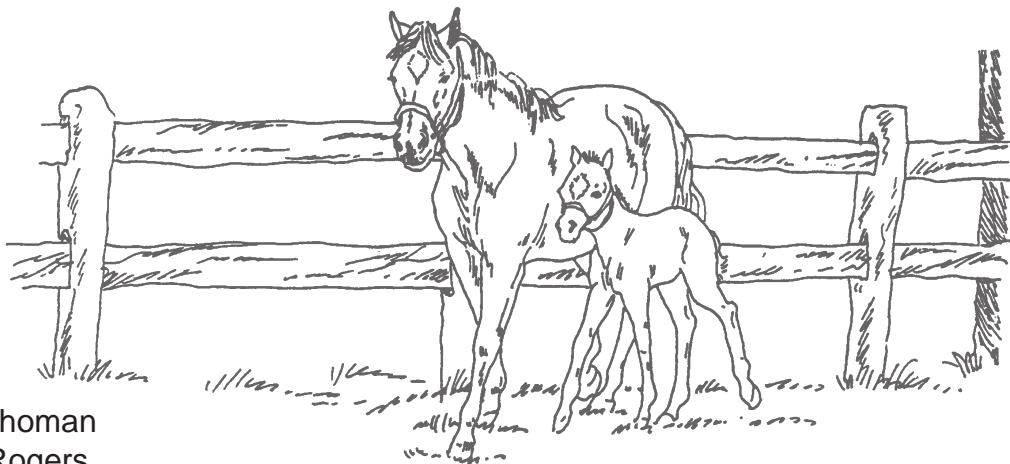


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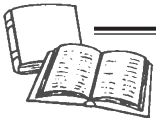
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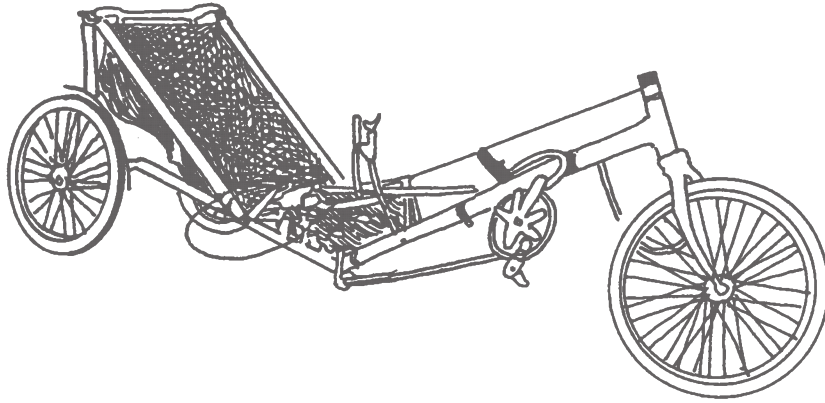
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Name _____

A Bicycle for the Future?



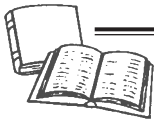
A bicycle in the future may look very different from the one you ride now. One day you may be riding around on a recumbent bicycle!

One bicycle designer, Don Harse, has built a three-wheel recumbent bicycle. He sells his innovation in a kit that customers order through the mail. On a recumbent bicycle, the rider sits in a reclining position, in a comfortable, slung fabric seat, similar to a hammock. This position, with the legs extended forward, allows the cyclist to use the greater strength in his/her upper legs to pedal.

Racers may like this bicycle because the rider's streamlined position is important for attaining greater speeds. On a two-wheeler, the air pushing against the body slows the rider down. To go faster, the rider puts his/her head

down and straightens into as much of a horizontal position as possible. A streamlined body position lowers wind resistance, and the cyclist goes faster.

Some people like three-wheelers because they are steady. That's important when a parent is transporting a small child on the back. The recumbent bicycle can also carry heavy loads without falling over. Don says his bicycle is lightweight, rides smoothly and uses standard parts. Don believes that the advantages of speed, comfort and other technical advances of the recumbent bicycle far outweigh the disadvantages. Don is proud of his bicycle design. He believes cycling in a recumbent position on three wheels may seem strange now, but what seems strange today may not seem so strange tomorrow.



A Bicycle for the Future?

Follow directions to answer the questions.

- Circle the best ending to the sentence. The author's purpose for writing this passage is to
 - protect small children from bicycle accidents.
 - alarm the reader about the dangers of bike riding.
 - make the reader laugh.
 - inform the reader about an unusual bicycle.
- Circle the sentence that tells the author's opinion.
 - Change can be hard.
 - How we do things today may not be the way we do them in the future.
 - Small children can get hurt on bicycles.
 - Bicycle designers don't like three-wheelers.
- Does the author think people will start riding recumbent bicycles? Support your answer with clues from the passage.

- Based on the article, write the letter of the definition that matches each word.
 - reclining
 - placement
 - to press against
 - without resistance
 streamlined recumbent resistance position
- Tick what the author means when she says the recumbent bicycle "uses standard parts."
 The recumbent bicycle can be bought anywhere.
 The recumbent bicycle comes in any colour.
 The recumbent bicycle is made out of parts that are readily available.

Extension: Think about a time you or someone you know bought something in a kit. Tell what it was like putting it together.