

The Bicycle Thief

A close-up photograph of a vintage bicycle's front end. The image shows a black, curved fender mounted over a brown tire with a distinctive tread pattern. Above the fender is a large, clear, rectangular headlight with a black mounting bracket. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly a wall or a door. The overall tone is dark and moody.

**a short story lesson plan for English
reading, speaking, vocabulary & writing**

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Introductory Questions

1. Have you ever had a bicycle stolen? What happened?
2. How do you usually protect a bicycle when you leave it outside?

3. Why might an inexpensive object still be valuable to its owner?
4. Can a person do something wrong for an urgent reason and still deserve forgiveness?
5. What might you expect from a story called The Bicycle Thief?

The Bicycle Thief

“Wait, that’s my bike!”

But it was too late.

Mabby had only left it outside the shop for two minutes. She thought, it’s only two minutes, and this is a quiet neighbourhood.

No one will take it, it will be safe.

Then a look in the shopkeeper’s eye. She turned and saw a figure getting on her bike.

She ran outside, but it was too late. She stood in the street as the thief made off with her bike.

Mabby didn’t even call out after the thief. It would be a complete waste of time.

Nothing she could do.

She went back into the shop. The shopkeeper made some comment about bike thieves being very common in this area.

Then she paid for her items and trudged home.

On the way back home, she thought of all the reasons she needed the bike. She depended on it every day to get to work at the hospital.

Working such irregular hours, her bike seemed the most convenient — and cheapest — way to get around.

But she also used it to go to the shops. Like today.

To visit her friend. To go to the train station when she went to visit her parents.

And she would leave the bike everywhere.

No one would steal it because it was worthless. Just a cheap, old bike that was of no use to anyone.

Except to Mabby.

And good luck to the thief in trying to sell it.

Mabby had lost count of how many times she had cursed every time the front tyre would let air out too quickly.

How the seat was wonky and how drivers would speed by in bad weather, splashing her with dirty rainwater.

Without the bike, getting to work would be a nightmare.

Going to visit her mother would now become much more of a task.

Without the damn bike, she now realised that life would be just that little bit more difficult.

She got home and thought about calling the police. But what could they do about it?

Oh hi, yeah, I've had my bike stolen.

Join the club, love. Bikes are stolen every day in this city.

Mabby put the kettle on and made a cup of tea.

She had work that night. The night shift. She didn't even know which bus to take. There must be a timetable online or something.

Irritation crawled across her skin like a rash. Who would take such a cheap, terrible bike?

Then, without a moment's thought, she put her jacket back on and marched out of the house.

I'll find him, she thought to herself. I'll find this thieving little rat who took my bike.

It wasn't about the bike. In monetary terms, it was worth nothing. No more than twenty quid. But in terms of value to her, it was everything.

Mabby headed straight back for the row of shops.

She asked the shopkeeper what the thief had looked like.

He just shook his head.

“He was wearing one of those trendy sweaters with the hood on top,” he said.

“A hoodie,” said Mabby.

“Yes, one of those things. I couldn’t see his face. Those hoodie things should be made illegal. We need to see people’s faces.”

Another customer in the shop joined in, the two of them airing their views about how terrible modern life was.

Mabby left the store and walked in the direction the thief had taken her bike. She passed other shops. She asked in two of them. But no one saw anything.

She realised it was a stupid thing to ask.

Did you see a thief going past your shop on my bike?

How would they even know?

She trudged to the end of the road and came to a junction. She had no clue which direction to take.

What a waste of time.

With no other choice left, she went back home. On the way back, she called her friend, another nurse at the hospital. She told her the news.

“Oh, that’s terrible,” her friend said. But she didn’t sound so upset.

Mabby realised that this would only truly affect her. That losing her bike would have no profound effect on the world.

Life would continue. There would be no mention of a thief taking her bike on the six o’clock news.

The theft of her bike was all in her world, but as she stared out the window from her kitchen, she could see life still going on, the world still turning.

Birds chirruped and flew between the trees.

