

ROOSEVELT BANKS

by Laurie Calkhoven



Discussion Guide

1. Roosevelt is upset that his friends plan to go on a bicycle trip without him. Why doesn't he have a bike anymore?
2. Is it fair for Roosevelt to expect his friends to give up the bike trip because he doesn't have a bike?
3. Name the Presidents of the United States that Roosevelt, his sister, and the family dog are named after are named after. Research to find out what those presidents' biggest accomplishments were.
4. How did Eddie Spaghetti get his nickname?
5. The state park is 30 miles from Roosevelt's house via an old railroad trail. If the group bikes 10 miles an hour with two 15-minute snack breaks and a 30-minute lunch break, how long will the trip take?
6. Roosevelt decides that being good all the time is pretty boring. He tries to remind Josh and Tommy that he's a fun guy by pulling a prank at the bus stop. What does he do and how does it go wrong?
7. Why does Mrs. Crawford have so many rabbits?
8. What are some of the things Roosevelt and Eddie do to make it up to Mrs. Crawford after they break her rabbit hutch?
9. How does Roosevelt fix things so that everyone, including Eddie, can go on the bike trip?
10. Roosevelt is ready to have the best day of his life. Think about the best day of *your* life? What made it so special?



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About Laurie Calkhoven

Laurie Calkhoven grew up in a neighborhood very much like Roosevelt's, and she's always been interested in wacky presidential facts. She's never swallowed a frog, knocked over a rabbit hutch, or sung too loud in music class, but she is the author of more than 50 books for young readers ranging from award-winning nonfiction early readers to adaptations of adult books. She has written six novels for American Girl as well as her own middle grade historical series, *Boys of Wartime*, along with many nonfiction titles. Prior to becoming a full-time writer, Laurie spent 20 years working in publishing, most recently as Executive Editor for Scholastic Book Clubs.

Synopsis of the Book

When ten-year-old Roosevelt Banks discovers that his two best friends are planning a bike & camping trip, he wants more than anything to go along. There's just one problem—he doesn't have a bike. Roosevelt's parents agree to buy him a new bike IF he can manage to be good for two whole weeks. Roosevelt struggles with how to be good and be the same fun guy his friends want on the camping trip. Trying to be good leads to more trouble than expected and to the discovery that being a good friend is more important than a bicycle.

Praise for *Roosevelt Banks*

"Funny, charming, heart-warming. This book had me laughing out loud! Roosevelt Banks shines. Okay, he also sploosh-squeeks a little, but what decent 4th-grader doesn't?"

—Darleen Bailey Beard, award-winning author of *Annie Glover is NOT a Tree Lover* and *The Flimflam Man*

"Hilarious and big-hearted. Roosevelt Banks rides his smashed-up bike right into our hearts."

—Claudia Mills, author of *Nixie Ness*, *Cooking Star*



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