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Bumblebee Bike

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David has a habit of borrowing without asking. He doesn’t feel like he’s stealing because he plans on giving everything back eventually. Instead of enjoying the items he takes, he hides them in a box in his closet because he feels a little guilty about having them. However, when his most prized possession, his bike, is stolen, David’s perspective on borrowing without asking transforms. He feels awful and wants his bike back! He then realizes that borrowing without asking hurts other people’s feelings too, and so he sets out to make things right and returns all the items in the box in his closet.

Bumblebee Bike does an excellent job of helping children learn and recognize empathy. This is a skill that is difficult to develop, and Levin’s story provides an exceptional teaching opportunity. In the back of her book, there is A Note to Parents and Caregivers section by Mary Lamia, PhD, which provides additional information about children and their relationship with honesty. Since borrowing without asking can be a normal phase of childhood development, Lamia offers strategies for teaching children about ethics and honesty.