

COWPOKE CLYDE RIDES THE RANGE

BY LORI MORTENSEN, ILLUSTRATED BY MICHAEL ALLEN AUSTIN

ISBN-13: 978-0544370302/ Hardcover / \$16.99 9-7/8 x 10 / 32 pages / Children's, Ages 4-8

SUGGESTIONS FOR TEACHERS AND LIBRARIANS

ABOUT THE BOOK

Cowpoke Clyde is plumb confused. An ad in his favorite cat-y-log says he ought to buy a bike. But why should he do that? After all, he's got a horse. Then he gets to thinkin'. A bike wouldn't buck or bite, and he wouldn't have to feed it. He orders one straightaway, and when it comes, he mounts right up and sets right off, wibblin', wobblin' down the road. Good thing he's got his trusty friend Dawg to look out for him. Turns out learning to ride a bike is just a might harder than he thought!

THEMES

- Rhyming Words
- Cowboys
- Dogs
- Animals found in the West
- Learning How to Ride a Bike
- Character Education: Determination, Effort, Persistence, Patience, Loyalty

BEFORE YOU READ

- Discuss the meaning of determination and persistence.
- Have students discuss the value and importance of sticking with

something even when it may be difficult.

AS YOU READ

- Have students find clues in the words and illustrations for what they'll discover on the next page.
- Ask students to make a list of skills Clyde will need to learn how to ride his bike.

AFTER YOU READ

Art

- Cowpoke Clyde ordered a bicycle from an old-fashioned mail order catalog. Have students draw their own old-fashioned bicycle ad.
- Cowpoke Clyde's bike was old-fashioned. Now, invite students to draw a modern futurist bicycle. How is it like Clyde's? How is it different?
- Cowpoke Clyde met many critters as he rode along. Invite students to draw other animals or things he might have encountered.
- In this story, Cowpoke Clyde learned to ride a bike. Invite students to draw a picture of Clyde learning how to

ride something else equally as challenging.

Character Education

- Many things are difficult to do at first. Ask students to discuss what qualities Cowpoke Clyde needed to succeed.
- Ask students to share a time when they were learning how to do something that was difficult. What helped them succeed? What else would they like to learn? How will they do it?

Geography

- Illustrations show that Cowpoke Clyde lives in a hot, dry part of the country. Using a map, discuss the states where Cowpoke Clyde might live.
- Cowpoke Clyde encounters different animals along his way. Invite students to show on a map where these creatures might live.

Health

- Cowpoke Clyde wanted to learn to ride a bike for fun. What are some other reasons people ride bikes? How does this affect their health?
- Cowboys get a lot of exercise. Invite students to discuss the kinds of things cowboys do that gives them exercise and improves their health.

Language Arts

- Invite students to write a new scene where Clyde runs into a surprising new obstacle or challenge. Next, write the scene in a page-turning rhyme.
- Clyde first became interested in bicycles because of an ad in a mail order catalog. Have students write their own bicycle ad.

- Learning to ride a bike can be tricky. Invite students to write a step-by-step guide for someone else who wants to learn to ride.
- Cowpoke Clyde didn't know how to ride a bike, but he'd already learned a lot as a cowboy such as throwing a lasso, riding a horse, or even playing a harmonica. Invite students to write a story about how he struggled and finally succeeded at one of those tasks.

Mathematics

- Invite students to create page in a catalog with different items for sale and their prices. Include an order form that shows what was ordered and the total cost.
- Clyde meets a lot of animals. How many animals appear in this book?

Research

- Who invented the bicycle?
- Are there notable bicycles in American history?
- Are there notable people who rode them?
- What is the farthest someone has traveled on a bicycle?
- What country uses the most bicycles? Why?

Social Studies

- In this story, Cowpoke Clyde learns to ride a familiar-looking bicycle. Have students research bicycles in other countries and in American history.
- Have students define what a cowboy is and then research what they are called in other countries such as "vaquero" in Mexico, "buttero" in Italy and "Guardians" in France.

FUN FACTS

- The word “bicycle” has two parts. “Bi” means “two” and “cycle” means ‘circle’ or “wheel.”
- In 1935, twenty-five-year old Fred A. Birchmore, rode a bicycle around the world. He covered 40,000 miles and wore out seven sets of tires.
- Beginning in 1903, the Tour de France is one of the most famous and strenuous bicycle races in the world.
- Did cowboys ride bicycles? A lithograph in the Library of Congress shows a picture of a cowboy on a bicycle at Yellowstone Park, circa 1897.

Read more at:

<http://wheelbike.blogspot.com/2012/03/cowboys-on-bikes-view-in-1897.html>

<http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/sciencefacts/vehicles/bicycles.html>

<http://bicycling.about.com/od/thebikelife/s/History.htm>

HOLIDAYS AND OBSERVANCES

January

- National Hobby Month
- Make Your Dream Come True Day - 13

February

- National Inventors Day - 11
- Love Your Pet Day - 20
- International Dog Biscuit Appreciation Day - 23

March

- Panic Day - 9
- Everything You Think is Wrong Day - 15
- I Am in Control Day - 30

April

- Library Week - 1st week
- Children’s Book Day - 2
- School Librarian Day - 4
- Take a Chance Day - 23
- Tell a Story Day - 27

May

- National Bike Month
- National Bike Week - 3rd week
- Loyalty Day - 1
- National Bike to Work Day - 3rd Friday of the month

June

- Dare Day - 1
- National Rocky Road Day - 2
- National Trails Day - 4
- International Panic Day - 18
- Take Your Dog to Work Day - 24

July

- Pandemonium Day - 14
- All or Nothing Day - 26
- International Day of Friendship - 30
- Mutt’s Day - 31

August

- Friendship Week - 3rd week
- Work Like a Dog Day - 5
- Friendship Day - 1st Sunday in August
- Book Lover’s Day - 9
- National Dog Day - 26
- Just Because Day - 27

September

- Read a Book Day - 6
- International Literacy Day - 8
- Positive Thinking Day - 13
- International Rabbit Day - 4th Saturday in September

October

- Adopt a Shelter Dog Month
- Do Something Nice Day - 5

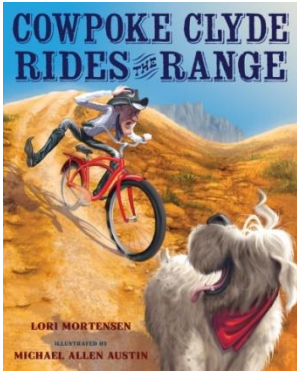
November

- Have a Bad Day Day - 19
- Go For a Ride Day - 22

December

- Unlucky Day - 31

BIOS



Lori Mortensen is the award-winning author of more than seventy books for children. Recent picture book titles include *Mousequerade Ball* (Bloomsbury, 2016) and *Chicken Lily* (Henry Holt, 2016). She lives in northern California with her husband, three kids, and (don't tell Dawg) a mega-fluffy cat named Max. To learn more about Lori's books and other educator activity guides, visit her website at www.lorimortensen.com.

Michael Allen Austin is the award-winning illustrator of twelve books for children. He lives in Atlanta with his wife, Kim, and their sheepdog Riley, who loves to go on adventures when chores are done. Michael's website is www.michaelallenaustin.com.