

**5th Grade Curriculum Guide Book Summary**

**Book Title: *Summer Wheels***

**Author:** Eve Bunting

**Main characters:** Bicycle Man, Brady, Lawrence, Leon/Abraham Lincoln

**Executive summary:** The Bicycle Man has a shed full of bikes that he lets the neighborhood kids ride and enjoy each day in the summer. When a boy takes advantage of the man’s kindness and doesn’t follow the rules, Lawrence and Brady observe the love, kindness and respect that the Bicycle Man shows to all children, even if they do something wrong.

**Detailed summary:** At eight o’clock each morning in the summer, a man, who the kids call the Bicycle Man, opens the doors to a garage where he has repaired and stored over 30 bicycles that the neighborhood children can use for free. They just need to sign their name in the check-out book and return the bike to the garage no later than 4:00 p.m. Brady and Lawrence each have their favorite bikes. Lawrence loves the 20-inch purple Stingray with the banana seat. Brady’s favorite is the red Motocross with white tires. Each morning they wait outside the garage until the Bicycle Man gets there to open it. The boys want to make sure they get their favorite bikes before anyone else does. After they sign the check-out book, the bikes are theirs for the whole day.

One morning after checking out their bikes, they ride off as fast as they can to the park. At the park they do bicycle tricks. They draw a crowd, impressed by their bicycle handling skills.

When they return to the garage, they see a new kid about their age talking the Bicycle Man. As Lawrence and Brady put their bikes back in the garage, they hear the man telling the boy the rules for using the bikes. The Bicycle Man instructs the new kid to pick a bike and sign the check-out book. The boy walks to the corner of the garage and picks Lawrence’s bike, the purple Stingray. Lawrence doesn’t want the boy to use his favorite bike. He wants to yell out that the bike is his, but he knows it is not. Continued on Back

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The new boy signs the check-out book and rides away. The Bicycle Man reminds him to have it back by 4:00 p.m. When Lawrence looks at the check-out book, he sees that the boy signed his name “Abrahem Lincoln.” He didn’t even spell it right!

The next morning Brady and Lawrence are at the garage before eight. Lawrence wonders if the boy ever returned his bike. When the Bicycle Man gets there, he tells Lawrence that the purple Stingray was never returned. Lawrence was angry at the Bicycle Man. He says he shouldn’t have let the other boy have a bike. The Bicycle Man asks, “Why not? The boy wanted a bike to ride, same as you.”

Lawrence is angry. Why did the Bicycle Man believe a kid that would sign his name Abraham Lincoln?

Brady picks his bike and Lawrence chooses a different bike. They ride off to find Abraham Lincoln. Soon they see him riding the Stingray. They stop him and tell him he needs to bring the bike back to the garage. Abraham agrees and follows Brady and Lawrence back to the Bicycle Man. The boys ask Abraham why he didn’t return the bike. Abraham says, “Anybody fool enough to give me something for nothing deserves to lose it.” Lawrence tells him that the Bicycle Man didn’t give the bike to him. It was a “lend.”

When they get to the garage, the Bicycle Man is helping another kid fix his bike. The rules of the garage are that if the bike breaks when you have it, you have to help fix it. When the Bicycle Man sees Abraham, he tells him to sign in his bike. He even lets him check out another bike for the day. Lawrence is shocked. He wonders why the Bicycle Man is so nice to Abraham, even after he broke the rules. The Bicycle Man asks Abraham if he wants to stay and help fix the other bikes. Abraham says, no, and grabs another bike.

Lawrence knows the bike he took is already broken. Brady even tells him it’s a bad bike. He warns Abraham that if the bike breaks when he has it, he will have to fix it. But Abraham rides off on the bike anyway. He signed his name Abraham Lincoln again.

Once again, Abraham doesn’t return the bike. The boys decide to go looking for him again. They find him riding the old broken down bike down some stone steps. Both tires are flat and the brakes don’t work anymore. He sees Brady and Lawrence and agrees to go back to the garage with them.

When the boys get back to the garage and the Bicycle Man sees the bike, he tells Abraham that he has a lot of work to do. Abraham agrees to fix it. The man tells him to be there in the morning. He says to get permission from his Mom and Dad. Abraham says he doesn’t have a Dad. He lives with his Mom and Grandma. The Man tells him to tell his Mom then and be there early in the morning.

Abraham agrees and gives the Bicycle Man a jelly donut that he had in his backpack. He also confesses to the Man that his name is not Abraham Lincoln, it is Leon. The Bicycle Man smiles and tells the kids they are all good kids. Brady and Lawrence realize that Leon really wanted to hang out with the bicycle Man, but he was just too cool or afraid to ask. They also understand how much the Bicycle Man likes kids, even if they aren’t perfect.