

# My Friend Bikey

Author: Caterina Vaimaki

Illustrator: Rebecca Vede

Adaptation in English:  
Teresa Castoria Briassulis





My Friend  
Bikey

Dear little friends,

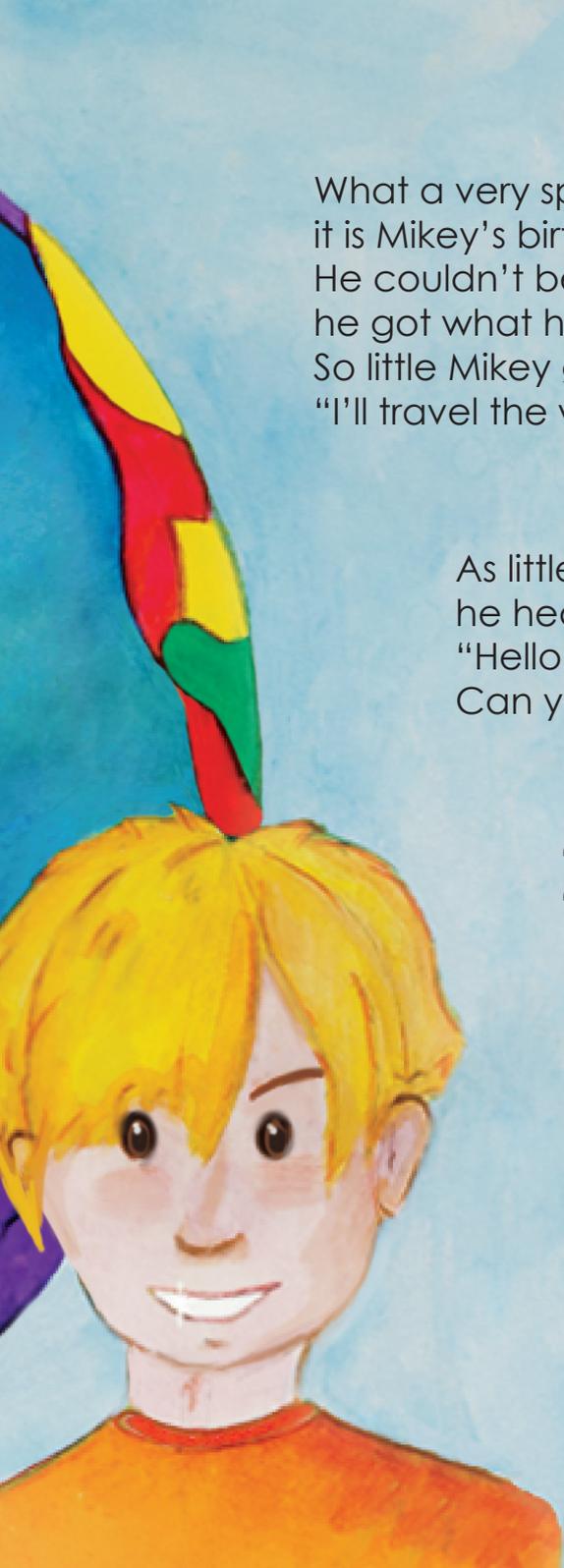
This book that you hold in your hands, has been made especially for you. You will read about the adventures of Mikey and his magical bicycle, Bikey. Bikey tells Mikey and his friends the right way to ride their bicycles. Most especially, Bikey tells them how to avoid danger and be safe while riding their bicycles.

So, when you're riding your bicycle, you should always remember what Bikey says. Then, you can tell your friends what Bikey taught you. Only when you ride safely, will you have fun.

Don't forget that your bicycles, just like Bikey, want what is best for you and your friends.

**So children, let's be on our way,  
to hear about Bikey's adventures today.**





What a very special day,  
it is Mikey's birthday today!  
He couldn't be happier and to his delight,  
he got what he wished for, a brand new bike!!  
So little Mikey got ready to ride.  
"I'll travel the world with my bike," he cried.

