



**Title:** The Mouse and the Motorcycle

**Author:** Beverly Cleary

**CHAPTER 4: Keith**

**Summary:** Ralph is trapped in the waste can with the motorcycle. He befriends Keith who helps him escape. Keith teaches Ralph how to make the motorcycle go by making engine sounds. Ralph experiences the exhilaration of riding a motorcycle.

**STORY PRESENTATION**

**Finishing the Chapter:** *What do you think of Ralph and his motorcycle? How did Ralph make his motorcycle go? Yes, the sound of the engine is very important to Harley-Davidson. We think our engines make a very special sound. We think it sounds like this...potato potato potato. Let’s take a walk and go listen to some different engines.*

**GALLERY PRESENTATION**

**Exhibit/Artifact:** Take your students into the Engine Room located on the second floor of the Museum.



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### **Gallery Facts to Share with Students:**

- Using the engine wall touchscreen interactive, compare and contrast the sound of the 1909 V-Twin with the Twin Cam 88, a more modern (1999-2006) engine
- Discuss other types of machines run by gasoline engine power as well. Does the sound of a Harley-Davidson motorcycle seem similar or different to a lawn mower? A locomotive? A jet engine?
- Different engine configurations affect the types of sound a particular engine makes. Singles vs. twins, two-stroke vs. four-stroke, etc.
- Use the “Making the Wheels Turn” interactive to demonstrate the configuration of a Harley-Davidson V-Twin engine. It has two pistons/cylinder heads configured at a 45° angle. While the engine is running, the pistons move together in a unique pattern. Can demonstrate the uneven “loping” pattern using the interactive, or using your arms moving in an up and down pattern. The unique potato, potato, potato sound of an H-D engine comes from this uneven movement of the pistons.

### **CHAPTER 5: *Adventures in the Night***

**Summary:** Ralph makes a deal with Keith to use the motorcycle at night. Ralph leaves room 215 to explore the hallway of the hotel. While riding Ralph encounters his Aunt Sissy and a man and his dog. Ralph returns to room 215 only to find that the wind has blown the door shut and he can't return the motorcycle. Ralph meets the bellboy, Matt, who helps Ralph by opening the door. Ralph races in and scares Keith's mother. Ralph escapes by riding under the bed. Keith saves Ralph from being discovered by letting him crawl up his sleeve.

### **STORY PRESENTATION**

**Finishing the Chapter:** *What do you think of Ralph and his motorcycle? This book was written by a lady named Beverly Cleary. Does anyone know any other books that she has written? She wrote this book in 1960's. That was a long time ago! Let's go into the galleries and see if we can find some motorcycles that Ms. Cleary may have used as an inspiration to write her story.*

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## GALLERY PRESENTATION

**Exhibit/Artifact:** Take your students into the first gallery of the Harley-Davidson Journey on the first floor. Look for the 1961 Scat motorcycle model.



### Gallery Facts to Share with Students:

- The Scat was a very special motorcycle from the 1960s made by Harley-Davidson. It is smaller and lighter than most of the motorcycles made by H-D. It was designed for outdoorsmen—people who liked off-roading (can liken Ralph’s trips through the hotel to “off-roading”) hunting, and fishing, for example. In fact, the bike even featured an optional hunting and fishing kit.
- *Ask: What are some of the features that made this bike easy to ride off-road?* Upswept mufflers that wouldn’t hit on the ground, extra clearance between the wheel and fender to stop dirt and debris from getting caught, and knobby, “grasshopper” tires for extra traction on rough terrain.

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### **CHAPTER 7 & 8: *The Vacuum Cleaner & The Family Reunion***

**Summary:** Ralph narrowly escapes being sucked up into the vacuum cleaner by grabbing onto the motorcycle. He then rides the motorcycle into a pile of bed sheets. He chews his way out of the bed sheets, but is unable to free the motorcycle. The motorcycle is lost to the laundry. In chapter 8, Ralph's extended family comes to feast on the room service brought to Ralph by Keith. Keith also brings Ralph a very special present, a crash helmet! Ralph tries it on and feels very much like a motorcycle racer. Ralph then confesses to Keith that he lost the motorcycle.

### **STORY PRESENTATION**

**Finishing the Chapter:** *What do you think of Ralph and his motorcycle? Ralph got a very special gift from Keith, what was it? Yes, it was a helmet. A helmet is a very important thing to wear when you are riding a motorcycle. Today we are going to go look at some very special helmets in our collection. These helmets were worn by people who went very fast on motorcycles. They were racers!*

### **GALLERY PRESENTATION**

**Exhibit/Artifact/Props:** **Take your students to the the Clubs and Competition Gallery** located on the second floor of the Museum. Look for the helmets in the exhibit cases under the board track.



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**Gallery Facts to Share with Students:**

- Compare/Contrast the leather (1910s-1920s) with the hard-shell helmet (1940s) in the case. Which helmet do you think protected the wearer's head more?
- The 1940s-style hard-shell helmet was developed after racing organizations called for greater safety precautions, including improved safety equipment like helmets.
- Point out features of modern racing helmet. What is it made of? What is inside? Does it protect eyes, ears?
- What other safety equipment do modern motorcycle racers wear? Show picture and point out leathers, gloves, boots with metal or plastic liners, body armor/padding
- Can you think of other sports where the participants wear safety equipment? What kinds? Are any of these similar to the equipment that motorcycle racers wear?