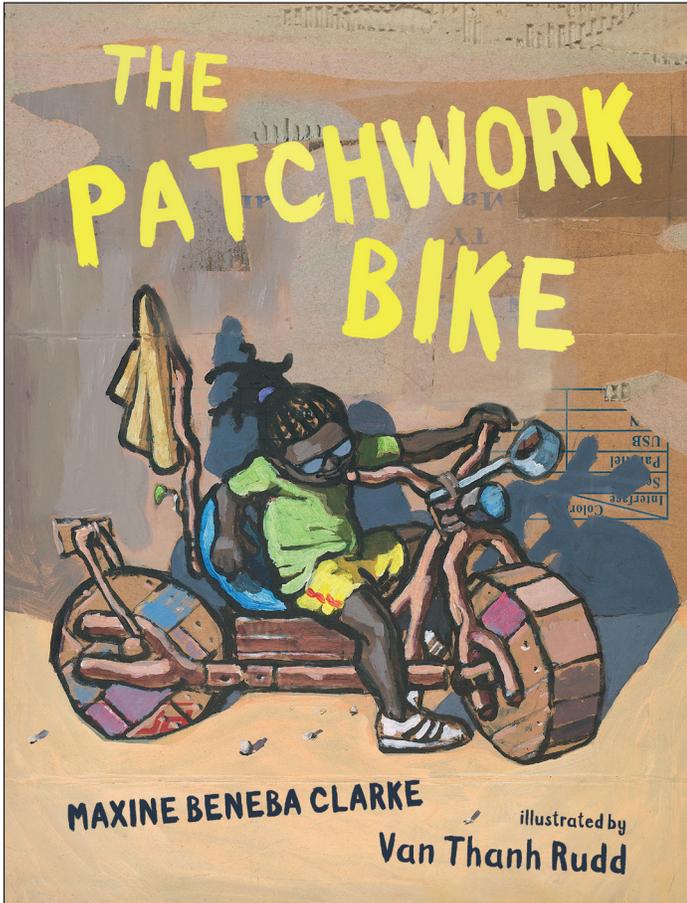


THE PATCHWORK BIKE

MAXINE BENEBA CLARKE

illustrated by VAN THANH RUDD



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About the Book

When you live in a village at the edge of the no-go desert, you need to make your own fun. That's when you and your brothers get inventive and build a bike from scratch, using everyday items like a milk pot and a flour sack. The end result is a spectacular bike, perfect for whooping and laughing as you bumpetty bump over sand hills, past your fed-up mum, and right through your mud-for-walls home.

The central themes of *The Patchwork Bike* are resourcefulness and using imagination to create and play. The kids in the book don't have much to work with, yet they manage to fashion a bike from things that are lying around — and the bike becomes their pride and joy, the center of their world. The story highlights the universality of fun and imagination.

Author's Inspiration

"A children's bike made out of junk features in my short story collection for adults, *Foreign Soil*. I always wanted to elaborate on this playful and fun aspect of the story and explore bike riding as a universal joy. At the same time, I'm interested in creating diverse children's books that normalize kids' exposure to other cultures, customs, and ways of life. In *The Patchwork Bike*, I saw the opportunity to write a fun, bouncy, read-aloud text about something most kids around the world would be able to relate to, to show them that, as different as they might be from other children around the world, in many ways, we are all the same."

About the Author and Illustrator



Photo by Nicholas Walton-Healey

Maxine Beneba Clarke is an Australian writer and slam poet champion of Afro-Caribbean descent. In 2015, she was named one of *Sydney Morning Herald's* Best Young Novelists of the year. She lives in Australia.



Photo by Van Thanh Rudd

Van Thanh Rudd is an Australian street artist and activist who studied at the Victorian College of the Arts, RMIT University, and Griffith University. *The Patchwork Bike* is his first picture book. He lives in Melbourne with his family.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does the word *resourceful* mean? In what ways could the children in the book be considered resourceful?
2. Why do you think the bike is so important to the children? What is special about it? What is it made out of? What is a patchwork?
3. Why do you think the children's mother is fed up? What do the children do to annoy her? Have you ever been fed up with someone? Do you think anyone gets fed up with you sometimes?
4. Where do you think this book is set? What clues did you find in the text and images? How are different locations described in the book?
5. What does the phrase "one man's junk is another man's treasure" mean?

ACTIVITY

Ask your students to think of their favorite plaything at home, then imagine a patchwork version of it made of found objects. Have them draw what it would look like, labeling the things it would be made from.