As little Mikey was riding happily,  
he heard a small voice, suddenly.  
"Hello, hello! My name is Bikey!  
Can you hear me Little Mikey?"

"What, you speak? How can that be?"  
"I'm very special as you can see!"

"The Goddess of Road Safety gave me the power of speech. Then she explained that my job was to teach: that children must be aware of their actions, for while riding their bikes, there are many distractions."



“Why should I be careful while riding my bike?”  
“Because you never know when Danger might strike. The God of Danger gives children a scare. And that is why they must be aware!”



Little Mikey was puzzled, but then he smiled.  
"I have a bike that talks, I'm such a lucky child."  
And when Mikey was ready to go,  
his friend Bikey stopped him.  
He said, "NO, NO, NO!!"

"There is safety equipment that you must wear:



**Your helmet**



**your knee pads**

**your elbow pads**  
**your safety gear!"**



“What? What did you say to me?”

“If you want to ride your bike,  
you must listen to me!”

“I don't have my safety gear with me now”

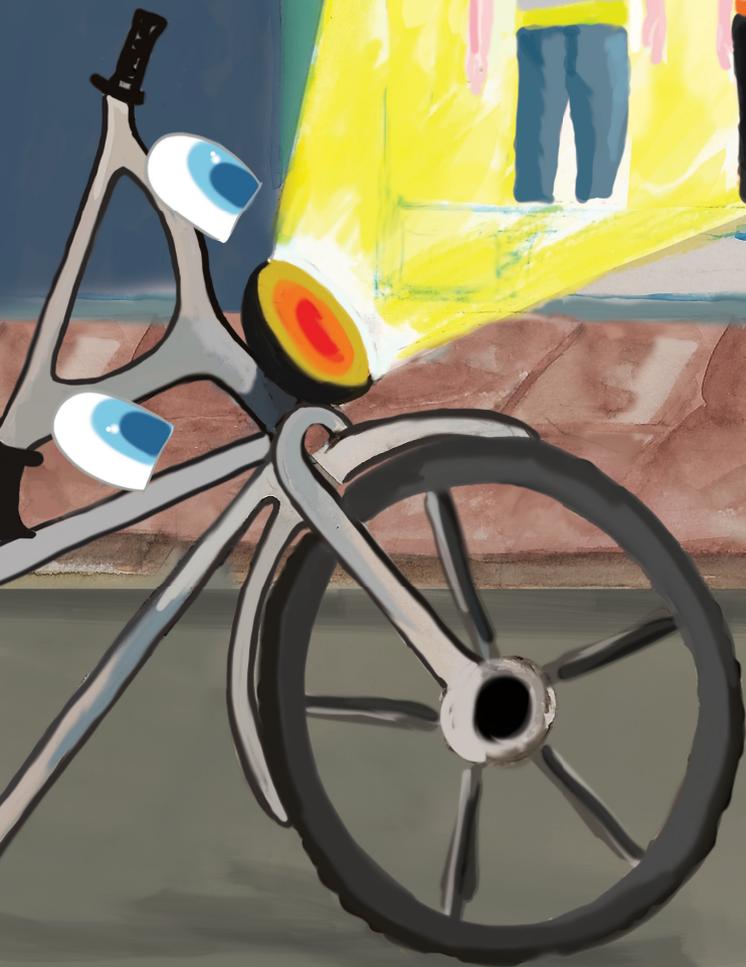
“Then we'll wait, that's my decision  
for now.”



ΠΟΔΗΛΑΤΑΔΙΚΟ



ΚΛΕΙΣΤΟ



Then, Mikey dressed safely wearing all of his gear,  
but Bikey said, "Oh no! Danger is near!"

Little Mikey was sad, he was not having fun.

Then Bikey said, "Soon there will be no more sun.  
It's late afternoon, the sun will go down."

"I have no fear of ghosts, I am old enough now!"

"You must wear reflectors, your bike must have light,  
so drivers can see you when you're riding at night."



Little Mikey went home, feeling sad.

"But wait...I'll ride tomorrow, I am so glad!"

