

Lawn Mowing Safety

Pre-reading

Questions:

- Do you use a lawn mower to cut your grass?
- Do you know how to keep your children and yourself safe when mowing?

Definitions:

- Blade – sharp metal piece, used for cutting
- Limb – an arm or a leg
- Debris – trash, broken items, waste
- Instruction – tells you how to do something, tells you about something



Reading

15 Having a nice lawn takes time and work. It also takes a lawn mower. Lawn
29 mowers can either be riding mowers or push mowers. Riding mowers have a place
46 for you to sit, so you actually ride the mower. Push mowers need to be pushed by
61 someone. Both mowers can be **dangerous**. The blade that cuts the grass can also cut
76 other things. Children and adults can get serious cuts and even lose their eyesight or
91 a limb if they are not careful around lawn mowers. Simple things like wet grass,
debris in the yard, or slippery shoes become dangerous when mowing the lawn.

104 Here are some tips to keep you and your children safe when mowing the lawn:

- 119 • Read the instruction book for your mower before you start.
- 130 • Keep children and pets away from the lawn while mowing.
- 141 • Before you start, pick up and remove large sticks or other debris.
- 154 • Wear clothes that will protect you, like long pants and **sturdy** shoes. Do not wear
170 sandals when mowing. Wear glasses to protect your eyes.
- 179 • Make sure your mower has a "deadman" control. A "deadman" control stops the
193 mower if you let go of the handle.
- 201 • Do not cut the lawn when the grass is wet or when it is raining or lightning.
- 219 • Children should be at least 12 years old before they operate a lawn mower.
- 234 • Talk about lawn mower safety with all of your children.
- 245 • Never allow young children to ride alone on a riding mower.
- 257 • Teach teenagers who are operating the lawn mower to never put their hands or
272 feet near the power blades. Make sure that adults follow this rule as well.
- 286 • Make sure your mower is in good working condition at all times.
- 299 • Never operate a mower if you have been drinking or taking other drugs.

Understanding

1. How old should children be before they operate the lawn mower? _____

2. What does the word **dangerous** mean? _____

3. What cuts the grass and can cut other things too? _____

4. What should you read before you start mowing? _____

5. What does the word **sturdy** mean? _____

6. What should you keep away from the lawn when you are mowing? Why? _____

7. What should you pick up and remove before you mow the lawn? Why? _____

Writing

Choice A: Tell about your lawn mowing experiences.

Choice B: In your own words, summarize what you know about lawn mower safety.
