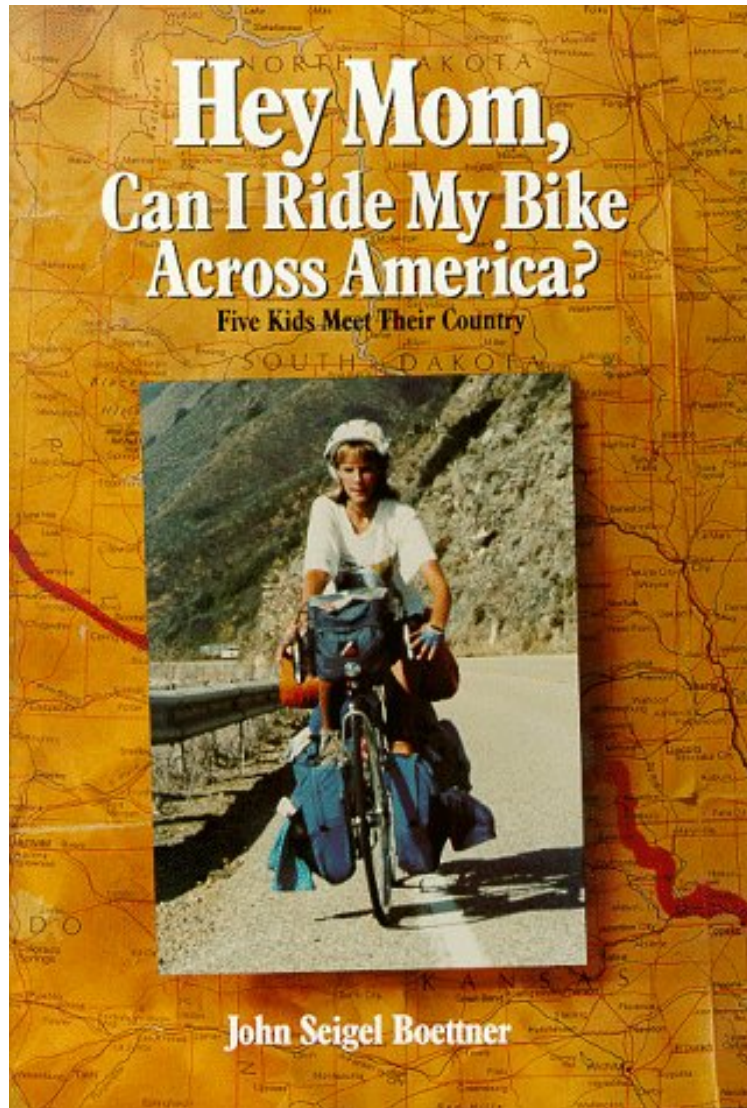


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Hey Mom, Can I Ride My Bike Across America?: Five Kids Meet Their Country

John Seigel Boettner

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John Seigel Boettner : Hey Mom, Can I Ride My Bike Across America?: Five Kids Meet Their Country before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hey Mom, Can I Ride My Bike Across America?: Five Kids Meet Their Country:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This book is the type of wonderful resource a teacher can use to make lessons meaningful ...By K. AllsupI used this book as a backdrop to teaching US geography in fifth grade. The book made geography come alive for my class. No, this was not in a Common Core classroom. This book is the type

of wonderful resource a teacher can use to make lessons meaningful if they are not limited by a narrow curriculum.³ of 3 people found the following review helpful. Real GutsBy Randall W. PerkinsThe story of two married teachers shepherding five 12-13 year old kids across country on bikes, I thought this was a really fun book to read. I couldn't help wishing I could have been one of those kids. What an education - what a way to see the country. Any story that features a bunch of kids probably has to be a bit schmaltzy, but the author keeps it to a minimum and the book moves along well, and I was sorry to see the last page. There's enough biking to keep this from being a travelogue, and enough humility on the part of the author to keep it from being just his story. I wonder what those kids think of their adventure now.⁰ of 0 people found the following review helpful. A must readBy Diane HilbertThis is one of the best books I have ever read. It is so well written. If I had the money, I would buy one to put in every middle school library in the Country. There was a time while reading, I felt like I was on a bike riding right behind the kids.