Next door’s cat sashayed across the lawn like a supermodel.

A lawnmower buzzed away in the process of cutting grass.

Life went on. And no one cared about Mabby’s bike.

She stared down at her hands. The work they carried out each day seemed all the more valid.

Saving people’s lives, taking care of the sick and elderly, nurturing and protecting. She saw that in the grand scheme of things, her hands would continue to perform the labour they were trained to do each and every day until she herself was too old to continue.

This was far more important than a rusty old bike with a bad tyre and an uncomfortable seat.

She smiled to herself and looked forward to the night shift she was about to do.

Later, after eating, she showered, changed her clothes, and then went downstairs to leave for work. She was leaving one hour earlier than usual, but she had no idea what time the bus came and went.

She thought it better to be a little early than one minute late.

Her job was more important than that.

She opened the door, stepped out into the cool evening air, and closed the door behind her.

As she got to the front gate, she saw her bike.

She stared at it in disbelief. Maybe it was not hers at all, but on closer inspection, she saw that it definitely was her bike.

Attached to the front, a note.

Mabby pulled it away and opened it. It read:

I'm sorry for taking your bike earlier today. I needed it for an emergency. You really saved my life.

I saw that the front tyre was bad, so I had it replaced. And the seat seemed to move around, so I put a new one on.

I know it's not much, but it's the least I could do.

You will never know how much you helped me today.

Mabby looked up and down her street as if to see a clue.

Someone standing there, too shy to approach her.

But the streets were completely empty.

Reading Comprehension Questions

Answer these questions after reading the story. You can check your answers at the end of the lesson plan.

1. Who is the main character in this story?
2. What happened to her bike?
3. Where was Mabby when her bike was stolen?
4. Why did she leave her bike outside the shop?
5. Why didn't she lock her bike outside the shop? What were her reasons?
6. Did she try to stop the thief? Why or why not?
7. What did the shopkeeper make a comment about?
8. Are there many bike thieves in the area?
9. Why does Mabby need the bike?
10. Was the bike valuable?
11. How did Mabby describe her bike in the story?
12. Why would life be more inconvenient without her bike?
13. Did Mabby consider calling the police? Why or why not?
14. What does she do after thinking about calling the police?
15. What time was Mabby working later?
16. What is her job?

17. How will she go to work later?
18. What made Mabby decide to search for the thief?
19. How does she refer to the bike thief?
20. How much is the bike worth?
21. Where does she go next?
22. What did the shopkeeper say the thief was wearing?
23. What does the shopkeeper think of hoodie clothing?
24. Why did Mabby think it was a waste of time to ask other shopkeepers?
25. Mabby calls her friend. Is this person sympathetic?
26. What events can Mabby see or hear from her kitchen window?
27. How did Mabby's perspective on her bike being stolen change?
28. Does she like her job?
29. Is she proud of being a nurse?
30. Why did Mabby decide to leave for work one hour earlier than usual?
31. What time does she leave to go to work?
32. What does she see in front of her house?
33. What did the note attached to the bike say?
34. What did Mabby expect to see when she looked up and down her street?

The Bicycle Thief — Story and Reading Comprehension Questions

Read the story in sections and answer the questions after each section.

Section 1

“Wait, that’s my bike!”

But it was too late.

Mabby had only left it outside the shop for two minutes.

She thought, it’s only two minutes, and this is a quiet neighbourhood.

No one will take it, it will be safe.

Then a look in the shopkeeper’s eye. She turned and saw a figure getting on her bike.

She ran outside, but it was too late. She stood in the street as the thief made off with her bike.

Reading Comprehension Questions

1. Who is the main character in this story?
2. What happened to her bike?

3. Where was Mabby when her bike was stolen?
4. Why did she leave her bike outside the shop?
5. Why didn't she lock her bike outside the shop? What were her reasons?

Section 2

It would be a complete waste of time.

Nothing she could do.

She went back into the shop.

The shopkeeper made some comment about bike thieves being very common in this area.

