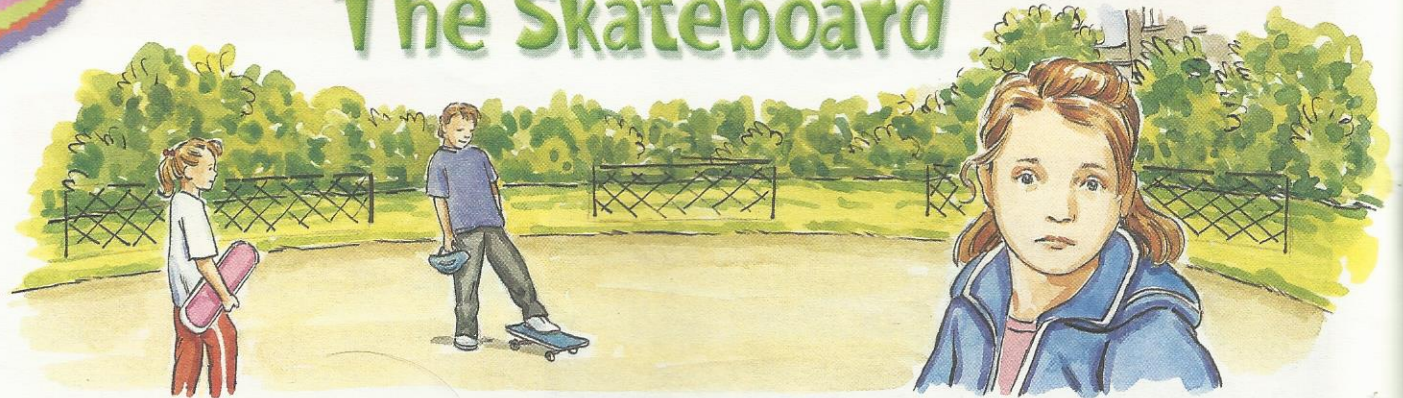


# The Skateboard



All of Kate O'Reilly's friends had skateboards, but Kate's parents could not afford one for her. "Now that your father is out of work," said her mother, "there is less money for us all. Haven't you got a pair of skates?" "Skates are only for babies," said Kate. "I cannot join the Rockets unless I have a skateboard." Kate's mother felt sorry for her daughter, but there was nothing that she could do.

Kate left through the front door. The lift was out of order, so she had to walk the seven flights down to the ground. The Rockets were having great fun playing 'Follow the Leader' on their skateboards. Kate couldn't bear to watch.

She wandered over to the shopping centre. Without thinking, she stopped at the sports shop. Behind the shop's window, there was a beautiful yellow skateboard. "Our Price: €79" was written on a card beside the skateboard. Kate knew that her parents could never afford it. She walked slowly back to the flats.

Mrs Fitzpatrick was trying to operate the lift. "The lift is out of order," called Kate. "Just when I have a lot of parcels to carry," grumbled Mrs Fitzpatrick. "I will carry your parcels," offered Kate.

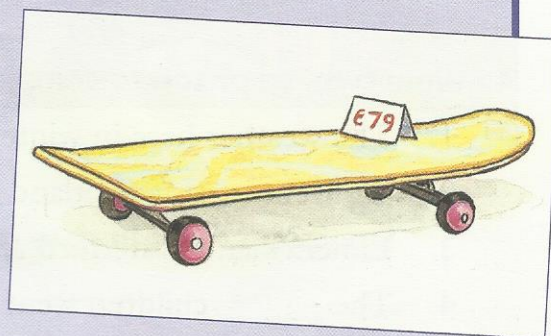
Mrs Fitzpatrick lived on the fifth floor. Kate had to make two journeys to move all the parcels into Mrs Fitzpatrick's flat. She gave Kate a glass of lemonade. Then she took out her purse and gave Kate a two-euro coin. That was the beginning for Kate.



## Question Time

### A

1. What did all of Kate's friends have?
2. Why could Kate's parents not afford to buy her a skateboard?
3. What was the name of the skateboard club?
4. What game were the Rockets playing?
5. Where did Kate wander to?
6. What price was the yellow skateboard?
7. Who did Kate meet?
8. What was Mrs Fitzpatrick trying to operate?
9. Why did Mrs Fitzpatrick grumble?
10. How many trips did Kate make with the parcels?



### B

1. How do you think Kate's parents felt when she asked them for a skateboard?
2. What do you think the other children might have said to Kate if she had gone outside on her skates?
3. Was "the Rockets" a good name for the skateboard club? Why?
4. Did Kate live in the country or in the city? How do you know?
5. Do you think that it might have been dangerous for Kate's friends to be playing on their skateboards? Why?
6. "That was the beginning for Kate." What does this mean?
7. List two other ways that Kate could have earned money to pay for the skateboard.
8. List some other things that Kate's parents may not have been able to buy.
9. Find the word in the story that means  
(a) complained (b) person in charge (c) your mother and father (d) work  
(e) a machine that takes people or goods from one floor to another.
10. Write a sentence for each of the above words.

### Think and Talk

1. What toys have you at home?
2. What games do you play with your friends?
3. Imagine your friends have a toy that you would like. How would you feel?
4. How would you earn the money to buy the toy yourself or to help towards the cost of the toy?