

# Can Central

*What is Mark and Timo's problem?*

<sup>1</sup> Mark was used to people staring. He stopped his bike, picked up the soda can on the sidewalk, and tossed it into the special basket on his bike. He flashed a smile at the people staring, just to confuse them.

<sup>2</sup> At home, Timo was waiting outside the garage. He also had a basket full of cans on his bike. The boys nodded at each other, and then they opened the garage door. A mountain of black, can-filled garbage bags greeted them. Mark and Timo had been here every day, emptying their baskets into the bags. Now, the summer was almost over. It was time to figure out how to get all of their cans to the recycling center.



Some words create pictures in our minds. For example, look at these sentences.

Mark rode his bike around the block.

Mark zoomed his bike around the block.

*Rode* tells you what Mark did, but *zoomed* really tells you how he did it and how he looked as he did it.

Read each sentence below. Think about the underlined words. Make a check mark next to the sentence that really tells you what the character did or how something looks.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Mark put a can into his basket.

\_\_\_\_\_ Mark tossed a can into his basket.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ He flashed a smile.

\_\_\_\_\_ He smiled.

3. What problem do the boys have in the story?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. The story doesn't tell us how they solve it. What do you think they should do?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Why do you think people stare at Mark?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Do you think Mark and Timo are doing a good thing? Explain.

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