An illustration from a top-down perspective. A young girl with red braided hair, wearing a green jacket, pink pants, and brown shoes, is walking a brown dog on a pink leash. She has a blue backpack. They are on a grey sidewalk with white rectangular tiles. To the right is a road with a yellow car. In the background, there is a building with a grid of windows. A red and green shape is visible in the top right corner.

The next day Mikey asked  
“Where should we ride”?  
“Only on bike lanes and bike  
routes is safe to ride!!”

Riding on the right is where I am fine,  
and I'll keep my distance from bikes  
that are bigger than mine.  
“I will not hit the people,” said little Mikey  
“While they're crossing the lane,”  
said his friend Bikey.





We are at the Traffic Education Park.  
“Look at the traffic signs!”  
said Bikey.  
“If I follow their directions,  
I’ll be safe!” added Mikey.





In the Park, little Mikey continued to ride.  
He and his friends rode their bikes  
with pride.



Then Johnny exclaimed, "Let's have fun, let's ride side by side in the street, everyone!"

Everyone followed Johnny in stride. Only little Mikey stayed behind. Poor Mikey, his friends called him a fool. But he still followed the rules.

"They should not be in the street," said little Mikey.

"Streets are for cars!" shouted his friend Bikey.

"The bike lane is the place where we should be.

We know safety rules, we don't ride dangerously."



←  
MOTORCYCLES



Johnny was reckless, he just didn't care.  
As he was riding, he wasn't aware.  
When along came a car and hit Johnny's bike.  
Everyone ran to see if Johnny was alright.

The ambulance came and took Johnny away.  
He was lucky to be fine by the end of the day.  
Then little Mikey introduced his friend Bikey.  
Bikey explained the rules of riding a bike.  
All the children agreed that Bikey was right.



My friend Bikey says:

I love my friends and I don't want them to get hurt. Therefore, I never take them for a ride on my bike.



I always wear my helmet when I ride my bike.

I don't tie my dog's leash to the handle bars when I ride my bike.



At night, I wear my reflective vest so I can be seen in the dark.



I wear elbow pads and knee pads to protect myself.



**I ride my bike in the Park and stay on the bike lanes.**

I use my bicycle light when I'm riding at night.

Before I take my bike for a ride, I always check my tires, brakes, chain and lights to see if they are in working order.



A woman with long red hair, wearing a purple helmet with red spots and a yellow one-shoulder top, stands on a blue cloud. She is surrounded by several yellow stars.

I am the Goddess of Road Safety. I'm here to exclaim,  
"I want all children safe. This is my aim.  
I used my magic to give Bikey speech,  
so that road safety rules he'd be able to teach."



The God of Danger makes us fearful.  
He looks for bike riders that  
are not careful.

