04-Groover-Economics Mystery

Gina Groover

SST 309

**The Mystery of the Disappearing Bike Helmet**

Jacob is an active 13 year old who enjoys riding his bike to friends’ houses, the beach, and nearby biking trails. Jacob’s mother loves him and wants him to be safe when riding his bike. She has explained the importance of protecting his head from injuries and requires him to wear a helmet when biking. She let him choose an expensive bike helmet, which he promptly lost. She purchased a second helmet, and he lost that one too. Jacob does not seem terribly concerned about losing two helmets, even though he knows that money could have been spent on other things the family needs.

*Why isn’t Jacob more concerned about the loss of his helmets?*

**Handy Dandy Guide**

1. People choose to do the things they think are best for them.
2. People’s choices have costs.
3. People choose to do things for which they are rewarded.
4. People create rules that affect our choices and how we act.
5. People gain when they freely decide to trade with one another.
6. People’s choices today have future results.

**True or False Clues**

Read each statement below and mark it true (T) or false (F). Check with your teacher to find out if your responses are correct.

1. All teenagers’ parents make them wear helmets. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Teenagers always agree with their parents’ decisions about safety. \_\_\_\_\_\_
3. Teenagers want to be like their friends. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. Jacob could suffer a serious injury by not wearing a helmet. \_\_\_\_\_\_

**The Solution**

Jacob may be losing the helmets on purpose. He may have friends whose parents do not require them to wear helmets. Jacob does not agree with his mother’s rule and does what he thinks is best for himself. He gains the reward of fitting in with his friends when he doesn’t wear a helmet. Jacob’s decision to not wear a helmet could have harmful results in the future if he is injured. His choice to not wear a helmet may cost him the freedom of riding his bike.