



Young Citizens and the Giving Season

The Red Bicycle by Jude Isabella

The holidays are upon us. Because of the pandemic, they will look and feel different. Our job as young and older citizens is to think about the new and creative ways, we might share the holiday spirit without putting ourselves or our family and friends at risk.

To start thinking about this “giving season,” read/listen to *The Red Bicycle* by Jude Isabella. This is the story of how young Leo worked for over two years to be able to afford a new bicycle. Leo loved his bike and rode it everywhere. Then, one day he realized that he had outgrown his bicycle. Soon, however, he discovered that he could donate his bike to someone who really needed it and give both his treasured bicycle and a person in need new life.

Before you *read/listen to the story (*check [YouTube](#) for a read-aloud video), think about your cherished old toys, books, bicycles/scooters, and more. Then think about how someone else somewhere in your neighborhood or beyond could bring new life to that item. Most importantly, think about how you might feel knowing you gave something that was special to you to someone for whom it would be special as well.

Now...read/listen to the story and think about and discuss the questions below:

1. Leo had a goal. He worked for two years to raise enough money to buy a new bicycle. It is always rewarding to set a goal and work hard to achieve it. Goals don't have to be about saving enough money to buy something. Striving to achieve a goal, however, often involves hard work. In these challenging times, can you think of a goal you might want to achieve that would make your home, school, and/or community a better/kinder place? Be prepared to share. What steps do you think you would need to take to accomplish your goal?
2. When Leo outgrew his bicycle, he asked the owner of the bicycle shop where he could find a new home for **Big Red**. *He wanted to give Big Red to someone who would love Big Red as much as he did.* Imagine that you have a board game that you loved to play but feel it is too easy for you now. You have all the pieces and the original box. You think your friends and classmates might also have games they no longer play. Who might you ask to help you collect these games? How might you plan to collect the games and get them to other kids who might *love them as much as you did*? If not board games, what other items might you try to collect?
3. Imagine that you want a bicycle like Alisetta did. Think of all the helpful things Alisetta did with her “new” bike. She rode to the field every morning to scare off the birds. Scaring off the birds meant the family could harvest more *sorghum. (*Sorghum is a grain that is used as feed for animals and as food for people.) She put a basket on her bike and took things to sell at the local market. With the extra money she got at the market, she helped her mother send her younger brother and sister to school. What would you do that would help with the needs of your family, your neighbors, and/or people living in your community and beyond?