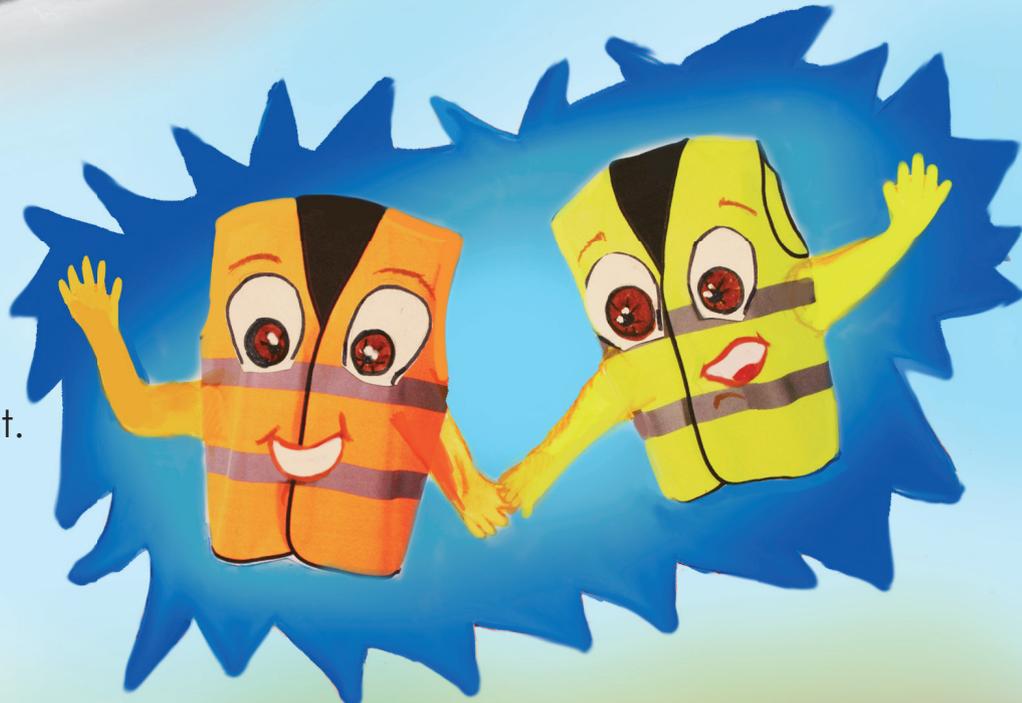


My name is Helmet.  
The one thing I do,  
is keep your head safe.  
You must wear me too!

Riding too quickly is not a game.  
You put others at risk  
– and yourself.  
What a shame!



We wear our vests  
that reflect the light,  
so drivers can see us  
when they drive at night.



I am the Traffic Sign telling  
where you, bikers, should go.  
I warn all cars to stay out of your way.  
I'll keep you safe every single day.







In the Traffic Education Park children gather to play. They learn, they have fun, they play safely all day.

I will always remember what Bikey has told me, he loves and protects me, don't you agree? And if I ride very carefully, surely my own bike will speak to me!



Draw yourself and one of your friends in the picture below.

