

Reading B

How The Little Kite Learned To Fly?

“I never can do it,” the little kite said,
As he looked at the others high over his head.

“I know I should fall if I tried to fly.”

“Try,” said the big kite, only try!

Or I fear you never will learn at all.”

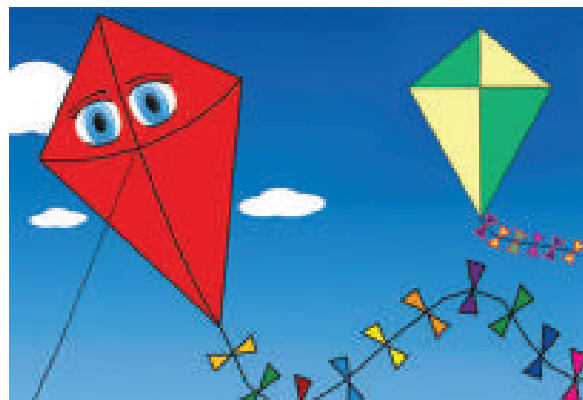
But the little kite said : “I’m afraid I’ll fall.”

The big kite nodded : “Ah, well, good-by;
I am off.” And he rose toward the tranquil sky.



Then the little kite’s paper stirred at the sight.
And trembling he shook himself free for flight.
First whirling and frightened, then braver grown,
Up, up he rose through the air alone,
Till the big kite looking down could see
The little one rising steadily.

Then how the little kite thrilled with pride,
As he sailed with the big kite side by side!
While far below he could see the ground,
And the boys like small spots moving round.
They rested high in the quiet air,
And only the birds and clouds were there.



“Oh, how happy I am,” the little kite cried.

“And all because I was brave and tried.”

(Katherine Pyle)

About the author



Katherine Pyle was born in Wilmington on November 22, 1863. In 1879, while a 16-year old student at Wilmington’s Misses Hebb’s School, her poem “The Piping Shepherd” was published in Atlantic Monthly. During her career she wrote and illustrated about thirty books and illustrated a number of books by other authors, including Anna Sewell’s *Black Beauty* in 1923. In 1924 her serialized article “The Story of Delaware” appeared in the Wilmington newspaper, the Sunday Morning Star. Many of her stories were drawn from fairy tales, ancient myths, nursery rhymes, and stories about animals. Katharine

Pyle died on February 19, 1938 at her residence at 804 North Franklin St., Wilmington.

Meanings in context

nodded	:	moved head up and down or from side to side
tranquill	:	peaceful
stirred	:	inspired
trembling	:	shaking (with fear)
steadily	:	little by little / gradually
sailed	:	flew / moved smoothly
whirling	:	moving round and round (here expressing thrill)



I. In the table given below there are some sentences from the poem in column A. In column B put a tick mark (✓) on who said these sentences - the big kite or the small kite.

A		B	
S.No.	Sentences / Phrases	Big Kite	Small Kite
1.	I know I should fall if I tried to fly.		
2.	I can never do it.		
3.	Try only try!		
4.	Or I fear you will never learn at all		
5.	I'm afraid I'll fall		
6.	'Ah well, good bye; I'm off		
7.	Oh, how happy I am!		
8.	And all because I was brave, and I tried.		

II. Tick (✓) the appropriate answer.

- The big kite flew away because_____
 - he was kind.
 - he wanted to encourage the little kite.
 - he was clever.
 - he was bold.
- In the beginning the little kite was_____
 - inspired
 - not confident
 - thrilled.
 - excited.
- The little kite succeeded because of_____
 - the big kite.
 - his efforts.
 - the wind.
 - other kites.

Comprehension

III. Answer the following questions.

1. What was the little kite afraid of?
2. Why did the little kite's paper stir?
3. How did the boys look like from the sky?
4. Pick out the words from the poem that tell us that the little kite was frightened.
5. How did the little kite feel when it sailed up in the sky?
6. Who were the little kite's companions up in the sky?

IV. Complete the table given below by writing the feelings of the small kite described in the stanzas of the poem.

Stanza	Feelings
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	

You may choose the words from the box.

Afraid, depressed, brave, tired, quiet, encouraged, inspired, thrilled, happy, sad, free

