WORKSHEET 01 / 07

Following the story

A comprehension and sequencing activity. Use it after reading the book or the assigned chapters.

NAME _____ DATE _____ GROUP _____

READ IN THE BOOK

Whole memoir - especially "The West was the Best," "And So I Go," "The Heart and The Sickle," "Go East, Young Man."

A / PLACE THESE EVENTS IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER

Write 1 through 7 in the left column. The events below are intentionally out of order.

ORDER	EVENT
_____	Eric and the narrator drive east in an MGA to retrieve the Harley.
_____	The brothers move from Connecticut to California to live with their father.
_____	The Harley engine seizes near Davenport; local people help.
_____	The family begins building its music-store business.
_____	The father proposes a motorcycle trip east, asking for the bike to be returned.
_____	The narrator reaches Niagara Falls and evaluates the Harley's condition.
_____	A failure near Tracy interrupts the first part of the ride.

B / A TURNING POINT

1. Choose one of these events. How did it change what the narrator could do next?

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WORKSHEET 02 / 07

The $85 decision

Examine preparation, limited resources, and responsibility.

NAME _____ DATE _____ GROUP _____

READ IN THE BOOK

"And So I Go" and "The Fix is in"

A / RECORD THE STARTING CONDITIONS

Money available _____

Motorcycle / destination _____

Promise made to his father _____

B / WHAT WAS PLANNED - AND WHAT WAS MISSED?

ONE THING THE RIDER WAS READY FOR	ONE THING HE HAD NOT PLANNED FOR

C / MAKE A JUDGMENT

1. After the first breakdown near Tracy, would you have continued, stopped to prepare more carefully, or turned back? Use one detail from the story to explain.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

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WORKSHEET 03 / 07

Think like a mechanic

Distinguish a symptom, a possible cause, and the next step.

NAME _____ DATE _____ GROUP _____

READ IN THE BOOK

"The Fix is in," "The Heart and The Sickle," and "Go East, Young Man"

A / FOLLOW THREE BREAKDOWNS

For each episode, describe a clue and one action the narrator takes. Use the book, not a guess.

NEAR TRACY — The engine runs, but the motorcycle will not move.

CLUE OR EVIDENCE	WHAT HE DID NEXT

NEAR DAVENPORT — The Harley engine seizes on the highway.

CLUE OR EVIDENCE	WHAT HE DID NEXT

IN NEBRASKA, 1972 — The MGA develops a rhythmic knocking sound.

CLUE OR EVIDENCE	WHAT HE DID NEXT

B / APPLY A PROBLEM-SOLVING HABIT

1. What do these episodes suggest about checking facts before deciding what to do?

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WORKSHEET 04 / 07

Strangers and trust

Use actions, not appearances, to evaluate people the rider meets.

NAME _____ DATE _____ GROUP _____

READ IN THE BOOK

"The Heart and The Sickle" and "Mrs. Robinson Remade"

A / EVIDENCE ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE

Choose two people below. Record what each actually does and how the narrator responds.

PERSON	WHAT HELP IS GIVEN?	HOW DOES HE RESPOND?
Gulf station owner		
Manny		
The woman in Michigan		

B / DISCUSS THE DIFFERENCE

1. Why is accepting help from others not necessarily the opposite of independence?

2. What details might a traveler need to consider before accepting help from a stranger today?

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WORKSHEET 05 / 07

Learning by doing

Explore practical knowledge, family work, and formal schooling.

NAME _____ DATE _____ GROUP _____

READ IN THE BOOK

"The West was the Best," "Munchie Burgers," and "Go East, Young Man"

A / WHERE DOES LEARNING HAPPEN?

Complete the right column with a specific skill, habit, or lesson shown in each setting.

SETTING IN THE MEMOIR	SKILL, HABIT, OR LESSON
Flea markets and household work	
Motorcycle repairs on the road	
Building the family music store	
Night school and the diploma	

B / THINK ACROSS SETTINGS

1. In the memoir, does learning outside school replace education in a classroom, or can they support each other? Refer to two scenes.

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WORKSHEET 06 / 07

Two journeys, one Harley

Compare the motorcycle ride in 1971 with the MGA journey in 1972.

NAME _____ DATE _____ GROUP _____

READ IN THE BOOK

"And So I Go," "Go East, Young Man," and "The Caboose"

A / COMPARE THE TRIPS

QUESTION	1971: HARLEY RIDE	1972: MGA TRIP
What was the purpose?		
Who traveled?		
What mechanical problem mattered?		
How was success measured?		

B / THE MEANING OF THE MOTORCYCLE

1. In "The Caboose," the Harley is no longer simply transportation. What does it represent? Support your answer with a detail from the final chapter.

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WORKSHEET 07 / 07

Memory and evidence

A memoir combines remembered events and an older narrator's understanding.

NAME _____ DATE _____ GROUP _____

READ IN THE BOOK

"The Heart and The Sickle" and other chapters where the narrator reflects on the past

A / FIND THREE KINDS OF EVIDENCE

Write a short example from the memoir in each box. Use chapter titles or page numbers.

OBSERVATION — A concrete action or event the narrator describes.

INTERPRETATION — A judgment he makes about a person or situation.

UNCERTAINTY — Something he admits he cannot remember exactly.

B / WRITE A SHORT REFLECTION

1. Does it increase or decrease your trust when the narrator admits what he cannot recall? Explain using one example.

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