Then she paid for her items and trudged home.

On the way back home, she thought of all the reasons she needed the bike.

She depended on it every day to get to work at the hospital.

Working such irregular hours, her bike seemed the most convenient — and cheapest — way to get around.

But she also used it to go to the shops.

Reading Comprehension Questions

6. Did she try to stop the thief? Why or why not?

7. What did the shopkeeper make a comment about?
8. Are there many bike thieves in the area?
9. Why does Mabby need the bike?

Section 3

To visit her friend.

To go to the train station when she went to visit her parents.

And she would leave the bike everywhere.

No one would steal it because it was worthless.

Just a cheap, old bike that was of no use to anyone.

Except to Mabby.

And good luck to the thief in trying to sell it.

Mabby had lost count of how many times she had cursed every time the front tyre would let air out too quickly.

How the seat was wonky and how drivers would speed by in bad weather, splashing her with dirty rainwater.

Reading Comprehension Questions

10. Was the bike valuable?
11. How did Mabby describe her bike in the story?

Section 4

Without the bike, getting to work would be a nightmare.

Going to visit her mother would now become much more of a task.

Without the damn bike, she now realised that life would be just that little bit more difficult.

She got home and thought about calling the police. But what could they do about it?

Oh hi, yeah, I've had my bike stolen.

Join the club, love. Bikes are stolen every day in this city.

Mabby put the kettle on and made a cup of tea.

She had work that night. The night shift.

She didn't even know which bus to take.

There must be a timetable online or something.

Irritation crawled across her skin like a rash.

Who would take such a cheap, terrible bike?

Reading Comprehension Questions

12. Why would life be more inconvenient without her bike?

13. Did Mabby consider calling the police? Why or why not?

14. What does she do after thinking about calling the police?
15. What time was Mabby working later?
16. What is her job?
17. How will she go to work later?

Section 5

Then, without a moment's thought, she put her jacket back on and marched out of the house.

I'll find him, she thought to herself.

I'll find this thieving little rat who took my bike.

It wasn't about the bike.

In monetary terms, it was worth nothing. No more than twenty quid.

But in terms of value to her, it was everything.

Mabby headed straight back for the row of shops.

She asked the shopkeeper what the thief had looked like.

He just shook his head.

Reading Comprehension Questions

18. What made Mabby decide to search for the thief?
19. How does she refer to the bike thief?

20. How much is the bike worth?

21. Where does she go next?

Section 6

“He was wearing one of those trendy sweaters with the hood on top,” he said.

“A hoodie,” said Mabby.

“Yes, one of those things. I couldn’t see his face. Those hoodie things should be made illegal.

We need to see people’s faces.”

Another customer in the shop joined in, the two of them airing their views about how terrible modern life was.

Mabby left the store and walked in the direction the thief had taken her bike.

She passed other shops. She asked in two of them.

But no one saw anything.

She realised it was a stupid thing to ask.

Did you see a thief going past your shop on my bike?

How would they even know?

Reading Comprehension Questions

- 22. What did the shopkeeper say the thief was wearing?
- 23. What does the shopkeeper think of hoodie clothing?
- 24. Why did Mabby think it was a waste of time to ask other shopkeepers?

Section 7

She trudged to the end of the road and came to a junction.

She had no clue which direction to take.

What a waste of time.

With no other choice left, she went back home.

On the way back, she called her friend, another nurse at the hospital.

She told her the news.

“Oh, that’s terrible,” her friend said.

But she didn’t sound so upset.

Reading Comprehension Questions

- 25. Mabby calls her friend. Is this person sympathetic?

Section 8

Mabby realised that this would only truly affect her.

That losing her bike would have no profound effect on the world.

Life would continue.

There would be no mention of a thief taking her bike on the six o'clock news.

The theft of her bike was all in her world, but as she stared out the window from her kitchen,

she could see life still going on, the world still turning.

Birds chirruped and flew between the trees.

Next door's cat sashayed across the lawn like a supermodel.

