

The Time-Travelling Bicycle

A Fleydo English School Story

A2 Level | Kids (6-10) | Reading | Story | 16 Pages

Sam discovers his grandfather's old bicycle can travel through time. He visits 1962 and meets his grandpa as a boy, then travels to 2084 and sees a shiny but lonely future. When the bicycle breaks, Sam must find his way home — and learns that the present moment is the greatest gift of all.

Learning Objectives

- Read and understand a longer A2-level adventure story (16 pages)
- Learn 15 new vocabulary words in context
- Practise reading comprehension with multiple-choice questions
- Understand themes: time, family memories, and living in the present
- Discuss what makes every moment special

1 Read the Story

Chapter 1: Grandpa's Garage

Sam was ten years old, and this summer was the most boring summer of his entire life. His parents were busy with work, his best friend had gone on holiday to Spain, and it was raining almost every day. Sam sat by the window, watching the grey clouds and wishing something exciting would happen.

Sam was staying at his grandfather's house for the holidays. Grandpa Joe was seventy-two years old, with a big white beard and twinkling blue eyes. He lived in a small house at the end of a quiet lane, with a big garden full of apple trees and a very old garage that he never let anyone enter.

"Grandpa, why can't I go into the garage?" Sam asked every day.

And every day, Grandpa Joe gave the same answer: "Because there are some things in there that aren't ready to be found yet." Then he would smile mysteriously and change the subject.

But one afternoon, while Grandpa Joe was sleeping in his armchair, Sam's curiosity became too strong. He tiptoed to the garden, found the garage door, and pulled it open. It made a loud creaking sound.

The garage was dark and dusty. Old boxes were stacked everywhere. There were broken chairs, rusty tools, piles of old newspapers, and a bookshelf full of ancient-looking books. Cobwebs hung from the ceiling like tiny curtains.

But in the middle of it all, covered by a large grey blanket, there was something big. Sam walked over and pulled the blanket off.

It was a bicycle. But not an ordinary bicycle. It was old — very old. The frame was dark red with golden patterns painted on it. The handlebars were made of polished wood. The seat was brown leather, cracked with age. And on the front of the bicycle, between the handlebars, there was a small round clock with golden hands. The clock was not showing the right time. The hands were spinning slowly, going round and round without stopping.

"What a strange bicycle," Sam whispered. He touched the handlebars. They were warm. That was odd. Metal should be cold in a dark garage.

Chapter 2: The First Ride

Sam could not resist. He climbed onto the old bicycle, put his feet on the pedals, and started to ride. The wheels made a soft humming sound, and the little clock on the front started spinning faster and faster.

Suddenly, the whole garage filled with bright golden light. Sam closed his eyes because the light was too strong. He felt the wind on his face, even though he was inside a garage. The bicycle was shaking and vibrating under him.

Then, as quickly as it had started, everything stopped. Sam opened his eyes. He was not in the garage anymore. He was outside, on a sunny street. But it was not a street he recognised. The houses looked older, smaller, painted in bright colours. The cars were big, round, and shiny, like the cars he had seen in old films. Women were wearing long dresses and hats. Children were playing with wooden hoops.

A newspaper boy ran past. Sam caught a glimpse of the date on the front page: 15th July 1962.

“1962!” Sam gasped. “That’s sixty years ago! The bicycle took me back in time!”

Chapter 3: A Boy Called Joey

Sam looked down at his time-travelling bicycle. The little clock had stopped spinning. The golden hands were pointing to 1962.

He leaned the bicycle against a fence and walked down the street. Everything was so different! There were no supermarkets — instead, there were small shops: a butcher, a baker, a greengrocer, and a sweet shop with glass jars full of colourful candies.

Sam was staring at the sweet shop window when a voice behind him said, “You’re not from around here, are you?”

Standing behind him was a boy about his own age, with messy brown hair, muddy knees, and the biggest smile Sam had ever seen. Something about the boy’s face looked very familiar.

“My name’s Joey,” the boy said, holding out his hand. “What’s yours?”

“I’m Sam,” he said, shaking Joey’s hand. “I’m... visiting. From far away.”

Joey grinned. “Well, Sam from Far Away, do you want to come and play? We’re building a treehouse in my garden.”

Sam followed Joey to a small house at the end of a quiet lane. The house looked familiar — very familiar. It had the same big garden with apple trees. It had the same old garage. It was Grandpa Joe’s house! But it looked brand new.

