The Main Idea Strategy: Student Practice Lessons

Name

Date

Passage #21

**Skateboarding**

What do you need to ride a skateboard? All you need is the skateboard, itself, and someone to ride it. Regardless of whether you are an early or late adolescent, or a young adult who rides skateboards professionally, it’s all the same. You don’t need wind or sails, and you don’t need gasoline or an electrical charger either. With a solid and tenacious push, you are off and on your way.

What can you do with a skateboard? If your friend lives down the road, you could ride quickly to his or her house. In college, many students skateboard to lots of places, including from the dormitory to classroom building. There are even a few professors who ride skateboards to the classes that they teach! The possibilities and destinations are literally limitless.

Have you ever seen anybody on a skateboard who had a scowl or a frown? Have you seen a crying skateboarder? I imagine you have not seen many of those! Skateboarders can do cool tricks, and they can make jumps that other people say “WOW!” Some people post videos of their adventures, as well as mishaps with skateboards, on the internet.

In the 1990s, skateboarding started to become more than just a “kid thing.” People like Tony Hawk and other famous skateboarders started competitions where they could skate with the best skateboarders in the world. One sports channel started showing the “X Games,” which featured skateboarding. Judges rated the skateboarders tricks and gave out prizes to those who could do the best and most difficult tricks. Millions of people watched on television, and now the “X Games” has been on television for more than many years!

In a car, people have to put on seatbelts to keep from getting hurt. Now, think about what can happen on a skateboard. A person could ride over rock, catch an edge, and fall and bust his or her head. Imagine what that could do! Also, skateboarders often fall on their elbows and kneecaps, causing burns. Skateboarders cannot wear seatbelts, but they are supposed to wear pads and a helmet as safety equipment.

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