

Name: _____ Date: _____

WHAT WE REMEMBER

In the three examples below, three different people witnessed or took part in an event. Each person tells his or her part of the story. As you read, think about how each person's story differs from the others, then answer the questions that follow.

#1. A reporter looking out a window is videotaping what is happening on the street. She tells what she observed as she looked out her window:

A girl wearing a T-shirt with the name "Mary" on it rides her bicycle down the street. As she reaches the corner, she falls off her bicycle. The girl picks herself up and dusts herself off. Then she picks up her bicycle and slowly limps away.

#2. Mary, the girl riding the bicycle, tells what happened in this way:

I was riding my bicycle when I saw a crack in the sidewalk that I tried to avoid. I swerved but lost control of the bike. I was really scared. I went flying head over heels and hit the ground hard, scraping my knee and bruising my arm. I was bleeding a lot and started to cry. Finally, I picked up the bike, even though I was really hurting a lot, and hurried home as fast as I could, crying all the way.

#3. A person from the neighborhood, walking by on the street, tells what happened this way:

I was hurrying to make the light and saw this girl fall off her bicycle. I remembered that it's always good for kids to learn how to pick themselves up after a fall, all by themselves (at least that's what my Dad always taught me), so I waited a minute to see if she was okay and did not go over to help. When I saw she got up on her own, I went on my way.

Answer the following questions. (Use the back of the page for additional space if you need it.)

1. The five Ws:

WHO participated in the event? _____

WHAT happened at the event? _____

WHERE did the event take place? _____

WHEN did the event take place? _____

WHY did the event occur? _____

2. How does Mary's account of the event differ from that of the reporter looking out the window? How does it differ from that of the person walking by?

3. How is the person who is walking by influenced by memory as she retells what happened? Do you think that what she remembered from her own personal experiences influenced her actions? If so, in what way?

4. What would have happened if the person walking by had been a different person with different memories? Suppose that person had remembered a time when he or she had fallen off a bicycle and someone had come to help. Would that experience have changed this person's action?

5. If the person who was videotaping thought Mary was really hurt, should he or she have tried to help her or called for someone to help her? What about the person walking by in the street—do you think that person should have helped Mary?

6. If the person walking by knew Mary, how might that person have responded differently?

7. How do you think fear or other emotions might influence how someone responds to an event?

8. How does your level of involvement in an event influence your actions?

9. What do you think you would have done if you had watched Mary fall?