My name is Elbow Pad

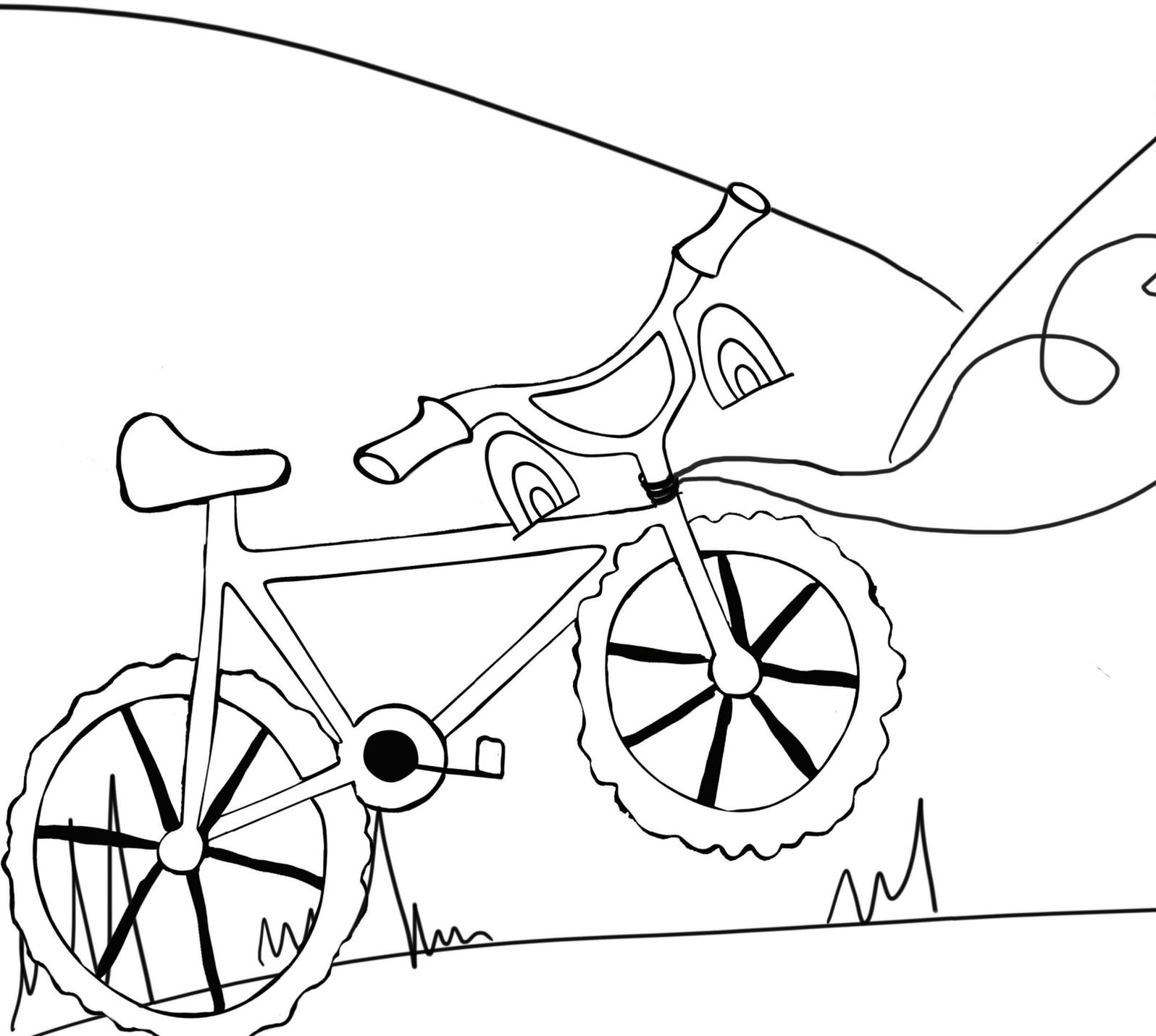