A lawnmower buzzed away in the process of cutting grass.

Reading Comprehension Questions

26. What events can Mabby see or hear from her kitchen window?

Section 9

Life went on.

And no one cared about Mabby's bike.

She stared down at her hands.

The work they carried out each day seemed all the more valid.

Saving people's lives, taking care of the sick and elderly, nurturing and protecting.

She saw that in the grand scheme of things, her hands would continue to perform the labour

they were trained to do each and every day until she herself was too old to continue.

This was far more important than a rusty old bike with a bad tyre and an uncomfortable seat.

She smiled to herself and looked forward to the night shift she was about to do.

Reading Comprehension Questions

27. How did Mabby's perspective on her bike being stolen change?

28. Does she like her job?

29. Is she proud of being a nurse?

Section 10

Later, after eating, she showered, changed her clothes, and then went downstairs to leave for work.

She was leaving one hour earlier than usual, but she had no idea what time the bus came and went.

She thought it better to be a little early than one minute late.

Her job was more important than that.

She opened the door, stepped out into the cool evening air, and closed the door behind her.

As she got to the front gate, she saw her bike.

She stared at it in disbelief.

Maybe it was not hers at all, but on closer inspection, she saw that it definitely was her bike.

Reading Comprehension Questions

30. Why did Mabby decide to leave for work one hour earlier than usual?

31. What time does she leave to go to work?

32. What does she see in front of her house?

Section 11

Attached to the front, a note.

Mabby pulled it away and opened it. It read:

I'm sorry for taking your bike earlier today. I needed it for an emergency.

You really saved my life.

I saw that the front tyre was bad, so I had it replaced.

And the seat seemed to move around, so I put a new one on.

I know it's not much, but it's the least I could do.

You will never know how much you helped me today.

Mabby looked up and down her street as if to see a clue.

Someone standing there, too shy to approach her.

But the streets were completely empty.

Reading Comprehension Questions

33. What did the note attached to the bike say?

34. What did Mabby expect to see when she looked up and down her street?

Essential Vocabulary

Study these words and phrases from the story. Check unfamiliar meanings and use each one in a sentence.

neighbourhood	shopkeeper	figure
made off	waste of time	trudged
depended	irregular hours	convenient
get around	worthless	cursed
tyre	let air out	wonky
splashing	nightmare	stolen
kettle	night shift	timetable
irritation	crawled	rash
marched	in monetary terms	quid
trendy	hoodie	airing their views
junction	no clue	profound
chirruped	sashayed	lawnmower
carried out	elderly	nurturing
in the grand scheme of things	rusty old bike	disbelief
on closer inspection	emergency	replaced

Vocabulary Practice Exercise

Match each word or phrase to its meaning. Write the correct letter beside each number.

1. shopkeeper _____
2. made off _____
3. trudged _____
4. wonky _____
5. irregular hours _____
6. convenient _____
7. junction _____
8. profound _____
9. sashayed _____
10. nurturing _____

Meanings

- a. caring for and helping someone grow or recover
- b. walked slowly and heavily
- c. a person who owns or runs a shop
- d. a place where roads meet

- e. having a deep or significant effect
- f. walked in a confident and graceful way
- g. escaped or went away quickly
- h. practical and easy to use
- i. unsteady or not straight
- j. work times that change or do not follow a fixed pattern

True or False

Decide whether each statement is true or false. Correct every false statement.

1. Mabby leaves her bike outside a shop for only a short time.
2. The thief takes an expensive new bicycle.
3. Mabby depends on her bike to travel to work.
4. Mabby reports the theft to the police immediately.
5. The shopkeeper clearly sees the thief's face.
6. Mabby follows the thief through the town and catches him.
7. Mabby phones a friend who works at the hospital.
8. Watching ordinary life outside helps Mabby reconsider her problem.
9. Mabby leaves home later than usual for her night shift.
10. The returned bike has a new tyre and a new seat.

What is the Correct Synonym?

