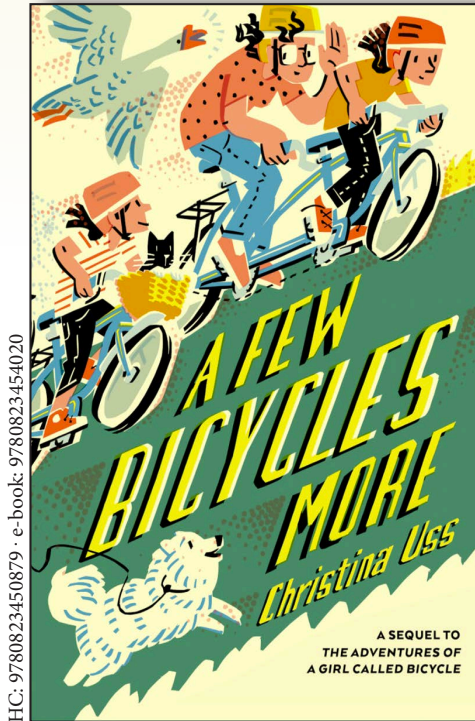


HOLIDAY HOUSE EDUCATOR'S GUIDE



MARGARET FERGUSON BOOKS

A Few Bicycles More by Christina Uss

“A heady rush of girl power paced by the delights both of biking and bringing out the best in oneself and others.”

—Kirkus Reviews

A Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection



ABOUT THE BOOK

In the sequel to the popular Texas Bluebonnet Award Master List title, *The Adventures of a Girl Called Bicycle*, our hero reunites with her long-lost family and attempts a daring vehicular rescue.

A Few Bicycles More is the exciting sequel to *The Adventures of a Girl Called Bicycle*. Bicycle has been back from her cross-country adventure with her robot-like bike, Fortune, for just a month when it starts malfunctioning, insisting that they pedal away from their home in Washington, D.C., to Harpers Ferry in West Virginia. Once there, they discover a scrapyard where bicycles are being crushed and recycled—and it appears they are too late to save them. Bicycle sets a plan in motion to rescue the bikes, a plan that, if it works, will help her fit into her family and still stay true to cycling.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- The novel opens with the Fortune 713-J insisting that Bicycle pedal the wrong way. What other strange things are going on with Fortune? Why does Bicycle call Fortune “not well”? Describe Fortune’s behavior when it’s well.
- Bicycle and Sister Wanda hope to solve Fortune’s problem by going for a ride on the C&O Canal Towpath. Explain the song “Folsom Prison Blues” that Fortune plays as they arrive at Harpers Ferry. Why is this particular song significant? When else in the novel does Fortune play the song? How does Bicycle understand the song by the end of the novel?
- Sister Wanda says to Bicycle, “What seems like an end can be viewed as a new beginning” (p. 35). The nun is referring to scrap. Discuss how the quote applies to Bicycle when she discovers her biological family. How might this quote apply to Sister Wanda and the monks at the Mostly Silent Monastery when Bicycle is forced to stay with her parents and sisters?



- Describe Stella and Alex Kosroy, Bicycle's parents. How do they keep track of their daughters? Why are they unsure when Bicycle disappeared? Explain how losing Bicycle when she was a toddler might have changed the way they deal with their daughters. Discuss whether Sister Wanda finds the answers to the questions she asks Stella and Alex.
- What are Bicycle's reservations about leaving the Mostly Silent Monastery to live with her family? How does her life change? What is her biggest adjustment? Discuss Sister Wanda's advice when Bicycle asks her, "How do I open my heart?" (p. 69). At what point does Bicycle truly open her heart?
- Fortune thinks the Kosroy sisters are very interesting. Describe each sister through Fortune's eyes. Explain the experience that each girl wants. How do they accomplish their dreams?
- Debate whether the experience is what they hoped for. How do they each deal with disappointment and defeat?
- The sisters are alike because they are quintuplets. What are their differences? Explain their Quint Sense. How do they use Quint Sense to their advantage when planning the rescue mission?
- Explain what Stella means when she tells Bicycle, "This family runs on togetherness" (p. 89). How do the girls work together to rescue the bicycles? Bicycle becomes the leader in the rescue mission. How does the mission give her sisters freedom?
- Bicycle decides the first rule of belonging is "find a place to fit in" (p. 92). Where is that place for Bicycle? Discuss all of Bicycle's Rules of Family Belonging. At what point in the novel does Bicycle begin to feel that she belongs? What is Fortune's role in Bicycle's journey to belong?
- Bicycle realizes she must rescue the bikes from the scrapyard. Why does she need to talk to Sister Wanda? What advice might Sister Wanda give her? Debate whether Bicycle is conflicted about paying for the bicycles with counterfeit money. What major mistake does she make when making the deal?
- Chuck Wolff, the son of the scrapyard owner, is a crook. When does he know for certain the value of the bicycles? Describe how he treats Bicycle and her sisters. Contrast his way of dealing with customers with his father's way.
- "She [Bicycle] hoped her parents wouldn't regret that she'd returned home and turned their lives upside down" (p. 220). How do her parents help the girls retrieve the bicycles? Stella Kosroy gets on a bicycle and begins pedaling. What is significant about this scene? How does Alex Kosroy react?
- Explain how the bicycle rescue mission unites Bicycle's biological family and her monastery family. What do they learn from one another?

Guide created by Pat Scales, retired school librarian and independent consultant, Greenville, South Carolina.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Christina Uss's first novel, *The Adventures of a Girl Called Bicycle*, was selected for the Texas Bluebonnet Award Master List, Maine Student Book Award list, and Vermont's Dorothy Canfield Fisher list and was a *Kirkus Reviews* Best Book of the Year. It received starred reviews from *Shelf Awareness*, *Booklist*, *Kirkus Reviews*, and *Publishers Weekly*. Her second novel, *The Colossus of Roads*, received three starred reviews. Christina lives in East Longmeadow, Massachusetts. You can visit her online at ChristinaUss.com.