And then Sam understood. Joey. Joe. This boy was his GRANDFATHER! Sam was playing with his own grandpa when he was ten years old!

Sam spent the most wonderful afternoon of his life. He and young Joey built a treehouse together. They climbed trees, ate apples straight from the branches, and played football in the garden until the sun started going down.

“This is the best day I’ve had all summer!” Joey said happily. “I hope you come back, Sam.”

Sam felt a lump in his throat. He wanted to tell Joey everything. But he knew he couldn’t.

“I’ll try,” Sam said. “I promise.”

Chapter 4: The Future

When Sam got back on the bicycle, the clock started spinning again. This time, the clock hands spun forward. When the light faded, Sam found himself in the same street, but

everything had changed completely. The houses were tall and made of glass and metal. Cars were flying through the air. Trees were growing on the rooftops. Robots were walking dogs in the park.

Sam looked at the clock: 2084. The future!

Everything was amazing. People wore clothes that changed colour. Children rode floating skateboards. But something bothered Sam. The people did not look very happy. They walked quickly, staring at screens. Nobody was talking to each other. Nobody was laughing.

Sam saw a boy sitting alone on a bench. "Hello, I'm Sam."

The boy looked up, surprised. "You're talking to me? In person? Nobody does that anymore."

"Why not?" Sam asked.

Because we have screens. Meeting in person is old-fashioned."

Sam thought about Joey from 1962, playing outside, building treehouses. And now here was this boy from 2084, with all the technology in the world, but nobody to play with.

"Would you like to play catch?" Sam asked.

The future boy stared at Sam. But then a smile appeared. "Yes. My name is Zion."

Sam and Zion spent the afternoon playing catch. Other children joined in. By the end of the day, twelve children were playing together, laughing and shouting, in a park that had been silent for years.

Chapter 5: Stuck!

When it was time to leave, Sam climbed back on the bicycle. But there was a loud CRACK. One pedal had broken off. The chain was hanging loose. The clock had a crack across its glass face. The golden hands were frozen, pointing at 2084.

Sam was stuck in the future. He could not go home.

Sam remembered what Grandpa Joe always said: "When you have a problem, don't panic. Think carefully."

He needed to repair the bicycle. He needed a pedal, a chain, and somehow, he needed to fix the clock. Then he remembered — Grandpa Joe's garage was full of tools and spare parts!

Sam ran to the end of the quiet lane. The old house was still there! It looked very different, but it was definitely the same house.

An old woman with kind eyes opened the door. "A bicycle? Nobody rides bicycles anymore. But yes, there is an old garage around the back."

Inside, covered in dust, were boxes of old tools. And in the corner, he found exactly what he needed: a spare pedal, a bicycle chain, and a tiny golden gear for the clock.

Sam worked quickly. He fixed the pedal. He put the chain back on. He placed the golden gear inside the clock. The hands started moving again!

He climbed onto the bicycle, pedalled hard, and the golden light filled the street. When the light faded, Sam was back in Grandpa Joe's garage, in his own time.

Chapter 6: The Greatest Adventure

Sam ran into the house and threw his arms around Grandpa Joe. He told him everything — about the bicycle, about 1962, about meeting a boy called Joey.

Grandpa Joe's eyes went very wide. A single tear rolled down his cheek. "I remember. A strange boy appeared on my street. He said his name was Sam. We built a treehouse and played football. And then he was gone."

Grandpa Joe looked at Sam with wonder. "That was YOU, Sam. After sixty years, I finally know. That boy was my own grandson."

Sam told him about 2084 too — about Zion and the silent future.

Grandpa Joe said, "That bicycle was a gift from my own grandfather. He told me it was special, but I was always too scared to ride it."

"Grandpa, I went to the future. Everything was modern and amazing, but people had forgotten how to talk to each other."

"And the past?"

"The past was wonderful. Simple and beautiful. But it's gone. We can't live there."

"So what did you learn, Sam?"

Sam thought carefully. "I learned that the past is beautiful but gone. The future is interesting but not here yet. The only time that really matters is RIGHT NOW. This moment. You and me, sitting here, talking. This is what matters."

Chapter 7: One More Ride

"Would you like to ride it, Grandpa?" Sam asked.

Grandpa Joe looked at the bicycle for a long time. "No. I don't need to travel through time. Everything I need is right here. My home. My garden. My apple trees. And my wonderful grandson."

Together, they cleaned the bicycle, covered it with a fresh blanket, and placed it in the corner of the garage.