Match each word or phrase from the story to its closest meaning.

Word Box: *thief, strange, practical, useless, furious, noticed, exhausted, precious*

1. valuable = _____

2. angry = _____

3. convenient = _____

4. worthless = _____

5. saw = _____

6. odd = _____

7. tired = _____

8. robber = _____

What is the Correct Antonym?

Match each word to its opposite.

Word Box: *cheap, early, empty, calm, common, safe, lose, important*

1. expensive ↔ _____
2. late ↔ _____
3. full ↔ _____
4. angry ↔ _____
5. rare ↔ _____
6. dangerous ↔ _____
7. find ↔ _____
8. unimportant ↔ _____

Words and Meanings

Match each expression from the story with its meaning.

1. made off with _____
2. lost count of _____
3. get around _____
4. waste of time _____
5. no clue _____
6. in monetary terms _____
7. looked forward to _____
8. on closer inspection _____

Meanings

- a. had no idea
- b. when examined more carefully
- c. anticipated with pleasure
- d. measured by its financial value
- e. travel from place to place
- f. took and escaped with
- g. could no longer remember the number
- h. an activity unlikely to achieve anything

Gap Fill Exercise

Complete each sentence using each word from the Word Box once.

Word Box: *neighbourhood, shopkeeper, convenient, irregular, junction, tyre, nurse, emergency, timetable, apology*

1. The _____ showed when the next bus would arrive.
2. The bicycle had a flat front _____.
3. A _____ cares for patients in the hospital.
4. The _____ served customers in the small shop.
5. The streets in our _____ are usually quiet.
6. At the _____, we turned left towards the station.
7. A bicycle is a _____ way to travel short distances.
8. Her shifts are _____, so she does not travel at the same time every day.
9. He borrowed the bike because of an _____.
10. The note contained an _____ for taking the bicycle.

Discussion Questions

1. How did Mabby feel when she realized her bike had been stolen?
2. How would you have felt if you were Mabby?
3. Why do you think Mabby left her bike outside the shop?
4. Would you have done this in your neighbourhood? Why/why not?
5. Do you think Mabby had any idea that her bike could be stolen outside the shop?
6. How would you describe Mabby's initial reaction to the theft of her bike?
7. Why do you think Mabby didn't call out after the thief or report the incident to the police?
8. How did the note from the thief change Mabby's feelings about the situation?
9. Do you think the thief's explanation and apology were genuine? Why or why not?
10. What do you think Mabby thought about the thief after reading the note?
11. What do you think of this note? Do you think it is acceptable?
12. It looks like the thief did not wish to meet Mabby face-to-face. Why is this so? Do you think the thief had something to hide?

13. How might this experience affect Mabby's interactions with strangers in the future?
14. What lessons can we learn from Mabby's experience with the stolen bike and its return?
15. Is bike theft a big problem in your town or city?
16. How to prevent your bike from being stolen?
17. Have you had a bike stolen? Or do you know someone who had a bike stolen? What happened?
18. What does your town or city do to stop bike thieves?
19. Are there good places to leave your bike in your town or city? What are they? Describe them.
20. Can the police do anything to catch a bike thief? Why/why not?
21. Could a shared bike system deter bike theft in your town or city?
22. What would be the problems of a shared bike system?
23. What about proper parking areas for bikes? Would that work?
24. There are car parks for cars. Why not parking areas for bikes?

Role Play: The Bicycle Thief Radio Play

This is a role play activity

Create a three- to four-minute radio play set on the day Mabby's bike disappears.

Work in groups of three or four. The audience cannot see the action, so use voices, short narration and simple sound effects to make the story clear.

Roles: Mabby; a police officer; the shopkeeper; and, if you have four speakers, a narrator or Mabby's colleague. With three speakers, one person can also read the narration. The thief remains unidentified, as in the story.

Scene 1 — Outside the shop: Start with the sound of a bicycle being ridden away. Mabby reacts after the thief has gone and asks the shopkeeper what he saw. Let the shopkeeper describe the hoodie without claiming he saw the thief's face.

