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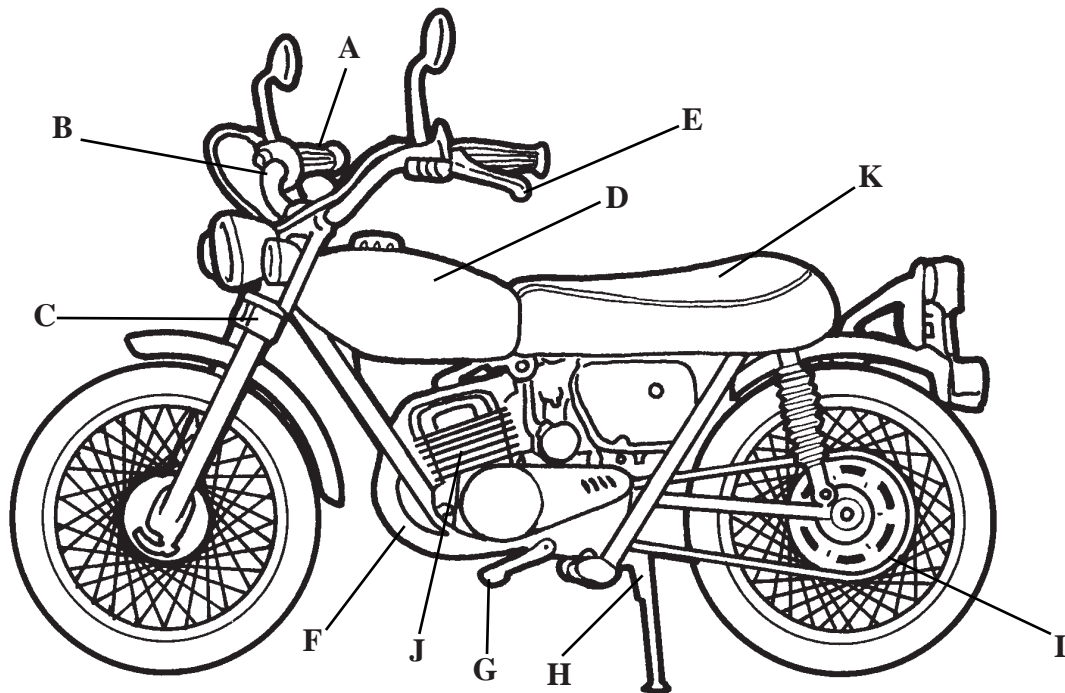
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Motorcycle Madness

When Ralph first sets his eyes on the motorcycle and hears Keith make the pb-pb-b-b-b sound, his thoughts go to the speed of the open highway, the distance and danger, and the sensation of his whiskers blowing back in the wind. As Ralph examines the motorcycle more closely, he notices all the many details and parts that make up such a magnificent machine. He sees the chromium mufflers, the hand clutch and even the little license plate. Each motorcycle manufacturer (a company which makes things either by hand or machine) creates a special design for its bikes, but for the most part, all motorcycles are built the same and have similar parts. The picture below shows a basic motorcycle with some of the most important parts.

Parts Index

- | | |
|--|--|
| A. Throttle: controls the speed of the engine | G. Gearshift Lever: changes the speed of the motorcycle |
| B. Handlebars: steers the motorcycle | H. Stand: holds the bike up when not turned on |
| C. Fork: secures tires and has springs inside for a smoother ride | I. Drive Chain: moves by the gears to make the back wheel go around |
| D. Fuel Tank: holds the fuel | J. Engine: provides power of the motorcycle |
| E. Brake: slows down the wheels | K. Seat: is used to sit upon |
| F. Exhaust: takes away used gases from the engine | |



At each motorcycle manufacturer, there are designers whose jobs are to create pleasing and beautiful bike designs that are safe and functional. Also working with the designers are engineers. An engineer's job is to look at the designs and determine if they are possible to build. Once a design has been agreed upon, the engineers begin drawing blueprints. Blueprints are a set of instructions for the rest of the motorcycle plant to follow as the new motorcycle is built.

Laughable Limericks

Poetry is an enjoyable way to tell a story or convey ideas, thoughts, and feelings. Poetry can be serious, sad, joyful, or humorous. *The Mouse and the Motorcycle* is a story about adventures, friendship, and some silly times.

What is a limerick?

A limerick is a rhyming, five-line humorous poem. The key element in a limerick is humor.

Limericks often begin with “There once was a _____ named _____.

Most limericks are five lines long and follow these rules:

- Lines 1, 2, and 5 rhyme and have eight to ten syllables.
- Lines 3 and 4 rhyme and have five to seven syllables.

Read the following limerick about Grace, the chocolate lover.

**There once was a young girl named Grace,
 Who wore chocolate all over her face.
 When asked why that’s so,
 She replied, “Don’t you know?
 I can’t find a towel anyplace!”**



Think about the humorous events in *The Mouse and the Motorcycle*. On the lines below, write a limerick about Ralph and Keith and the antics they shared. If you wish, you may work with a partner. Share your poem with the class.
