Bike accident

Approach: One to one Level: Year 4 and year 8

Resources: Video clip showing events leading up to and including a bike accident.

Questions/instructions

In this activity you will be talking to me about a bike accident.

I am going to play a video clip of a bike accident which caused a boy to get very bad head injuries. I want you to watch the video carefully because at the end we will imagine that I am a reporter and I want you to tell me all about it.

Play the video clip.

This one and a half minute video clip is a dramatic presentation of the events leading up to an accident between a teenage boy on a bike and a motorcyclist.

Throughout the clip which is accompanied by dramatic music rather than script, there is a constant juxtaposing between the two key players. The boy is leaving school with his mates - who in contrast to him are both wearing helmets, while in a different location the motorcyclist is putting on leather gloves. After riding out to the school gate with his friends, the boy says good-bye and rides off alone - meanwhile the motor cyclist starts up his bike, adjusts his helmet and leaves the parking lot.

Both cyclists are riding down their respective roads when a GIVE WAY sign suddenly appears on the screen. The associated white lines are seen to be in front of the boy on the bike. As a car approaches and passes him from the right, the boy looks right, left and right again. After completing the road check the boy stops briefly to adjust the strap on his backpack - then rides out into the intersection without a further check for traffic. Meanwhile the motor cyclist is continuing along the road and reaches the intersection at the very moment the boy moves out. Just before the collision, the boy sees the motor cyclist but it is too late. Their front wheels touch, the boy is thrown off his bike and at the end of the clip is lying on the road.

Okay, now let's imagine I am a reporter, and you saw the road accident. Tell me all about the accident

Use the prompt questions for points that have not been given in the student's account of the accident.

Who was involved in the accident?

Can you describe them to me?

How did the accident happen?

What caused it?

Who do you think was responsible for the accident? Why?

What were the conditions like at the time of the accident?

How could accidents like this be prevented?

	% responses	
	<i>y</i> 4	<i>y</i> 8
Completeness of description		
highly comprehensive	6	17
quite high	24	41
moderate	52	38
skimpy	18	4
Accuracy of the description		
high accuracy	7	12
quite high	50	58
moderate	37	28
poor	6	2
Organisation and sequencing of events		
highly organised	18	38
quite high	47	44
moderate	28	13
poor	7	5
Clarity of comments		
high clarity	19	11
quite high	51	51
moderate	25	35
poor	5	3
Confidence shown when giving information		
high confidence	13	13
quite high	48	46
moderate	33	39
poor	6	2
Vocabulary for conveying information		
excellent	2	10
very good	32	60
good	63	29
poor	3	1

Commentary

The results show that the performance of year 4 students is very similar to year 8 students on a number of attributes, but markedly different on others. This may suggest something about the extent to which students have opportunities to practise and present oral interpretations and descriptions of observed events.