

ST. BENEDICT ACADEMY

CLASS - IV

SUBJECT - ENGLISH

POEM

GOING DOWNHILL

SUMMARY

In this poem the speaker remembers riding his bicycle down a hill. He describes it as if it were happening now. His bicycle is moving down the hill at a great speed. His feet are off the pedal and in the air. The wind is in his face. He addresses birds, and says that now he knows the joy they feel when they fly in the sky.

Read the poem and the summary to understand the poem easily.

With lifted feet, hands **still**,
I am **poised**, and down the hill
Dart, with **heedful** mind;
The air goes by in a wind.

Swifter and yet more swift,
Till the heart **with a mighty lift**
Makes the lungs laugh, the throat cry—
“O bird, see; see, bird, I fly.

“Is this, is this your joy?
O bird, then I, though a boy,
For a golden moment share
Your **feathery life** in air!”

Henry Charles Beeching

still: not moving

poised: balanced

dart: to move quickly

heedful: careful

swifter: faster

with a mighty lift:

full of excitement

feathery life: the life
of a feathered bird



Q2 Answer the following questions

Q1 Who do you think is the speaker in the poem?

Ans The speaker in the poem is the small boy, because he remembers riding his bicycle down a hill and describes it as if it were happening now.

Q2 What is the "golden moment" that the speaker talks about in the poem?

Ans According to the writer the "golden moment" was when his bicycle was moving down the hill with a great speed and his feet were off the pedal in the air, the wind was direct on his face. He was happy by his heart and says the bird that now he knows the joy they feel when they fly in the air.

Q3 Read the lines from the poem
and answer the following
questions

1) "O bird, see, see, bird, I fly."

a) Why is the speaker talking to the bird?

Ans The speaker tells the bird that he feels a great joy to fly in the air, as they usually fly.

b) What does the speaker want the bird to know?

Ans The speaker wants that the birds should know that he can also fly in the air and enjoy a golden moment.

2) "Is this, is this your joy?"

a) Whom does the word 'your' refer to in this line?

Ans The word 'you're' refers to a boy riding a bicycle.

b) What is the speaker asking in this line?

Ans The speaker is asking about his excitement and golden moment he had experienced.

3). "Swifter and yet more swifter,
Till the heart with a mighty lift,
Makes the lungs laugh, the throat cry."

a) What feelings does the speaker express here?

Ans The speaker expresses his joy of feeling high in the air. He is so happy from his deep heart that in his happiness his throat cried for a while.

b) What causes the speaker to feel this way?

Ans. The happiness of flying in the air when his bicycle moves down the hill with a great speed expresses his feelings.