Billy and the Queen

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Summary

Billy and the Queen is a fictional story about a boy who would like to get money to buy a new bike. His grandma tells him about a photo contest: if Billy manages to get a photo of the Queen and him together he can win 500 pounds. Billy gets the first prize and buys a bike for himself and one for his sister.

Pages 1–7

Billy wants a new bike. His sister, Rox, hasn't got one. They are staying with their grandma, and she tells Billy about a photo contest: he could win 500 pounds if he could get a picture of him and the Queen together. He could buy two bikes! There's information in the magazine about the Queen's activities, so it's easy to know where the Queen is going to be. Billy and Rox go to a horseshow near their house where the Queen is going to be but he is not allowed to take a picture.

Pages 8–15

The Queen's going to be at a cinema in London. Billy and go there and Rox tries to take a picture but she only photographs Billy's ear. Next, they go to the hospital where she's going to speak, but she can't go because she has a cold. Billy is very angry. Rox has an idea: they go to Madame Tussaud's and she gets a photo of Billy next to the wax statue of the Queen. They win the prize and Billy buys two bikes.

Background and themes

The power of will: Billy doesn't give up the first time things don't come out as expected.

Support and collaboration: Rox cheers her brother up and finds alternatives. Together, they find a way to get a new bicycle for each.

Creativity: The best answers are sometimes the ones which are not evident at first.

Discussion activities

Pages 1–7

Before reading

1 **Predict: Ask students to look at the cover**
Who can you see? What is the boy's name? Look at the old lady. Who is she? Is she the boy's mother? What about the girl? Is she the boy's girlfriend? Which is the Queen?
Have students take down notes of their predictions so that they can go back to them once they finish reading.

2 **Research: Queens**
Have students look for countries where there are queens. You can narrow down the search by asking them to find if there are queens in Europe, Asia, Africa, America and Oceania.

While reading

3 **Read carefully: Look for information about Billy**
You can use this web diagram. As students go on reading, they add more words and phrases to the web.

4 **Tea time**
Have students look at the picture on page 2 and describe what's on the table. Notice the decoration on the teapot.
Billy and Rox's Gran has prepared a traditional English tea. How similar is it to what your students eat and drink at home at about 5 o'clock?

5 **Predict**
Ask students to stop at the bottom of page 7 and have them predict what is going to happen.

Pages 8–15

While reading

6 **Predict:** Ask students to stop at the bottom of page 10 and predict what the man is going to say.

After reading

7 **Check**
Have students go back to their predictions before they read the rest of the book. Were they right?

8 **Summary writing:** Ask students to make a list of important words in the story. And then write the story in no more than 100 words.

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