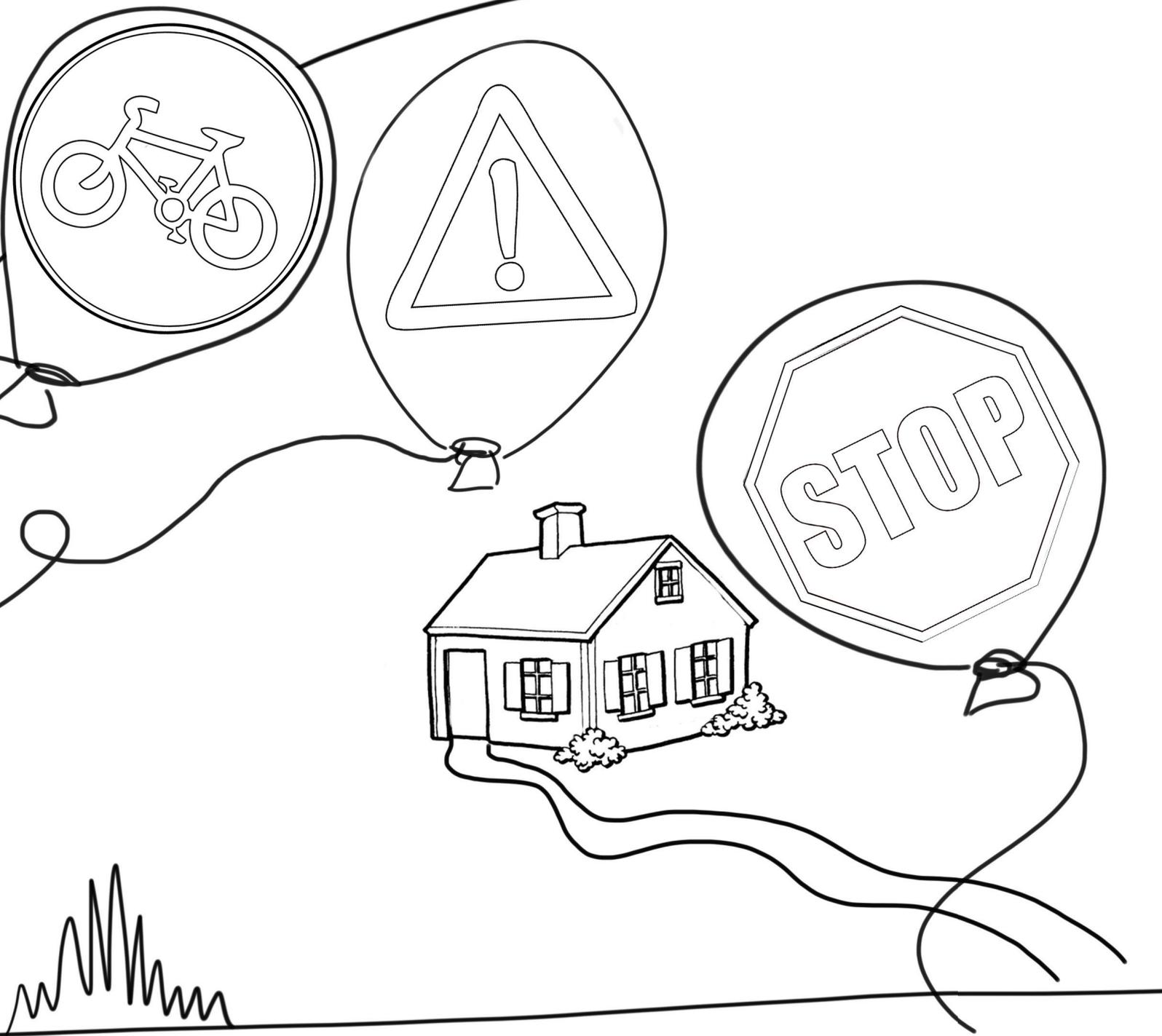
and my sister's name is  
Knee Pad.

