



Bike FOR SALE

So that was the reason for everyone's interest.

- 3 Annie had heard stories that old Mr Cowley was finally moving to a retirement home on the coast. Well, they were welcome to him, she thought. Mr Cowley was unpleasant and bad mannered. It was no wonder his kids left home as soon as they could. Life with him as a father would have been a nightmare.
- 4 When she reached the house, Annie saw that the front yard was covered with all sorts of household objects. Kitchen appliances, glasses, books, old clothes, gardening tools and cutlery were scattered across the lawn. Most of it looked like junk to Annie, but plenty of people were picking through the items, looking for a good buy. They seemed to be finding them, too. Too bad Dad isn't here, thought Annie. He loved this kind of stuff.

- 1 Annie walked home from her Saturday morning tennis, thinking about how close she had come to losing the last set to Melinda. Somehow, her luck was in and when she came off the court, there was no mistaking her winner's smile.

She had just turned the corner into Judd Street when she saw a small crowd milling about old Mr Cowley's front yard. Her curiosity was immediately aroused. The thoughts of tennis matches were replaced with a powerful desire to find out why a man as unpopular as Mr Cowley would have so many visitors.

- 2 As Annie approached, she saw the roughly printed sign stuck to the fence:

*Moving Sale. Everything to go.
Must finish 4 o'clock.*

- 5 Old Cowley stood by the front steps, taking the cash from a constant stream of bargain hunters. His greasy leer was bigger than usual.

Annie was just about to continue on home when something caught her eye. Propped against the front wall of the garage was a bike. No, more than a bike — it was one of those old-time dragsters from the 70s. Painted in metallic gold, it had thick, chunky tyres and the gear lever on the frame. However, what made Annie's eyes sparkle were the extra-long chrome handlebars. Annie knew that if she owned this bike, she would be the coolest kid at school.

- 6 Without a moment's hesitation, she ran up to the steps and asked, "How much for the bike against the garage wall?"

Mr Cowley looked at the bike and said flatly, "Twenty dollars."

Annie made a quick decision. She really wanted the dragster, even if it was more than she could afford. "Okay, twenty dollars then," she said. "But I haven't got the money right now. Would you save the bike for me? I'll run home and get the cash. I can be back in fifteen minutes."

Mr Cowley's expression didn't change. He thought about Annie's offer and said, "All right. Be back in fifteen minutes with the twenty and the bike is yours."

- 7 Annie flew home. After a quick, "Hi ... bye!" to her puzzled mother, she grabbed the last

of her birthday money and raced back to Cowley's junk sale.

Annie returned quicker than she thought. She was level with the house and glanced towards the garage.

- 8 The bike was gone.

With a growing feeling of panic, Annie ran to Mr Cowley. He was standing in the same spot, his expression still disagreeable and unwelcoming.

"The bike, Mr Cowley! Where's the bike?" Annie spluttered.

"Bike's gone," he answered. "Had a bloke with the cash. He paid on the spot. Bike's sold."

- 9 Annie was devastated. He'd broken his promise and not waited for her. Someone else had her bike because Old Cowley was such a crook. Annie felt a hard lump in her throat and hot salty tears sting her eyes. She turned away and walked home.

- 10 Mum knew that Annie was upset the moment she walked through the back door. When the tears had been dried and the tissue box emptied, Annie told her mother about Mr Cowley breaking his word and selling the bike before she had a chance to return with the money. Mum was doing her best to cheer Annie up when they heard Dad's car turn into the garage.

- 11 Dad walked into kitchen, an after-golf smile on his face.

"Didn't win today, but I ..." He didn't finish the sentence. His daughter's red, blotchy face told him that something was wrong. "Darling, what's the matter?" he asked.

12 "Oh Dad." Annie continued sobbing. "I went to Mr Cowley's garage sale and saw this great dragster bike and he said he'd save it for me until I came back with the money but he broke his word and sold it to someone else and I really wanted that bike and he was just so unfair!" Annie's words came at a rush.

Finally she paused for breath. Dad looked thoughtfully at his daughter and said, "Aw honey, that's terrible! Mean old creep. It's not fair to lie to kids like that. Anyhow I had a bit

more luck than you. Come and see what I scored."

13 Annie and her mother followed Dad outside to where his car was parked. "Check this out!" he proclaimed proudly. "Only twenty dollars! A bargain!"

He opened the car boot, lifted out his purchase and leaned it against the wall. Speechless, Annie looked at the gold paint and gleaming chrome.

"Annie," Dad continued, "when you ride that into the playground on Monday, I reckon everyone will think you're the coolest kid in the school!"

Questions

- Annie's tennis game was on
 - Sunday morning.
 - Saturday afternoon.
 - Saturday morning.
- At the garage sale you could buy
 - old clothes, sporting goods, garden furniture.
 - garden furniture, car parts, plates.
 - glasses, old clothes, gardening tools.
- The garage sale was going to finish
 - two hours before six o'clock.
 - at four o'clock.
 - both.
- Which of these statements is true?
 - Dad played tennis on Saturday.
 - Dad played golf on Sunday.
 - Dad played golf on Saturday.
- Which of these phrases tell us that Annie didn't think the items on sale were worth much?
 - Most of it looked like junk.
 - People were picking through the hundreds of items.
 - The front yard was covered in all sorts of household objects.
- Did Annie's Dad know that Mr Cowley had promised to sell her the bike?
 - Yes, they both decided to surprise Annie
 - No, he was shocked at Mr Cowley's rudeness
 - No, but Mr Cowley knew that the bike was being bought for Annie.

Vocabulary

Match the words from the text to the clues.

The brackets show the text sections ().

disagreeable blotchy leer
puzzled proclaimed

- Look at with an unpleasant grin (5)
- To feel confused (7)
- The opposite of agreeable (8)
- Spotty and marked (11)
- Announced or declared (13)

Grammar

The words in **BLUE** appear in the text. Match them by writing the correct synonym shown in **RED**.

E.g. **under** / **below**

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 12 curiosity | coarsely |
| 13 desire | inquisitiveness |
| 14 roughly | relentless |
| 15 constant | want |

Back To The Text...

- What would be a good sub-heading for section 5?
 - The Bike
 - Old Cowley
- In which part of the library would you find this text?
 - fiction
 - non-fiction

- Who described Mr Cowley as a crook?
 - Dad
 - Annie

Sequencing

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

- Annie visited Mr Cowley's front yard.
 - Annie won her tennis match.
- Annie saw the bike.
 - Annie saw the garden tools.
- Annie told her mum about Mr Cowley breaking his word.
 - Annie told her dad about Mr Cowley breaking his word.

Think About This

- From what we learn in the text which of the following words best describes Annie?
 - studious
 - active
 - thrifty
- In which section do we first learn about Annie's feelings towards Mr Cowley's deception?
 - three
 - four
 - nine
 - twelve

Challenge Option

Writing: Write an advertisement for a garage sale.