

Short Story: Is This for Real?

In the friendly town of Riverton, there was a winding street called Maple Lane. Children often rode their bikes up and down the street.

One sunny afternoon, three friends, Nala, Alex, and Kayden, decided to go for a bike ride. Alex had a bright blue bike, Kayden had a pink bike with streamers, and Nala had a green bike with a basket. They raced each other, enjoying the warm day.

As they rode past the big oak tree, they heard the sound of metal hitting pavement. They quickly stopped and saw their friend Sam sitting on the ground next to his bike, which was lying in a heap. Sam looked upset but not hurt.

"Oh no, Sam! What happened?" Nala asked, running over to help him up.

"I crashed my bike," Sam said, dusting off his jeans. "But I'm not sure how it happened."

Just then, Mrs. Jenkins, an elderly neighbor, came out of her house. "I saw the whole thing from my window," she said. "Sam was riding too fast and hit a big rock on the road. That's what made him fall."

Mr. Thompson, who was walking his dog, joined them. "I saw it too, right across the street," he said. "A squirrel ran out in front of Sam, and he swerved to avoid it."

Their friend, Jenny, who was playing on her Nintendo Switch on her front porch three houses down, also came over. "I was watching, too," she said. "I think Sam hit a patch of loose gravel and lost control of his bike."

Alex, Kayden, and Nala looked at each other, puzzled. "So, was it the rock, the squirrel, or the gravel?" Alex wondered aloud.

"I don't know who to believe," Nala said, scratching his head.

