

## Early Level 3 Non-fiction – Boy on a Bike

The wind howled in Mac’s ears. He gripped his handlebars tighter. Something large swept into his peripheral vision. A four-wheel drive was on the beach. Dad had seen it, too, and was waving frantically. The driver waved back as he sped past.

“Dad!” Mac yelled into the wind. “What are you doing?”

“I’m trying to get us a lift.”

“Why?” Mac asked.

Dad rubbed a hand across his sweaty face. “I’m sorry, son,” he said. “This is a crazy plan. I’m not sure we can do it.”

Mac *squinted* up at his father and grinned. “It’s simple, Dad,” he shouted.

“Just keep pedalling.”

A year earlier, Mac Madsen came home from St John cadet training with a plan. He wanted to raise money so that St John could buy more ambulances.

“But how will you raise this money?” his parents wanted to know.

“I’ll ride my bike,” Mac said. “I’ll ride it so far that people will know I’m serious about helping St John – and they’ll want to help, too.” Mac waved a book in front of his parents. It was a guide to cycling trips around New Zealand. At the back of the book, Mac had found the “ultimate” trip – cycling the length of the country!