

Name: _____

High Flyer

by Kelly Hashway

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 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 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.

"Those are the rules." The woman took the paper from Matt's hand and stamped their design. "Next!"

Allie and Matt walked home with their heads down.

"I guess we stick to the diamond kite," Matt said.

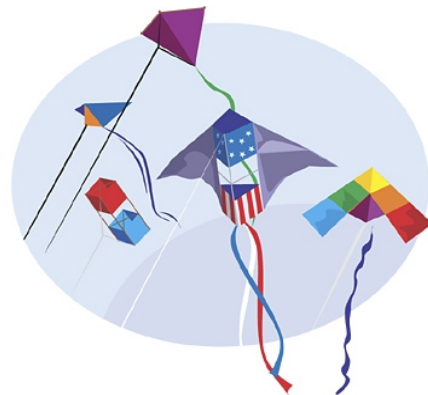
"What if we gave it a cool looking tail? I bet the judges won't care about that," Allie said, perking up a little.

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 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 ground. Round one was over for them.

Matt ran the kite back to Allie. "It's the tail. The beads and mirrors are weighing it down."

"But they're so pretty," Allie said.

"Do you want pretty or do you want to win?"

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

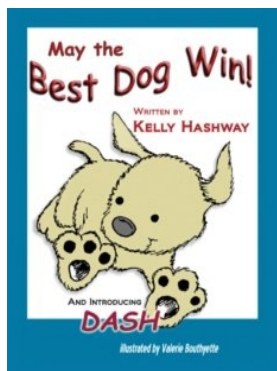
As he ran with the kite, he could feel the wind picking it up. He let go and raced back to help Allie. They let out the string as far as it would go, right past the spaceship and the airplane. The kite stayed up until the announcer blew his whistle and declared them the winners.

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

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

About the the Author

Kelly Hashway



Kelly Hashway's latest book, *May the Best Dog Win*, is now available!

Dash has the perfect life until the Super Sweeper 5000 shows up. Sweeper runs all over the house sucking up the leftover food scraps, and he even gets his own room! But Dash won't give up his place as the favorite dog without a fight.

Hashway, Kelly. *May the Best Dog Win*. ISBN: 9780984589081

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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.
 - c. They only had a weekend to finish the kite.
 - d. They could not make a diamond-shaped kite.
3. Why did Matt and Allie's kite crash to the ground during round one?

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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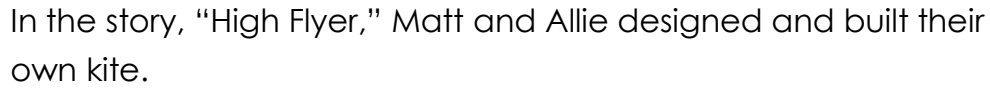


Match each vocabulary word from the story "High Flyer" to its definition.

- | | | |
|-------|------------------------|--|
| _____ | 1. registration | a. changes |
| _____ | 2. teenagers | b. gave off flashes of light; glimmered |
| _____ | 3. alterations | c. process of signing up for an event |
| _____ | 4. stamped | d. people between the ages of 13 and 19 |
| _____ | 5. judges | e. groaned |
| _____ | 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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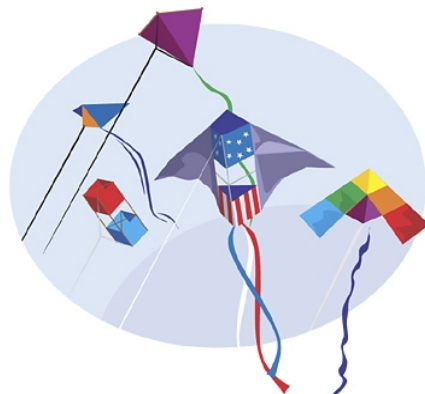
Write a paragraph to describe something you have built on your own or with the help of a parent.

[illegible]

ANSWER KEY

High Flyer

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1. What is the purpose of the High Flyer contest? **c**
 - 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**
 - a. **They could not change their kite's design after signing up.**
 - b. They needed to be 13 years old to enter.
 - c. They only had a weekend to finish the kite.
 - d. They could not make a diamond-shaped kite.

3. Why did Matt and Allie's kite crash to the ground during round one?

The mirrors and beads on the tail made the kite too heavy to fly.

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.

Matt and Allie were worried that their design wasn't as good as the others. The other designs were more complicated and impressive-looking.

5. Which of these events happens first? **d**
 - 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.**

ANSWER KEY

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Match each vocabulary word from the story "High Flyer" to its definition.

c 1. registration

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