Dead Poets Society meets Stand By Me as 5 real 12- and 13-yr.-olds ride their bicycles 5,000 miles across America. They want to see if their country is as wonderful as their teacher says it is.

"What if I rode my bike across America?" These kids were just like me, and I wondered if I could be so strong. I wondered if I would quit or keep pedaling because I promised I would. It was a giant decision with a lot of importance that these kids had to make. Could they do it? Would soggy, tasteless oatmeal push their aching legs through another town, around another bend, across another lonely mile? I wished that I was in those hot springs celebrating the end of my journey. I hoped I could say I'd lived off what could fit on my bike and nothing else but a dream . . . I really loved this book. Filled with places I wish I could visit and things I wish I could do, it took me to a magical place in my mind and heart. -- Taylor Rifkin, SBMS Spring 1996I had read the book from cover to cover and was asked to review it. I glanced through to refresh my memory, meaning to just dip in and look at short passages. I began reading, was dragged under and continued reading for a half an hour. It is very similar to a fictional adventure novel, except it's real. The people in the group weather a tornado, ride through snow storms and extreme heat, yet still make it to their goal. From reading this book I have learned about all kinds of people - country folk, city folk, blacks, whites, southerners, northerners . . . The book is a narrative in the first person about an experience that you probably not be able to have, but if your mom won't let you ride your bike across America, reading this book is the next best thing. -- Growing Without Schooling Volume 85Were I teaching high school American Lit today, I would want my students to do a comparative study of Huckleberry Finn and Hey Mom . . . In both books the main characters journey into inner maturity, and their dealings with the people they meet along the way reflect at once the characters of both travelers and natives. You've captured a poignant phase of life for both parent and child. No one can read without experiencing the age-old feelings of kids eagerly trying their wings and of parents painfully fretting. Both you and Twain know how to keep a reader so eager to read the next chapter . . . an ability I could never teach. I read until 3 AM the day I received your book. What an adventure! What a superior book! THANKS! --Fran Measley, English Teacher July 1996From the Authorgoosebumps guaranteed.From the Inside Flap"Son, I wanna tell ya how much I admire what yer doin' there with them kids o' yers. Now I know ya haven't felt that comfortable bein' round me, shoot, it's written all over yer face, but I got to tell ya I think what y'all are doin' is the greatest damn bit of education I ever seen. Ain't no book learnin' or lecturin' that cain teach these kids what ya be teachin' them by bein' out on the road . . . meetin' folks white and black, takin' the time to stop and talk ta 'rednecks' like me, seein' where folks live and how they live . . . followin' the trails of ole wagon trains . . . Dammit, that's worth more than any piece of paper. That's what evra kid should be learnin'."

"Thank you, sir," I interrupted. "Now don't y'all be thankin' me. I just wanna be sure that you and yer kids got enough ta eat and have some good membrances of Arkansas. I know we be different than y'all out in California, but I'm glad I got the chance to meet y'all and for my friends here to meet y'all too. Before ya leave, I want ya to promise old JC two things: "First of all, I want ya to send me a postcard when y'all reach California." "Shoot, I'll send you one before that." "Nope, ya jus' listen to me now. I said I wanted ya to send me one from California and not before. You spend the rest of yer time on the road bein' on the road, not writin' me some silly postcard." "Yes, sir." "And second of all, I was damned impressed with yer bunch of kids. Y'all have done right well with them. Just promise me one more thing: y'all keep bein' good to each other. I cain tell ya've been good to each other so far, cuz I know what I sees and you got yerself one damn fine bunch of kids there . . . Ya jus' be sure ya keep bein' good to each other the rest of the way. "Now , you bes' be gettin' outside now, and don't bother with no more thank yous . . . Ya got a bunch of kids and a good wife out there waitin' for ya so git goin'. I took too much of yer time up already. Have a good trip and remember, be good to each other."