We must protect  
your elbows and knees.  
Don't forget to wear us  
please.

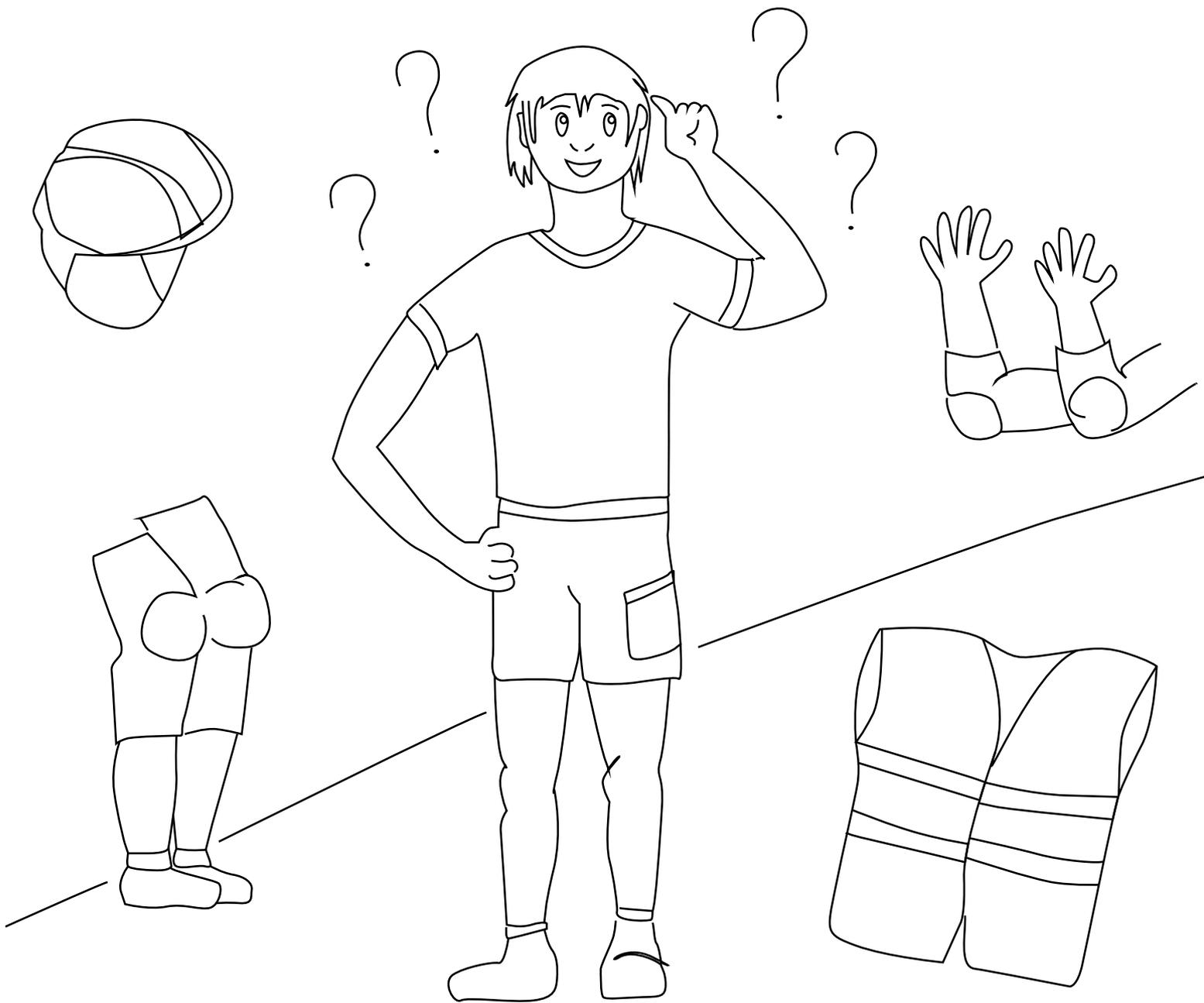


Colour the picture of Bikey and the traffic signs.





**Little Mikey wants to go for a ride on his bike...  
What should he wear to protect himself?**



## Which bicycle is the correct size for me?



1. My hands can reach the handle bars easily.
2. While I'm sitting on my saddle, my legs should be almost completely extended, with my feet flat on the ground.
3. While cycling, my legs are slightly bent.

**Caterina Vaimaki** holds a degree in Communication and Mass Media from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. In addition, she has studied creative writing, script composition and film directing. In 2011, she was the playwright of "Danger and Safety," a children's play based on road safety. In 2012, she was the script writer for the short film "Crossing Over."

**Rebecca Vede** holds a degree in Early Childhood Education from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. She has completed seminars in drawing, sketching and iconography. She has collaborated with The Museum of Children's Art, Athens.

**Teresa Castoria Briassulis** holds both a B.A. and M.S.Ed. in Elementary Education from Brooklyn College City University of New York. She is a certified teacher in the State of New York and taught in the public school system of New York City teaching gifted children. In collaboration with Columbia University Teacher's College, she was involved in designing and implementing literary programs that are utilized throughout New York City. She is currently working as a Montessori pre-school teacher in Athens.

The following employees from the Department of Road Traffic of the Ministry of Infrastructure, Transport and Networks have collaborated in the production of this book: **Dr. Evi Blana** and **Thanassis Klentos** - traffic engineers and **Zoe Papadopoulou** - jurist (LL.M.).

**ISBN 978-960-87771-8-7**

The book was printed by Quick Print Center SA

© Ministry of Infrastructure, Transport and Networks, 2014

Traffic **safety** education starts at **home**

Children  
learn to move  
safely!

The Ministry of Infrastructure Transport and Networks offers this book to teachers and parents in order to teach children, starting from preschool age, the rules of proper use of bicycles as their first transportation mean so to move safely and properly.

In an effort to decrease traffic accidents in Greece, the Ministry of Infrastructure Transport and Networks, has prioritised the development of road traffic education by emphasising and promoting children's awareness in order to become responsible drivers in the future.

Our main goal is to motivate the active participation of parents and teachers who will help children through their experiences and knowledge to understand that human behaviour is the main cause of traffic accidents. The only way to prevent traffic accidents is by driving responsibly.

Bikey is the main character of the book that you hold in your hands. In a simple and entertaining way, he helps children to understand and apply the basic rules of safe and responsible behaviour, while riding their bikes.

**ISBN 978-960-87771-8-7**