Scene 2 — The call: Mabby decides to report the theft. The officer asks where and when it happened, what the bicycle looks like, and whether she has a photograph or identifying details. Mabby explains why the old bike matters to her and that she needs it for her hospital night shift. The officer explains a realistic next step without promising the bike will be found.

Scene 3 — At Mabby's gate: Use footsteps, a gate and the rustle of paper. The narrator or Mabby discovers the returned bike and reads the note. End with a short exchange or monologue showing how Mabby feels about the thief's emergency, the repairs and the fact that taking her bike was still wrong. Do not invent a confirmed identity or explain the emergency as fact.

Preparation: Draft the dialogue in your own words. Give every speaker a meaningful part. Mark at least three sound cues in square brackets, such as [bike wheels], [telephone ringing] or [paper unfolding]. Rehearse the timing and speak clearly; make the change in Mabby's feelings audible in her voice.

Performance and response: Perform without acting out the action. Listeners note one sound cue that helped them follow the plot and one line that revealed Mabby's feelings.

Afterwards, discuss: Does the return and repair of the bike change how you judge the thief? Why?

Debate: How Should a City Prevent Bike Theft?

The Motion

“This house believes that secure bicycle parking is a better use of public money than a citywide shared bicycle system.”

Situation: The city can fund one major cycling project this year. Existing bicycle owners complain about theft, while some residents cannot afford or store a bike. The council wants a proposal that helps people cycle and explains how the money will be spent. No figures are supplied: teams should give plausible examples and say what evidence the council would need.

Team A — For the Motion

Make the case for secure parking near shops, workplaces and transport stations. Consider lighting, staffed or locked spaces, and how people would use them. Explain how the plan could help a nurse like Mabby, whose own bicycle is essential for getting to work. Address cost, limited space, fair access across neighbourhoods and the fact that parking cannot prevent every theft.

Team B — Against the Motion

Make the case for a shared bicycle system with convenient collection and return points. Consider people who cannot buy, store or maintain their own bike, as well as short journeys across

the city. Explain whether shared bikes could reduce the harm caused when someone's personal bike is stolen. Address theft and damage to shared bikes, availability at night, membership costs and whether this helps Mabby keep using her own bike.

Prepare: Each team chooses two main arguments, one example and one likely objection from the other team. Decide what information you would ask the council for: theft reports, cycling journeys, likely costs or access in different neighbourhoods. Prepare a direct answer to the question "Who benefits most, and who might be left out?"

Speaking order: Team A opens (one minute); Team B opens (one minute); each team asks the other one question; each team responds to an opposing argument (one minute); then each gives a short closing statement. The class votes for the more convincing case and explains which argument influenced its decision.

Simpler class option: In pairs, choose one proposal. Give two reasons for it, name one drawback and suggest one improvement. Share your recommendation with the class before a vote.

Writing

Write an open letter from Mabby to the person who took her bicycle.

An open letter is written to one person but could also be read by other people. You do not know the thief's name, so begin "Dear person who took my bike,".

Write in Mabby's voice, using I and you. Aim for at least 300 words.

In your letter, include:

- An opening that explains where Mabby left the bike and how she felt when she saw it being taken.
- Two or three specific ways she relies on the bike, including her journey to the hospital for a night shift.
- The practical trouble the theft caused that day and why the bike mattered even though it was old and worth little money.
- A response to the note: acknowledge the writer's claim of an emergency without inventing details or treating the claim as proven.
- Her reaction to the new tyre and seat, and whether these repairs change her view of the theft.
- A clear final message to the person: an apology she wants, a question she would ask, a warning, forgiveness, thanks, or a mixture of these. Explain her reason.

Suggested structure: Paragraph 1 — what happened and how Mabby felt. Paragraph 2 — why the loss caused problems. Paragraph 3 — her reaction to the return, the note and the repairs. Paragraph 4 — what she wants the person to understand now. Close with “Yours sincerely, Mabby”.

