

Kids Help Pass Safety Laws

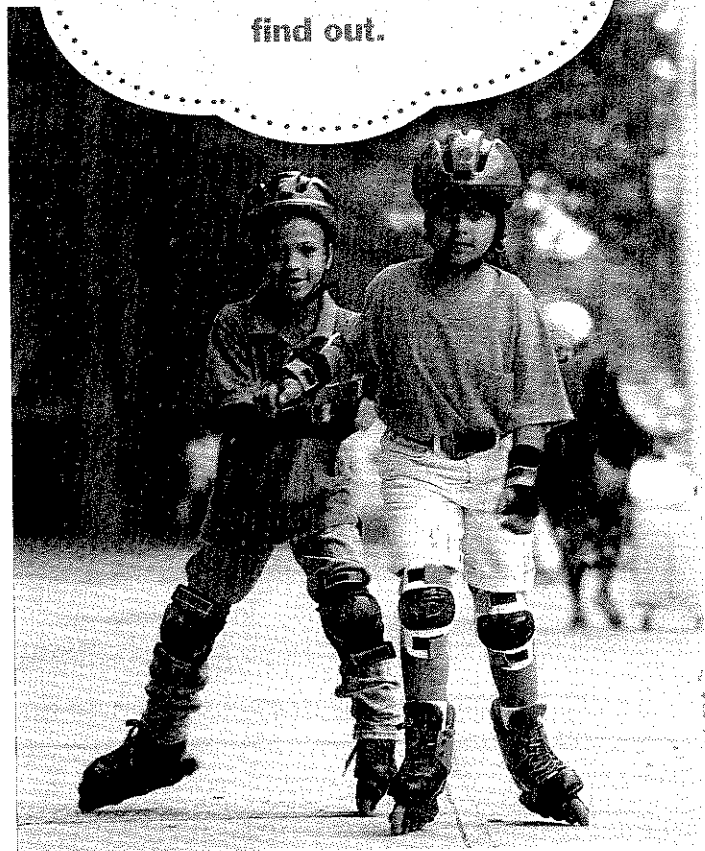
adapted by Sharon Dederian

When Sean Aiken bought a bike helmet, he never thought it would help him so soon. Only a week later, it saved his life. He was hit by a car while riding home from school in Tucson, Arizona. His bike didn't survive the crash. But Sean did. His helmet protected him from **serious** head injuries. "I used to think helmets were **unnecessary**. I thought I would never get hurt," Sean said. "But it can and will happen to you if you're not careful." Sean later spoke before the Tucson City Council about the need for bike-helmet laws. This led to a new Arizona law that **requires** people under the age of 18 to wear a bike helmet while cycling.

Fifteen-year-old Mike Jones of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, knows about safety. Two years ago, he was seriously hurt in a car accident. Mike had a skull fracture and brain damage when he was thrown from

Set Your Purpose

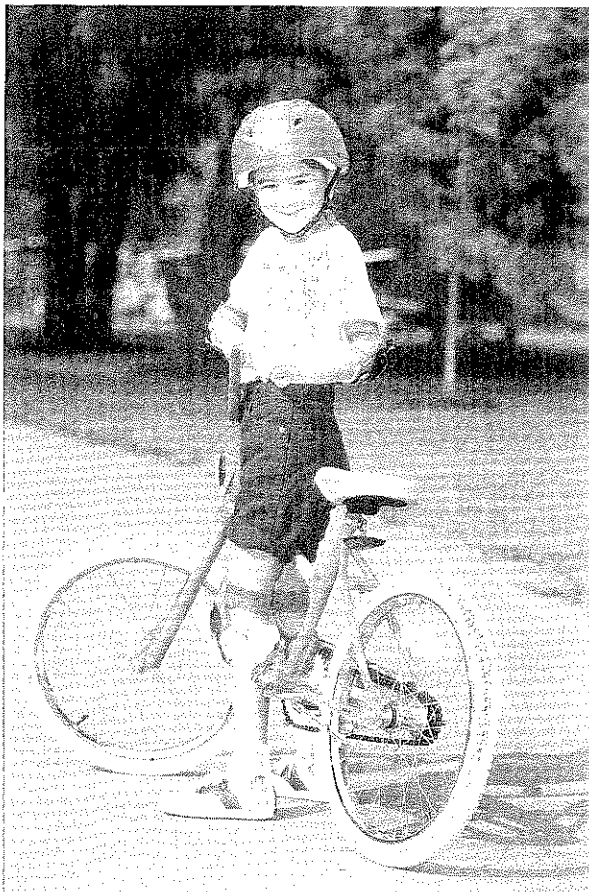
How can kids and adults save lives? Read this newspaper article to find out.



