

Read for Pleasure

Kites

By Simon Mole and Oamul Lu



The day that David moves to Fivehills,
the first thing he sees are the kites.

Little kites, big kites, eagle kites, mirror
kites.

They dance and they sing in the sky.

To make friends, David knows he needs
one too.

But which kite will he choose, and will it be
the right kite for him?

Title Talk

The title of this story is: Kites.

- A single word has been used for the title of this story.

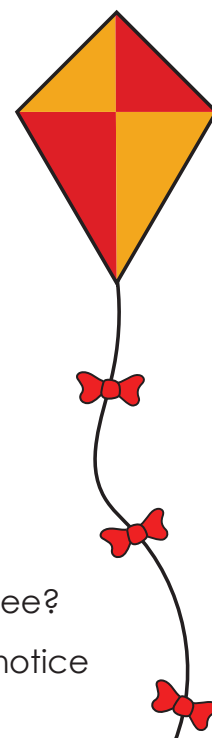
What might this suggest about the book we are about to read?
Discuss.

Cover Chat

Now look at the cover of this picture book.

- We see many kites flying in the air. What designs of kites can you see?
- A boy is seen running beneath them holding a kite. What do you notice about the design of his kite?
- What might his kite tell us about this character?
- Notice that only the boy can be seen running with his kite, a kite that has yet to get airborne. Everyone else is flying their more elaborately designed kites out of sight.

What might this suggest about A] the boy and B] the story itself?

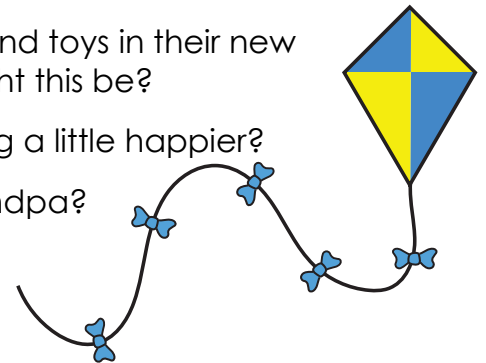


Page 1-2

- What was the first thing David noticed when he moved to Fivehills?
- What kinds of kites did he notice? Make a list.
- Can you spot them dancing in the wind?
- Think about the town's name. Why might everyone own a kite?
- Does David own a kite? How might this make him feel?
- Why might he not own a kite Think of where he may have come from?
- Why might David be illustrated so small as he watches the kites fly? Discuss.

Page 3-4

- Here we see David's mum unpacking his books and toys in their new house. How does David feel about this? Why might this be?
- On page 4 we see David smiling. Why is he feeling a little happier?
- What does this suggest about David and his Grandpa?



Page 5-6

- Interestingly, David's Grandpa is a mechanic. What does a mechanic do?
- A mechanic often mends things that are broken. What might David consider to be broken in terms of A] where he is now living and B] how he is now feeling?
- Where would Grandpa say to look first when trying to mend something? Might this be significant?
- We see David sat on his bed. He is holding Grandpa's feather rather than cuddling his teddy or playing with his toy cars. Instead, we are told that what David needs most is a kite. Why might this be? Discuss.

Page 7-8

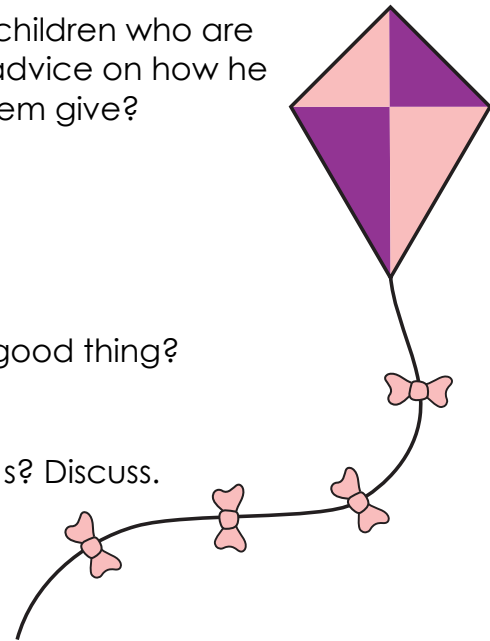
- Here we see David taking action and he begins to make his kite. From what does he make his kite with? Why?
- What does this tell us about David's character?
- When he has finished making his kite on page 8, how does he feel?
- Why might his initial feelings of pride be replaced with doubt?

Page 9-10

- Describe what David sees when he reaches the bottom of the hill.
- Why might this look like a wonderful dream?
- How is David feeling now that he is ready to launch his kite?
- He is just about to launch his kite when the writer interrupts us by ending this part of the story with an ellipsis...
How does this make you feel? Why?
- Do you notice someone else who is just about to launch their kite?
- Who might they be? Why might they be watching David?
- What might this suggest as to what will happen next?

Page 11-16

- Over the next few pages David meets three other children who are visiting the hill to fly their kites. Each of them offers advice on how he can improve his kite. What advice does each of them give?
- * The girl with the light fizzy voice?
- * The boy whose voice is loud and lively?
- * The big girl whose voice makes David jump?
- Although they mean well, why might this not be a good thing?
- How has David's kite been changed?
- Is it still David's kite or has it become someone else's? Discuss.



Page 17-18

- Interestingly, who calls David's kite AWESOME on page 17?
- David does not speak. Why might this be?
- Above the heads of the children are four birds. Who or what might these represent?
- Which do you think best represents David at this time? Why might this bird appear small and be flying further away from the other three?
- Who appears more excited on page 18: David or the other three children? Why might this be?
- What do you think will happen when he eventually launches his newly designed kite?