Then they closed the garage door and spent the rest of the summer doing wonderful, ordinary things: eating apples from the trees, building a new treehouse, playing cards on rainy afternoons, and telling stories by the fire every evening.

No time travel needed. Just a grandfather and his grandson, enjoying the most precious thing in the world: time together.

The End

And so, if you ever find an old bicycle in a dusty garage, with a strange little clock between the handlebars, be very careful. It might take you on the adventure of your life.

But remember: the past is a beautiful memory. The future is an exciting dream. But the present — this moment, right now — is a gift. That is why they call it the PRESENT.

2 Key Vocabulary

These words from the story will help you improve your English.

Word	Type	Definition	Example
bicycle	<i>noun</i>	a vehicle with two wheels that you ride by pedalling	<i>Sam found an old bicycle in the garage.</i>
garage	<i>noun</i>	a building for cars or storing things	<i>The bicycle was hidden in Grandpa's garage.</i>
rusty	<i>adj</i>	covered in rust; old and unused	<i>The tools were old and rusty.</i>
discovered	<i>verb</i>	found something new or hidden	<i>Sam discovered the bicycle under a blanket.</i>
handlebars	<i>noun</i>	the bar at the front of a bicycle	<i>The handlebars were made of polished wood.</i>
pedals	<i>noun</i>	parts you push with your feet to ride	<i>Sam put his feet on the pedals.</i>
spinning	<i>adj</i>	going around very fast	<i>The clock hands were spinning quickly.</i>
gasped	<i>verb</i>	took a quick breath from surprise	<i>Sam gasped when he saw the date: 1962!</i>
recognised	<i>verb</i>	knew something because you saw it before	<i>Sam recognised his grandfather's house.</i>
adventures	<i>noun</i>	exciting experiences	<i>The bicycle took Sam on amazing adventures.</i>
future	<i>noun</i>	the time that has not happened yet	<i>Sam travelled sixty years into the future.</i>
modern	<i>adj</i>	new, using the latest technology	<i>The future city was very modern.</i>
repair	<i>verb</i>	to fix something that is broken	<i>Sam had to repair the bicycle to get home.</i>
memories	<i>noun</i>	things you remember from the past	<i>Grandpa had beautiful memories.</i>
present	<i>noun</i>	the time happening now; also means a gift	<i>The present moment is the most precious gift.</i>

3 Comprehension Quiz

Choose the correct answer for each question.

Question 1. Where did Sam find the bicycle?

- A. In a shop
- B. In his grandfather's garage
- C. At school
- D. In a park

Question 2. What was special about the bicycle?

- A. It could fly
- B. It had a clock that could travel through time
- C. It was invisible
- D. It could talk

Question 3. What year did Sam travel to first?

- A. 1942
- B. 1972
- C. 1962
- D. 2000

Question 4. Who was Joey?

- A. Sam's friend from school
- B. Sam's grandfather as a young boy
- C. A boy from the future
- D. Sam's brother

Question 5. What did Sam and Joey do together?

- A. Watched TV
- B. Played video games
- C. Built a treehouse and played football
- D. Went to the cinema

Question 6. What was the future like in 2084?

- A. Dark and scary
- B. Modern but people didn't talk to each other
- C. Exactly like the present
- D. Full of animals

Question 7. Why did Sam get stuck in the future?

- A. He lost the bicycle
- B. The pedal broke and the clock cracked
- C. Someone stole the bicycle
- D. He forgot how to ride

Question 8. How did Sam repair the bicycle?

- A. He bought new parts
- B. He found tools in the old garage
- C. Zion helped him
- D. The bicycle fixed itself

Question 9. What did Grandpa Joe remember?

- A. Nothing
- B. A strange boy called Sam who built a treehouse
- C. A time-travelling bicycle
- D. A robot

Question 10. What is the main lesson?

- A. Old bicycles are valuable
- B. The future will be amazing
- C. The present moment is the most precious gift
- D. Garages are full of secrets

4 Answer Key

Q	Correct Answer
1	B. In his grandfather's garage
2	B. It had a clock that could travel through time
3	C. 1962
4	B. Sam's grandfather as a young boy
5	C. Built a treehouse and played football
6	B. Modern but people didn't talk to each other
7	B. The pedal broke and the clock cracked
8	B. He found tools in the old garage
9	B. A strange boy called Sam who built a treehouse
10	C. The present moment is the most precious gift