



Title: Runaway Ralph

Author: Beverly Cleary

CHAPTER 1: *Ralph Hears a Distant Bugle*

Summary: Ralph patiently waits until the grandfather clock strikes 9:00 to take his motorcycle out for a ride. While he waits he notices a boy name Garf, check into the inn. Ralph takes his motorcycle and goes fast throughout the inn. Ralph is exhilarated by speed, danger and his own daring. His mother fears Ralph will fall in with “evil companions.” Ralph must push all of the smaller mice on his motorcycle and he is not happy! Ralph decides to run away.

STORY PRESENTATION

Finishing the Chapter: *What do you think of Ralph and his motorcycle? What were some of the daredevil things that Ralph did in the story? Ralph’s mother thought that he would fall in with “evil companions” in the story. We have our very own “evil” daredevil in the museum, but we like our daredevil. Can anyone guess his name? His name is Evel Knievel. Let’s go look in the Museum at a motorcycle like the one Evel Knievel rode.*

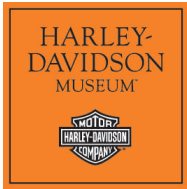
GALLERY PRESENTATION

Exhibit/Artifact: Take your students to the second floor of the Museum to see the Evel Knievel motorcycle (it is suspended from the ceiling) & the Evel Knievel artifacts located in the exhibit case directly below the motorcycle.



(Continued on next page)

JLEY-
DSON
EUM
TONA
ICKLEHEAD
Y-
ON
M-
OTER
HUR
AM A.
ENTHUSIAST
N
8002
WILLIE G.
CAN
WILLIE G.
WALTER
LIFE
THE
WILLI
V-ROD
BOY
FAT
DAVIDSC
HARLE
KN
DAY
A LEGEND
1903
MUS
INTERNAL
DAV
HAR



Gallery Facts to Share with Students:

- Evel Knievel was a famous motorcycle stunt rider during the 1970s. He had a partnership with Harley-Davidson, and used special Harley-Davidson XR-750 motorcycles for his stunts.
- During the height of his popularity in 1974, Evel Knievel attempted to jump Idaho's 500-foot-deep Snake River Canyon with a rocket-powered "Skycycle." When the vehicle's parachute deployed early, the wind carried the Skycycle back over the canyon, and it fell to the rocks below.
- In 1975, Knievel jumped across 13 buses in London's Wembley Stadium, but he lost control during the landing and was badly injured. The bike suspended above is a replica of the bike Evel used during the Wembley jump. It was painted by the same person who custom painted all of Evel's stunt bikes.
- During the 1970's Evel Knievel was one of the most famous figures across the nation and around the globe. Movies, television specials, music, books, toys, trash cans and trinkets were made in his likeness, and Evel Knievel toys were especially popular.
- Throughout his career, Evel Knievel earned several spots in the *Guinness Book of World Records*, and broke almost 40 bones. Evel Knievel died in 2007 at the age of 69.

CHAPTER 4: *The Open Road*

Summary: Ralph is trying to run away but must figure out how to get down the steps of the inn. He must drive down a ramp and make a jump to get out of the inn. Ralph lands in a bush and must chew his way out to freedom. Once freed, Ralph heads down the wide open road.

STORY PRESENTATION

Finishing the Chapter: *What do you think of Ralph and his motorcycle? What are some of the troubles that Ralph faced when he was running away? When people ride motorcycles on the open road, they sometimes experience troubles. Let's go learn about some tough experiences that our riders have had on the road.*

(Continued on next page)



GALLERY PRESENTATION

Exhibit/Artifact: Clubs and Competition Gallery, Touring. Prop: Photo of Camping, Scan of P&A catalog showing camping equipment



Gallery Facts to Share with Students:

- In the early days of motorcycle travel, road conditions were rough
- Touring on a motorcycle was a popular sport. It was very different from touring in a car or even motorcycle trips that people take today, where they can often bring a lot of the comforts of home.
- *Ask: If you were going touring on a motorcycle a long time ago, what types of things would you pack and why? What is the difference between creature comforts vs. necessities to survive and keep the bike running. Do you think a motorcycle could hold all of that stuff?*