

Name: _____

High Flyer

By Kelly Hashway



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Matt and Allie carried their sketch to the sign-up table. They couldn't wait to start building the kite they'd designed for the High Flyer contest. The line for registration was long and filled with kids of all ages. Two teenagers stood in front of them. Matt peeked at their sketch and his eyes widened.

"Look!" he whispered, tugging on Allie's sleeve.

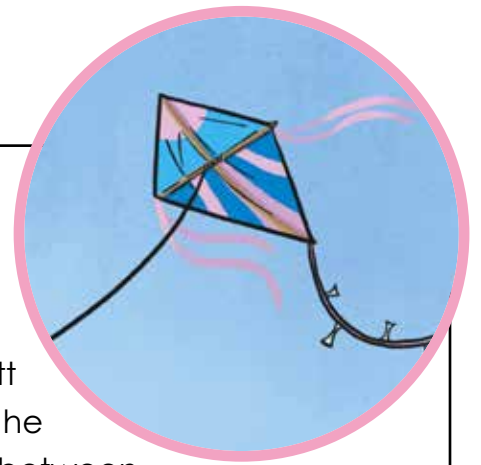
Allie glanced at the sketch. "Whoa, theirs is a lot better than ours. Their kite looks like an airplane."

"And ours is a boring diamond," Matt said.

Allie nodded at the kids behind them. "What's theirs look like?"

Matt pretended to tie his shoe so he could see the paper at the girl's side. He

Name: _____



sighed and stood up. "Theirs looks like a spaceship!"

"Names?" the woman at the sign-up table asked.

Allie and Matt jumped. Allie signed them in.

"I need a copy of your design," the woman said. "After signing up, no alterations can be made to your design."

"What?" Matt asked.

Allie and Matt took their spot on the line. Matt moaned when he saw they were between the spaceship and the airplane.

"Flyers, on your mark!" the announcer said. "Go!"

Allie held the string while Matt ran down the field with the kite. He lifted it in the air. It wobbled and fell to the



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"What if we gave it a cool-looking tail? I bet the judges won't care about that," Allie said, perking up a little.

Matt shrugged.

They worked on their kite all weekend. It wasn't fancy, except for the tail. Allie had decorated it with feathers, beads, and tiny mirrors. It sparkled in the sunlight.

On the day of the contest, Allie and Matt carried their kite to the starting line. The rules were simple. The kite that flew the highest for the longest amount of time won. And there were two rounds, which meant two tries to be the best.

Allie nodded, and Matt pulled off the beads and mirrors. He finished just in time for the start of round two.

As he ran with the kite, he could feel the wind picking it up. He let go and raced back to help Allie. They let out the string as far as it would go, right past the spaceship and the airplane. The kite stayed up until the announcer blew his whistle and declared them the winners.

"I guess looks don't mean a thing in kite flying," Allie said.

"Yeah," Matt said. "Simple is best."

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1. What is the purpose of the High Flyer contest?
 - a. to build the best-looking kite
 - b. to build a kite that has an unusual tail
 - c. to build a kite that flies the highest
 - d. to build a kite that moves fastest
2. What rule did Matt and Allie learn when they were signing up?
 - a. They could not change their kite's design after signing up.
 - b. They needed to be 13 years old to enter.



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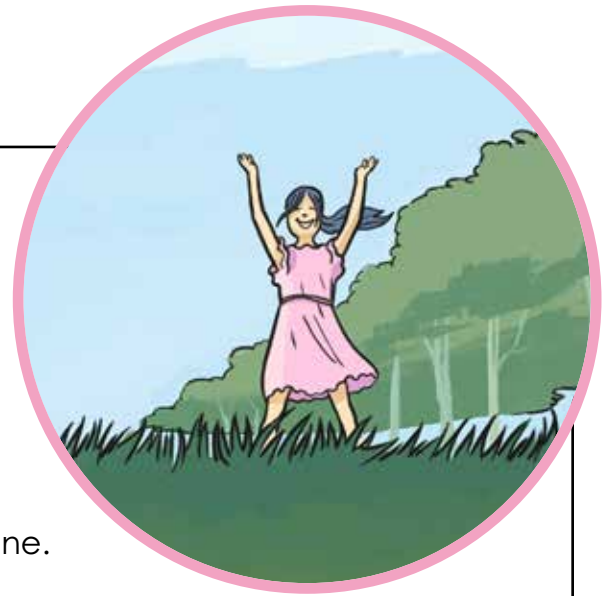
4. Which word best describes how Allie and Matt felt when they saw the plans for the airplane and spaceship kites? (circle one)

worried excited confused relieved

Tell why you chose this word.

5. Which of these events happens first?
 - a. Matt removed the beads and mirrors from the kite's tail.
 - b. Matt and Allie registered for the High Flyer contest.
 - c. Matt and Allie's kite fell to the ground.
 - d. Matt and Allie sketched a design for their kite.

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High Flyer

The following terms are vocabulary words from the story. Match the vocabulary word with its correct definition by writing the corresponding letter on the line.

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 1. ____ registration | a. changes |
| 2. ____ teenagers | b. gave off flashes of light; glimmered |

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- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 6. ____ perking up | f. wiggled back and forth |
| 7. ____ moaned | g. antonym for complicated |
| 8. ____ sparkled | h. placed ink on paper with a rubber marker or seal |
| 9. ____ wobbled | i. people who determine the winners of a contest |
| 10. ____ simple | j. becoming more cheerful |

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High Flyer

In the story, "High Flyer," Matt and Allie designed and built their own kite.

Write a paragraph to describe something you have built on your own or with the help of an adult.





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ANSWER KEY

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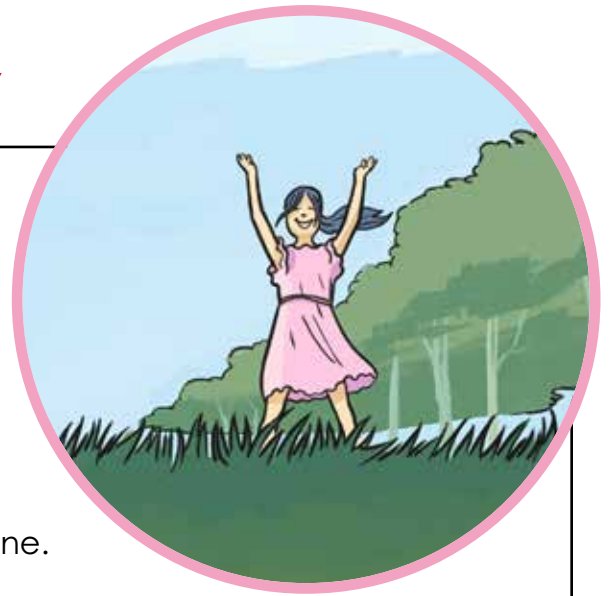


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1. c registration

a. changes



10. g simple

j. becoming more cheerful