

The Red Scooter



Well, today I was manufactured by a family-owned company called *Cuter Scooter*. I know, it's not a very masculine name, but they did a good job, if I may say so myself.

They created an attractive looking, two-wheeled transportation for on and off the road. Although I am very tough, the manufacturer painted me pink. Don't ask me why. It turned out to be a good thing, though, because I was the only scooter available at the local motorcycle shop when Gary came in with his parents. He loved me immediately, but didn't care much for my color. His father suggested that he could paint me with his son as part of a father and son project. Along with the new paint job, Gary would learn the mechanical aspects and drivetrain of a motor scooter.

"This is deal of the day," said the salesman when he saw the two looking me over. He noticed the desire in the eyes of the boy.

"Is this a tough motor scooter?" asked the father.

"Well," said the salesman, "you cannot find a more reliable or better built scooter in the industry."

As dad pondered the purchase, the salesman offered him a 25% discount because of my color, and the fact that not one person had considered buying me since my entrance into the showroom.

Dad paid in cash, and off we went to the garage behind the house to start the project.

Gary and his father spent many hours disassembling and preparing me to be painted. Luckily, I don't have any nerve endings, or the sanding would have killed me. Soon, the endeavor paid off. I was a deep red, and appeared fun and tough.

Gary started driving me everywhere. We went to the park, the baseball field, the school, and even the candy store. Eventually, his friends became quite jealous. They were upset because Gary was not spending much time with them. Also, they wanted a fine-looking scooter of their own. When the friends stopped by, Gary would show them how I got started, how to fuel me up, check my oil, and work my throttle and brakes. Although they enjoyed learning about me, it didn't keep their envy at bay.

They would go for bicycle rides following Gary and I, but it was becoming difficult to keep up with us. After a few months, they got tired of trying, and decided it was time to take me for a ride without Gary.

One Saturday, while Gary was at soccer practice, they had their chance. This plan was not very nice, and they let their jealous natures get the best of them.

They went into the unlocked garage, and grabbed me. They knew Gary kept the key in the top drawer of his tool box. One of his friends started me, opened the door, and away we went, with the two others following on bicycles.

They ran me as fast as I could go, trying to exceed my limitations in every way. Unfortunately, a tree got in our way when we were going top speed. My handlebars smacked right into the tree, and I flipped right over. Although Gary's friend wasn't hurt, I had some visible damage. The friends worked together to try and hide it. I had a large pink scrape, so they got a sticker from a local speed shop. The sticker advertised motor oil, and they stuck it to my frame to hide their crime.

When Gary got home, he noticed the strange sticker. When he ran into his friends, they explained that they thought he would like a sticker on his scooter. He didn't catch on.

Over the course of a few months, Gary's friends took turns taking me out without permission. I got tired of it, and decided to take action. Scratches began showing up all over my frame every time they took me out. Gary didn't notice.

I then decided that any time they took me out, I would stop running when they were far away, so they had to walk me back. Gary, of course, never caught them walking me back home.

Finally, I managed to fall down in the garage after they took me out for a ride. Gary never left me on the ground. The light bulb finally went on. Gary checked me over and found the damage. The gig was up.

One day Gary asked his friends if they were the ones using his scooter. He was shocked when they admitted to taking his scooter and misusing it.

Then, Gary had a thought. What if he made a trail on his property, and let his friends use it? This is a way to share his scooter, but also to make some money, which would cover maintenance along with a small profit.

He built the trail and invited his friends to use it for 10 cents a lap. He had a minimum of ten laps, so he would make one dollar a ride! Well, his friends loved it, and for the whole year, he enjoyed the profits and made enough money to buy a new scooter!

He bought a red one this time, which was for his use only. Now it was time for me to become jealous!

1. Part A - Which is the CONFLICT of the story

- A. Gary wants to buy a scooter.
- B. Gary's friends are misusing his scooter.
- C. Gary does not like the color pink.
- D. Gary's friends do not like him anymore.

2. Part B – Identify the sentence that BEST shows the CLIMAX, based on the conflict from Part A.

_____ I then decided that any time they took me out, I would stop running when they were far away, so they had to walk me back. _____ Gary, of course, never caught them walking me back home.

_____ Finally, I managed to fall down in the garage after they took me out for a ride. _____ Gary never left me on the ground. The light bulb finally went on. Gary checked me over and found the damage. The gig was up.

3. Place an Identify the TWO statements from the narrative that BEST reveal Gary's character.

Gary would learn the mechanical aspects and drivetrain of a motor scooter.
Gary and his father spent many hours disassembling and preparing me to be painted.
They were upset because Gary was not spending much time with them.
They knew Gary kept the key in the top drawer of his tool box.
Gary checked me over and found the damage.
What if he made a trail on his property, and let his friends use it?

4. Place an Identify the TWO adjectives that BEST describe Gary's friends.

supportive
violent
envious
charismatic
untrustworthy
reliable

5. Identify the EFFECT.

CAUSE:

The friends drove the scooter at high speed.

The scooter hit a tree.

The scooter stopped running.

The scooter was destroyed.

6. Part A – Identify the alliteration in this sentence from the story.

As dad _____ pondered the purchase, the _____ salesman offered him a 25% discount because of my color, and the fact that _____ not one person had considered buying me since my _____ entrance into the showroom.

7. Part B – What is emphasized with the alliteration in Part A?

- A. The amount of people not interested in the scooter.
- B. The amount of discount the salesman offered.
- C. Dad taking time to consider whether or not to buy the scooter.
- D. Gary's first impression of the scooter.

8. Select the author's purpose for writing this passage.

- A. to inform
- B. to persuade
- C. to describe
- D. to entertain

9. "Soon, the endeavor paid off. I was a deep red, and appeared fun and tough."

Based on context clues, what does the word "endeavor" mean?

- A. transformation
- B. purchase
- C. idea
- D. effort

10. Select the theme of the passage.

- A. A boy learns a lesson about trust.
- B. Treat other people's property with respect.

C. The importance of learning a trade.

D. Taking from others is sometimes tolerable.