



Guide for Parents & Teachers

You can use *Bicycles, Airships and Things that Go* (by Bernie McAllister, illustrated by John Aardema) for teaching and learning at home and in the classroom. The questions below (and answers, where relevant, on following page) suggest different ways to start discussions about transportation, gardens, energy, museums, or sports.

QUESTIONS

1. What are the different ways can you see energy being generated?
2. Have you ever seen a solar panel or wind turbine in real life? Where?
3. What types of gardens do we see in the story?
4. What other things in the story are important for gardens?
5. How many different kinds of farms can you find and what are they?
6. How many different ways can you see people moving around and what are they?
7. What kind of museum is in the book?
8. What other kinds of museums are there—and which ones have you been to?
9. What unusual places do you see solar panels in the story?
10. How many different kinds of bikes do you see on pages 4 and 5?
11. What is the playground made out of at the end of the story?
12. What kind of sports can you find in the story? Have you tried these sports?

POSSIBLE ANSWERS

1. What are the different ways can you see energy being generated? **Answers:** Solar PV panels, solar chimney, wind turbines, wind on sails, pedaling a bike, waves, lighter than air gas (this is called buoyancy and is the same for an air pocket rising in water—it relates to pressure being higher outside the pocket), oars, solar hornet, towing kite, balloon air pressure.
2. Have you ever seen a solar panel or wind turbine in real life? Where? **Answers:** This discussion works well if you have already identified some solar panels that are visible locally, such as on nearby houses, or parking kiosks. You could even bring a picture and ask children to take a look next time they pass.
3. What types of gardens do we see in the story? **Answers:** seaweed, wall garden, greenhouse, roof garden and bus-top garden.
4. What other things in the story are important for gardens? **Answers:** bees, compost, water, sunlight, soil.
5. How many different kinds of farms can you find and what are they? **Answers:** turbine farm, solar farm, seaweed farm, fish farm, urban farm, you could also consider a few bee hives as a honey and wax farm.
6. How many different ways can you see people moving around and what are they? **Answers:** Bus, train, boat, airship, bike, skateboard, scooter, foot, bicycle bus, motorcycle, electric car —have we missed any?
7. What kind of museum is in the book? **Answer:** Science Museum, Science Center.
8. What other kinds of museums are there—and which ones have you been to? **Possible Answers:** Science, art, childhood/children, transport, natural history, history and industry, science, design, war, maritime, and so on.
9. What unusual places do you see solar panels in the story? **Answers:** briefcase, chair [solar lounge], streetlight, ferry boat.
10. How many different kinds of bikes do you see on pages 4 and 5? **Answer:** about 12 if you include the café bike.
11. What is the playground made out of at the end of the story? **Answer:** wind turbines.
12. What kind of sports can you find in the story? Have you tried these sports? **Answer:** snow boarding, skate boarding, sand boarding, cycling, kayaking, sailing, sand sailing, rowing.