



1 James was on his way home from school, when his neighbour started waving.

"Hi, Mr Honeywell." James wandered over to the old man, leaning against the fence.

"I'm glad I caught you," said Mr Honeywell. "I wanted to tell you — my house is for sale."

"Why?"

"I'm moving into Sunnyside Lodge, near the shopping centre."

2 James dropped his backpack. "Do you have to go?"

"Well, I'm getting a bit slow."

"What's wrong with being slow? You can still walk round your garden, and go to the shops."

"Yes, but it takes twice as long and longer coming back. These old pins aren't the same. When I moved in I could run up those stairs two at a time. Not any more. You'd never think I once rode a motorbike."

"You still could, if given the chance," said James.

"Maybe." Mr Honeywell smiled. "I'll miss you, Jimbo. Will you visit?"

"Of course!"

3 Mr Honeywell had called him Jimbo ever since he was little. He'd been a mate, telling James stories all about his youth, riding his Harley Davidson motorbike all around the world.

James had heard them all before, but he never grew tired of Mr Honeywell's tales.

4 Two months later, Mr Honeywell was settled in Sunnyside Lodge. James popped in to see him often.

Then, close to Christmas, as they sat on Mr Honeywell's porch, looking across the street at a big, black motorbike outside some flats, Mr Honeywell exclaimed, "Look at that!"

"Is it a Harley?"

"Certainly not! But not a bad bike. Harley or not, I wish I could have a go."

"Maybe you could?" said James. "The owner lives in those flats. I'm sure if I asked he'd let you."

"No, it wouldn't be the same, Jimbo. Besides, he'd never let me. I'm daydreaming."

5 A few weeks later James came home to hear his Mum say, "Mr Honeywell's been arrested!"

"Arrested!?"

"He took a joyride on a motorbike!"

"Oh no! Is he okay?"

"Abit shaken up," said Mum. "He was lucky. He didn't get very far before he fell off; the owner saw him and called the police. But the sergeant's rung to say Mr Honeywell wants to see you."

"I'll go straight away."

6 James ran the block and a half to the station and arrived slightly breathless. "Is Mr Honeywell here?" he asked.

"Take a look," said the constable.

There was Mr Honeywell, in baggy pants and jacket, a large sticking plaster on his forehead, drinking a mug of tea with a biker. Mr Honeywell was doing all the talking for both.

7 "Jimbo! Come and meet Trevor. We're getting on like a house on fire. There's so much to talk about!"



Just then, the constable came and asked, "Do you plan to press charges?"

"No," said Trevor. "I got my bike back. I'm happy." He patted Mr Honeywell's shoulder. "Take care, mate."

"Come round for a cup of tea. Any time. And thanks for the ride."

"Pleasure," muttered Trevor as he left the station.

8 "Nice chap. Not a bad bike, either."

"You're sure you're alright?" asked James.

"Never felt better!"

Mr Honeywell did seem to be very good after that. He and Trevor became good friends. James noticed the two chatting together whenever he came and visited. Maybe Trevor would let Mr Honeywell have another go with his motorbike. Just for one last ride.



## Questions

- 1 Who is Mr Honeywell?
  - a James' friend
  - b James' grandfather
  - c A motorbike owner
- 2 Mr Honeywell was moving because
  - a he couldn't ride a motorbike.
  - b he was getting a bit slow.
  - c he liked Sunnyside Lodge better.
- 3 The motorbike across the road from Sunnyside Lodge was
  - a a large red motorbike.
  - b a Harley Davidson.
  - c not a Harley Davidson.
- 4 Where did Mr Honeywell ride the Harley?
  - a Down the street
  - b Around the world
  - c To Sunnyside Lodge
- 5 How did Mr Honeywell's ride end?
  - a He fell off.
  - b He stopped the motorbike himself.
  - c Trevor caught up with him.
- 6 Why did Mr Honeywell want to ride a motorbike?
  - a He liked living dangerously.
  - b It was a good way to become friends with Trevor.
  - c It reminded him about his life when he was younger.

## Vocabulary

Match the words from the text to the clues. The brackets show the text sections ( ).

owner shaken garden pleasure youth

- 7 A place to grow flowers (2)
- 8 The time when you were young (3)
- 9 The person who owns something (4)
- 10 Shook up (5)
- 11 Enjoyment (7)

## Grammar

Find an **adjective** (a word to describe a noun) in these sentences.

- 12 James wandered over to the old man.
- 13 James had a brown backpack.
- 14 Across the street was a black motorbike.
- 15 There was Mr Honeywell, in baggy pants and jacket.

## Back To The Text...

- 16 In which part of the library would you find this text?
  - a fiction
  - b non-fiction
- 17 The words *old pins* in section 2 refer to
  - a old needles.
  - b old legs.
- 18 Another good name for this text would be:
  - a Once a Rider, Always a Rider
  - b Life at Sunnyside Lodge

## Sequencing

Look back through the card to find what happened first. Choose **a** or **b**.

- 19 a Mr Honeywell explained that he used to take steps two at a time.  
b Mr Honeywell went to live in Sunnyside Lodge.
- 20 a Mr Honeywell was arrested.  
b Jimbo visited Mr Honeywell for Christmas.
- 21 a Mr Honeywell fell off the bike.  
b Mr Honeywell invited Trevor over for a cup of tea.

## Think About This

- 22 Did Mr Honeywell have a preference for any particular brand of bike?
  - a no
  - b yes
- 23 The illustration on the front of the card refers to the text in which of the following sections?
  - a two
  - b three
  - c four
  - d five

## Challenge Option

Research: Find the names of at least three motorbikes made in Japan.

