

Fiction: Comprehension Practice 1

Here is the beginning of one of Stanley's adventures with his brother Arthur. Read the text and then answer the questions.

Stanley the Kite

Stanley woke up one morning to find a heavy board had fallen on him and made him completely flat. He has become famous because of this.

Stanley and Arthur were in the park. The day was sunny, but windy too, and many older boys were flying beautiful, enormous kites with long tails, made in all the colours of the rainbow.

Arthur sighed. 'Some day,' he said, 'I will have a big kite and I will win a kite-flying contest and be famous like everybody else. *Nobody* knows who I am these days.'

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Stanley remembered what his parents had said. He went to a boy whose kite was broken and borrowed a large spool of string.

'You can fly me, Arthur,' he said. 'Come on.'

He attached the string to himself and gave Arthur the spool to hold. He ran lightly across the grass, sideways to get speed up, and then he turned to meet the breeze.

10

Up, up, up ... UP! went Stanley, being a kite.

1) At the beginning of the story, where are all the children?

in the park

Look at lines 1-3.

2) Give one adjective from the text that describes the kites.

enormous / beautiful

3) Which word in lines 4-6 tells you that Arthur is sad?

'sighed'

4) Why did Stanley offer to be a kite for Arthur?

Circle the correct answer

1. His parents told him to do it.
2. He wanted to show Arthur how brave he was.
3. So Arthur could make friends with the other boys.
4. He thought that Arthur would like it.

5) Number the events below from 1 to 5, in the order that they happen.

Stanley ran quickly. 4

Stanley passed the string to Arthur. 3

Stanley borrowed some string. 1

Stanley faced the wind. 5

Stanley tied the string. 2

6) 'Up, up, up ... UP! went Stanley, being a kite.' (line 13)

(a) How has the writer made this an interesting sentence? Give two ways.

a. By using the repetition technique

b. Using capital letters for the last 'UP' to add an emphasis as well as the use of the exclamation mark

(b) Suggest a reason why the writer wants this sentence to stand out.

Because it is an exciting, amazing and important part of the story.

Read the next part of the story and then answer the questions.

Up, up, up ... UP! went Stanley, being a kite.

He knew just how to manage on the gusts of wind. He faced full into the wind if he wanted to rise, and let it take him from behind when he wanted speed. He had only to turn his thin edge to the wind, carefully, a little at a time, so that it did not hold him, and then he would slip gracefully down towards the earth again.

5

Arthur let out all the string and Stanley soared above the trees, a beautiful sight in his pale sweater and bright brown trousers, against the pale-blue sky.

Everyone in the park stood still to watch.

10

Stanley swooped right then left in long, matching swoops. He held his arms by his sides and zoomed at the ground like a rocket and curved up again towards the sun. He sideslipped and circled, and made figure of eights and crosses and a star.

Nobody has ever flown the way Stanley Lambchop flew that day. Probably no one ever will again.

15

7) What did Stanley do if he wanted to go higher? Circle the correct answer

He turned so that ...

- a) he had the wind on his back.
- b) he had his thin edge facing the wind.
- ☒ c) he was looking into the wind.
- d) he was looking towards the earth.

8) Which word in lines 7-9 means to fly high and quickly?

soared

9) Suggest two reasons why everyone in the park watched Stanley.

- a. It was strange and incredible to see a boy flying in the air.**
- b. He was doing amazing tricks.**
- c. He was zooming around like a rocket.**

Look at lines 11-14.

10) What did Stanley do when he wanted to fly downwards very quickly?

He held his arms by his side.

11) (a) Give a powerful verb from lines 11-14.

swooped, zoomed, curved

(b) Give one reason why writers use powerful verbs.

To make the writing more interesting and to give a better description of what's happening.

12)(a) How does Stanley feel about flying?

He feels proud and he enjoys it.

(b) Read lines 15-16 and give a reason why 'Nobody has ever flown the way Stanley Lambchop flew ...'

Because it is not usual or normal to fly like a kite. People can only fly in planes.

13) Why is 'Stanley the Kite' a fiction story?

Because it is not real and not possible

Because it is a made-up series of events