The Kite in the Oak Tree

Grade 3 reading · story comprehension

Name: Date: Score: / 11



The Kite in the Oak Tree

1 Nora had waited all week for a windy day. On Saturday morning the maple leaves were spinning down the street, and she knew it was time. She pulled on her yellow raincoat, tucked her new red kite under her arm, and ran to the field at the end of her road.

2 The kite went up on the first try. Nora let out more and more string until it was a small red diamond high above the field. Then a gust came from a different direction. The string went loose in her hand, and the kite slid sideways into the big oak tree.

3 Nora pulled gently. She pulled harder. The kite stayed exactly where it was, caught in the bare branches with its ribbon tail hanging down.

4 “That tree has eaten three of my kites,” said a voice behind her. It was Mr. Alvarez from the corner house, carrying a long garden rake. “But I have had forty years to practise.”

5 He reached up, hooked the string, and gave it a careful twist. The kite came loose and floated down into Nora’s arms. “Next Saturday,” he said, “fly it at the other end of the field.”

Answer the questions in complete sentences. The paragraph numbers tell you where to look.

1. Why did Nora think Saturday was a good day to fly a kite? *(paragraph 1)*

2. What made the kite go into the tree? *(paragraph 2)*

3. Which word best describes Mr. Alvarez? Circle one letter.

a impatient
b helpful
c frightened
d careless

4. How do you know Mr. Alvarez has lost kites in that tree before? *(paragraph 4)*

5. What does Mr. Alvarez mean when he says “I have had forty years to practise”?

6. Why does he tell Nora to fly her kite at the other end of the field next Saturday?

7. How does Nora most likely feel at the end of the story? Circle one.

disappointed | grateful | bored | angry

8. If your kite were stuck in a tree, what would you do? Write one complete sentence.

Word work. Find the word in the story that matches each meaning.

1. a sudden rush of wind *(paragraph 2)*

2. not tight, not held firmly *(paragraph 2)*

3. to do something again and again to get better at it *(paragraph 4)*

The Kite in the Oak Tree — Answer Key

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1. Why did Nora think Saturday was a good day to fly a kite? **The maple leaves were spinning down the street, so she knew it was windy.**
2. What made the kite go into the tree? **A gust of wind came from a different direction, the string went loose, and the kite slid sideways into the oak.**
3. Which word best describes Mr. Alvarez? **b — helpful**
4. How do you know Mr. Alvarez has lost kites in that tree before? **He says the tree has “eaten three of my kites.”**
5. What does he mean by “I have had forty years to practise”? **He has lived on that corner a long time and has got kites out of that tree many times before, so he knows how.**
6. Why does he tell her to fly it at the other end of the field? **So the kite will be far away from the oak tree and will not get caught again.**
7. How does Nora most likely feel at the end? **grateful**
8. What would you have done? **Answers vary.** Accept any sensible response written in a complete sentence — asked an adult, used a long stick, waited for the wind, left it and come back.

Word work

1. a sudden rush of wind — **gust**
2. not tight, not held firmly — **loose**
3. to do something again and again to get better at it — **practise**

> Questions 5 and 7 are the ones worth discussing. Neither answer is written down anywhere in the passage — both have to be worked out from what a character says. A child who answers question 5 with “he practised for forty years” has repeated the words without reading the meaning; ask them what he was practising, and on what.