Page 19-20

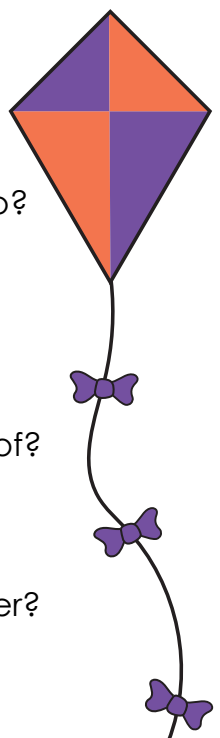
- Is the first flight of David's kite a success? Why not?
- There is some beautiful poetic language used here to describe what the kite did and did not do. Place this language in the table below and discuss which you like best and why.

The Kite's First Flight...	
What did the kite not do?	What did the kite do instead?

- How is the kite's flight depicted by the illustrator?
- How does this make David feel? Would you have felt the same way?
- Interestingly, it is only now that David speaks and none of the other three children reply. Might this be significant?
- We are told that David 'scooped up his sadness and carried it off to his new house.' Discuss how this image makes us feel.
- Why might the writer have used the word SADNESS instead of the word KITE in this sentence?
- Why might the writer have used the word HOUSE instead of the word HOME in this sentence?

Page 21-22

- When David arrives back to his new house, where does he retreat to?
- How is he feeling A] like his best cars and B] like his favourite books? Discuss.
- Why might he be trying to think of anything but kites at this time?
- He then rediscovers Grandpa's feather! What does this remind him of?
- What do you think Grandpa's words might mean in this situation? Discuss.
- How do the feelings experienced by David on these two pages differ? Why might this be?
- What do you think David will do next?



Page 23-24

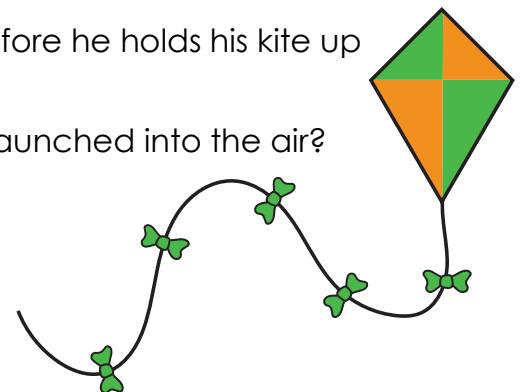
- With Grandpa's words ringing in his ears, he rushes over to his kite and redesigns it. He does this alone. Might this be significant?
- Compare his first kite with the kite he creates now.
 - * Does he keep any of his original kite ideas in his new design?
 - * Does he remember any of the advice the children gave him earlier?
 - * Does he add anything new to his kite design? Why is this important?
- When he has finished modifying his kite, how does he feel?

Compare his words to those spoken on page 8.

- As well as the kite, how has David modified his own mindset? Discuss.

Page 25-26

- Why does David run to the top of the hill when it is getting dark and nobody is there to watch? Discuss.
- Why does he blow on Grandpa's feather just before he holds his kite up high?
- What do you think will happen when the Kite is launched into the air? Why?



Page 27-28

- How well does David's new kite fly?
- What much would it have meant to him watching his kite dancing in the wind?
- As we see David flying his kite, we notice his three new friends with their kites in the background. Yet our focus remains with David and his kite. Our eyes follow the kite string upwards, towards the kite and the words: 'But on its own.'

Why might these words be written underneath the kite, as though they are helping it to keep aloft?

Why might these words be flying through the air with no other text surrounding it?

Page 29-30

- How playful does the sky now become? How beautiful does it look?

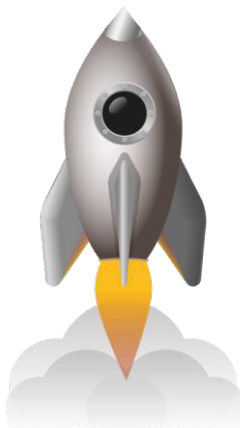
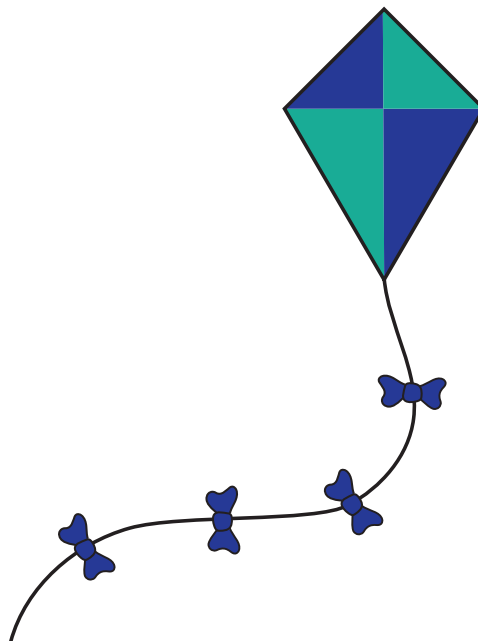
Page 31-32

- The three friends and David now become four and David is no longer an outsider. How happy would this moment have been for him? Why?
- What do you think is meant when David says 'A kite has to feel right for it to fly.'?
- Why do you think the writer ends David's story at this point? Discuss.

Think about the story as a whole:

Why did David succeed when at first, he did not?

What might we learn from David's story when we are faced with failure?



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