



Name: _____

The Kite Contest

Liam's hands trembled with excitement as he carefully unrolled his most prized possession - a scarlet dragon kite with wings that shimmered like rubies in the sunlight. For three weeks straight, he'd practiced every afternoon in Miller's Field, until his arms ached and his cheeks burned from the wind. Tomorrow was the big day: the annual Maple Hill Kite Contest, where the winner would take home the legendary golden kite trophy.

Contest morning finally arrived. The wind snapped at the flags like an impatient teacher clapping for attention. Liam's kite leaped into the sky as if it had been waiting its whole life to fly. It soared upward, its tail rippling in the wind, climbing higher than any other kite on the beach.

Then - CRACK! Like a clap of thunder, the string snapped. The dragon kite staggered in midair. It spun wildly, a dizzy ballerina losing her footing, before plunging toward the jagged cliffs along the shore.

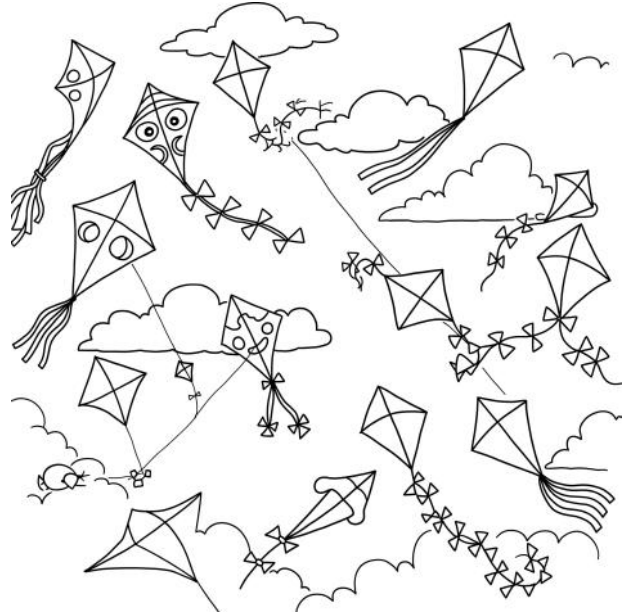
All around him, chaos erupted. Kites dipped and dove like wounded birds. The wind, which had been playful just moments before, now roared like an angry lion, tearing at strings and twisting frames.

Liam's mind raced faster than his pounding heart. His fingers dove into his backpack - extra string! But as he tried to retie it, the wind snatched the line from his hands. That's when he spotted Grandma's lucky keychain, the one she said held "old wisdom." The metal charm swung like a pendulum, and Liam had an idea.

Working quickly, he transformed the keychain into a makeshift tail weight, clipping it where the kite's tail met the body. The added balance worked like magic! His dragon kite stopped its wild spinning and steadied itself.

Though Liam didn't win the golden trophy (that went to Maya Chen with her six-foot box kite), something better happened. The judges awarded him their new "Most Creative Problem-Solver" ribbon.

As he carefully wound his string at day's end, the kite rested against his shoulder like a tired puppy. Next year, he decided, he'd come prepared with backup plans for his backup plans. Maybe he'd even convince Grandma to lend him more of her "old wisdom" charms.



1. Find and highlight three similes the author used in the passage.

2. Why did Liam's kite start spinning out of control?

A) He forgot to bring string

B) The wind stopped completely

C) His string broke in the strong wind

3. What happened AFTER Liam attached the keychain?

A) The kite flew straight again

B) He won the golden trophy

C) All the other kites crashed

4. How did the broken string lead to a surprising positive outcome?

A) Liam made a new friend with Maya Chen

B) He earned a special ribbon for problem-solving

C) Grandma gave him a new kite

5. Describe one way the story would be different if the wind had been calm.
