette

ISBN 9780734416681

\$26.99

When you live in a village at the edge of the No-Go Desert, you need to make your own fun. That's when you and your brothers get inventive and build a bike from scratch, using everyday items like an old milk pot (maybe mum is still using it, maybe not) and a used flour sack. You can even make a numberplate from bark, if you want. The end result is a spectacular bike, perfect for going bumpity-bump over sandhills, past your fed-up mum and right through your mud-for-walls home.



Teacher Notes have been based on those supplied by the publisher.

Themes:

- Resourcefulness & Recycling
- Imagination
- Universality & Family

Discussion Questions & Activities:

- What does the word 'resourceful' mean? Think about the kids in the book. In what ways could they be considered 'resourceful'?
- What does 'recycling' mean? Can all materials be recycled? Why/why not?
- Research the process for recycling items such as: aluminium cans, plastic containers, paper & cardboard products etc.
- It is important to recycle? What items do you recycle at home? Make a list of all the things your family recycles.
- Why do you think the bike is so important to the kids? Is the bike a normal bike? What is special about the bike? What is a patchwork? What is the bike made out of?
- Think of your favourite play thing at home. Imagine you made a patchwork version of it out of found objects. Draw what it would look like and label what things it would be made from.
- Why do you think the mum is fed-up? What do you think the kids in the book do to annoy their mum?
- Have you ever been fed-up with someone? Do you think anyone gets fed-up with something you do?
- Research and draw your family tree (immediate or extended). Write a list of things that each member of your family enjoy doing. Compare your family with other students'. What is the same? What is different?
- Why is the mother in the book dresses the way she is?
- Research what it would be like to live near a desert. Research deserts and their locations around the world. Which is the closest desert to where you live?
- Research how mud-huts are built and what they look like inside. What materials are used in your house?
- Why do you think the illustrator painted on cardboard boxes?
- Can you create art with rubbish? (What is rubbish?)
- Research what the symbols on the boxes mean. What symbols can you find throughout the book? Make a list of all the symbols you can see. Guess what kinds of things the boxes that the illustrator used to paint on once housed.
- Design and paint your patchwork bike:
 - ◇ Brainstorm the different parts of a bike
 - ◇ Find an old piece of cardboard
 - ◇ Look around your classroom or house for objects that you would use to turn into parts of your patchwork bike.
 - ◇ Sketch your bike in pencil before painting the different parts of your bike.