Before handing it in, check that the letter addresses the person directly, moves clearly from anger or worry to her final reaction, and uses details from the story. You may imagine Mabby’s thoughts, but do not state what the emergency was or identify the thief as fact.

Reading Comprehension Questions — Answers

1. The main character is a woman named Mabby.
2. Her bike was stolen while she was inside a shop.
3. She was inside a shop, only for a couple of minutes.
4. She thought it was a quiet neighbourhood and it would be safe for just two minutes.
5. She believed no one would steal it because it was old and worthless, and she wasn't going to be long.
6. No, she didn't call out or chase the thief because she thought it would be a waste of time.
7. He said that bike thieves were very common in the area.
8. Yes, according to the shopkeeper, bike theft happens a lot in that neighbourhood.
9. She uses it to get to work, visit her friend, go to the train station, and do shopping.
10. No, the bike was not valuable in money terms, but it was very important to Mabby.
11. She called it a cheap, old bike that was of no use to anyone except her.
12. She relied on it every day, especially for getting to work and visiting her mother. Without it, everything would be harder and slower.

13. Yes, but she didn't think it would help. She believed the police wouldn't do anything about a stolen bike.
14. She made a cup of tea and tried to calm down.
15. She was working the night shift.
16. She works as a nurse at the hospital.
17. She plans to take the bus, although she's not sure about the schedule.
18. She got angry thinking about how much she needed the bike, and decided she had to try and find the person who took it.
19. She calls him a "thieving little rat."
20. She says it's worth no more than twenty pounds.
21. She returns to the row of shops to ask if anyone saw the thief.
22. He said the thief wore a trendy sweater with a hood — a hoodie.
23. He thinks they should be made illegal because they hide people's faces.
24. Because they wouldn't know if someone riding by was a thief or not.
25. Not really. Her friend says it's terrible, but doesn't sound very upset.
26. She sees birds flying, a neighbour's cat walking, and hears a lawnmower.
27. She realised it wasn't the end of the world and that her work and purpose in life were more important.

28. Yes, she finds meaning in helping and caring for others.
29. Yes, she sees her hands as performing valuable, important work every day.
30. Because she didn't know the bus times and didn't want to risk being late.
31. In the evening, one hour earlier than usual to be safe.
32. She sees her bike at the front gate.
33. The thief apologized, said he had an emergency, and explained that he repaired the tyre and replaced the seat. He thanked Mabby for unknowingly helping him.
34. She expected to see the person who returned the bike, maybe hiding nearby, too shy to approach her.

True or False — Answers

1. True.
2. False. Her bicycle is old and worth very little money.
3. True.
4. False. She considers calling the police but does not do so.
5. False. The hood hides the thief's face.
6. False. She searches but does not find the thief.
7. True.
8. True.
9. False. She leaves earlier than usual.
10. True.

What is the Correct Synonym? — Answers

1. valuable = precious
2. angry = furious
3. convenient = practical
4. worthless = useless
5. saw = noticed
6. odd = strange
7. tired = exhausted
8. robber = thief

What is the Correct Antonym? — Answers

1. expensive ↔ cheap
2. late ↔ early
3. full ↔ empty
4. angry ↔ calm
5. rare ↔ common
6. dangerous ↔ safe
7. find ↔ lose
8. unimportant ↔ important

Words and Meanings — Answers

1. made off with — f
2. lost count of — g
3. get around — e
4. waste of time — h
5. no clue — a
6. in monetary terms — d
7. looked forward to — c
8. on closer inspection — b

Gap Fill Exercise — Answers

1. timetable
2. tyre
3. nurse
4. shopkeeper
5. neighbourhood
6. junction
7. convenient
8. irregular
9. emergency
10. apology

Vocabulary Practice Exercise — Answers

1. shopkeeper — c
2. made off — g
3. trudged — b
4. wonky — i
5. irregular hours — j
6. convenient — h
7. junction — d
8. profound — e
9. sashayed — f
10. nurturing — a

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