

# SAMMY ON THE CASE

by Edward O'Connor



Here's the story of the last time I'll *ever* play a practical joke on my friend Leo and his German shepherd, Sammy.

Leo and Sammy make a really good team. Leo is the brains of the outfit, because he can think things through. And, even though he wears glasses, his vision is better than Sammy's.

On the other hand, Sammy is much faster than Leo, even when Leo is on his bike. Leo has trained Sammy never to bite, but just his bark can be enough to frighten some people. His sense of smell is also very good. He knows when Leo has a treat for him, even if it's hidden. And his hearing is incredible. Leo's mom says Sammy can hear Leo coming on his bike from about half a kilometre away. It probably makes a squeaking noise that only Sammy can hear.

One Saturday, I rode over to our local park and spotted Leo and Sammy in the distance. That park is their favourite place to go because it has an area where dogs can run off their leashes. I noticed Leo was being careful to keep an eye on his bike—except for a minute when he bought a drink from the snack stand. And that's when I had the brilliant idea to play a joke on him by hiding his bike. Wearing my helmet, I hopped up on the seat and pedalled away as quickly as I could. I thought I'd be out of sight before he even noticed his bike was gone.

"Get the bike, Sammy!" I heard Leo shout, and Sammy took off like a shot. From the sound of the bike, he knew exactly where I had headed. When he caught up to me, he knew it was the right bike because he could smell his treats on the back. And, finally, his bark convinced me that no joke was worth *this* much trouble. Leo still teases me about my failed joke. I just tell him that, if I ever play another trick on someone, I'll make sure Sammy is *not* on the case!

