

Lesson Plan

What's a Whoop-de-do?

Book: Dirt Bikes

Series: Let's Roll!

Level: Beacon

Objective

To help students practice determining the meaning of words in a text and applying that knowledge to use those words in their own writing.

Supplies

- *Dirt Bikes*
- Pencils and paper

Before the Activity

Read through the *Dirt Bikes* book, or assign it to students to read on their own. Write the following words on the whiteboard:

1. arenacross
2. brake checks
3. dabbing
4. endurance
5. fork
6. holeshot
7. lap
8. rev
9. rooster tail
10. whoop-de-dos

Activity

The *Dirt Bikes* book includes descriptions of several different kinds of dirt bike races. For example, Chapter 1 uses words such as *brake checks* and *whoop-de-dos* to describe what happens during a supercross race. Like many sports, dirt bike racing has its own vocabulary. Some words describe specific actions that people competing in the sport may do. Other words describe the equipment that is used or the events where people race or compete.

Explain that the list of words on the whiteboard are all related to dirt bike racing. Ask students to pretend they are sports commentators for a dirt bike race. They should imagine they are watching the race and explaining it out loud to people listening on the radio. Students

should write out a script for what they will say. The script should use all of the words on the whiteboard at least once.

If students are unsure what one of the words means, they can look it up. Some words appear in the book's glossary. For other words, students will need to search for the word in the book's text and use context clues to determine its meaning. See the attached answer key for each word's definition, as well as where it appears in the text.

Evaluation

Using the attached answer key, give each student 1 point for each word they use correctly in their script, for a total of 10 points.

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' writing standards, grade 3 (W 3.3) and language standards, grade 3 (L 3.4).

Answer Key

1. brake checks: "when a rider slows down quickly, causing the rider behind him or her to do the same" (p. 30).
2. dabbing: "putting a food down" (p. 14).
3. endurance: "the ability to continue riding in spite of strain, pain, or difficulty" (p. 30).
4. fork: used on p. 26 ("The suspension is made of a fork attached to the front wheel.")
5. holeshot: "when a rider is the first one to reach the first corner of a race" (p. 30).
6. lap: used on p. 7 ("With only one lap to go, the leader nips the top of the jump.")
7. rev: used on p. 5 ("The riders ease into the starting gate and rev their motors.")
8. rooster tail: "a spray of dirt behind a motorcycle" (p. 30).
9. supercross: a kind of motocross racing done on man-made courses inside arenas and stadiums (pp. 14–15). Courses have "high jumps, closely spaced bumps, and many turns" (p. 15).
10. whoop-de-dos: "large bumps on a dirt bike trail, also called whoops" (p. 30).