Kids know that safety is important.

a van. "I don't know why I didn't wear a safety belt that day. Now I always buckle up," Mike said. Today, he is still reminded of that experience. "I used to love sports, but I can't do them anymore. I can't risk getting another serious injury," he said.

Like Mike, many people around the U.S. are becoming more safety-wise. "Parents can't watch kids every minute. Kids must know how to be safe. It's in their control and power," says Susan Gallagher, director of the Safety Network.



New technology is also helping to **prevent** injuries. More people than ever before use products such as smoke detectors in their homes and seat belts in their cars. Most cyclists know that they should use bike helmets. New laws, such as the bike-helmet law Sean Aiken helped pass, are also making more people use these products. The number of **fatal** injuries caused by car crashes and fires has gone down over the years.

Kids are taking action to help prevent injuries. Like Sean Aiken and Mike Jones, they know that safety works.

**Think
About It**

What can people do
to make life safer?

Name _____ Date _____

Check Your Understanding

Fill in the letter with the best answer for each question.

- If Sean Aiken weren't wearing a helmet when he and his bike were hit by a car, he probably would have been
 - a survivor.
 - a hero.
 - walking away from the accident.
 - seriously hurt or killed.
- People in the U.S. are becoming safety-wise because
 - awards are being given to them.
 - they love sports.
 - too many people are getting hurt.
 - they wear bike helmets.
- To help save lives, kids can
 - take control of cars.
 - put out fires.
 - not play sports.
 - ask for new safety laws.
- Why has the number of fatal injuries caused by car crashes and fires decreased?
 - New technology keeps a more accurate count.
 - More people use safety-related products than ever before.
 - Fewer people ride cars.
 - Fires are no longer dangerous.
- Why is it important to wear a bike helmet while riding?
 - to protect the rider against head injuries
 - to keep the rider from falling off his bike
 - to keep the rider from seeing well
 - to be different from all other riders

Vocabulary

Find each vocabulary word in the selection. The words and sentences around it will help you figure out its meaning.

Fill in the letter with the best definition of the underlined word.

- His helmet protected him from serious head injuries.
 - dangerous
 - tiny
 - beautiful
 - easy
- I used to think helmets were unnecessary; I thought I would never get hurt.
 - required
 - important
 - not needed
 - unhappy
- A new law requires people to wear a bike helmet while cycling.
 - rides
 - quizzes
 - returns
 - orders
- New technology is also helping to prevent injuries.
 - cure
 - make worse
 - keep from happening
 - let happen
- Safety laws have brought down the number of fatal injuries.
 - minor
 - deadly
 - healed
 - faked

Name _____

Date _____

Word Work

The letter **y** can stand for several different sounds. Look at the examples.

long-e sound: necessary

long-i sound: my

short-i sound: gym

The letter combinations **sh**, **th**, and **ch** each stand for a special sound that is different than the sounds of the two letters pronounced separately.

shoe **tooth** **cheese**

Read each word in dark type. Fill in the letter of the word that has the same vowel sound.

1. bicycle

- (A) necessary (B) my (C) gym

2. seriously

- (A) necessary (B) my (C) gym

3. safety

- (A) necessary (B) my (C) gym

4. try

- (A) necessary (B) my (C) gym

5. injury

- (A) necessary (B) my (C) gym

Read the definitions. Complete the word by adding the letters **sh**, **th**, or **ch**.

6. a sandy shore

bea_____

7. to move quickly back and forth

_____ake

8. a playground game

hopscot_____

9. a storm noise

_____under

10. a pumpkin

squa_____

Write Now

In this selection, you learned about safety laws that help prevent injuries in daily life. Look at the chart. It shows some safety rules for bicycling. Can you think of rules for other sports?

- Plan a safety poster showing safety rules for a sport you like. First, think of a sport to write about. Then make a chart like the one shown. List two or three rules of safety for that sport.
- Are you ready to design your own safety poster? Choose one or more rules to illustrate in a single picture. Write the rules at the top of the poster and draw your picture underneath.

Sport	Bicycling
Rules	1. Always wear a helmet. 2. Watch out for cars. 3. Obey traffic rules.