# A Kite Takes Flight

Read how a failed launch changes two siblings.

**7.3.R.4** "Students will analyze literary devices to support an interpretation of a text: • figurative language (i.e., simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, imagery, symbolism, idiom) • sound devices (i.e., onomatopoeia..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline two examples of figurative language, circle a word that sounds like a noise, and write 1 beside a line that means the opposite of what the speaker says. Use your marks to notice how the narrator's feelings change.

### The Silver Stripe

1 On Saturday, I carried my handmade kite to the empty soccer field. Its blue tail was stitched from scraps of Dad's old raincoat. My little brother, Eli, held the spool while I checked the knots for the third time. My courage was a match in the rain, small and easy to put out. At last, I nodded. The wind tugged at my sleeve, impatient to play. Eli let go, and the kite climbed above the goalposts. For one bright minute, its tail drew a crooked line across the clouds.

2 Then the string snagged on a loose nail in the fence. Snap! The kite lurched, and a long rip opened along one wing. It fell into the wet grass like a tired bird. Eli stared at the torn paper. "Well, that went perfectly," I said, holding up the broken wing. My voice sounded sharp, and Eli stepped back. I wanted to blame the fence, the wind, or even him. Instead, I remembered how carefully he had wound the spool so the string would not tangle.

3 I took a breath and told Eli I was sorry. We sat on the bench and patched the wing with tape from my bag. The repair made a silver stripe across the blue paper. When we tried again, the kite wobbled but stayed in the air. Eli grinned and passed me the spool. I let him hold it while I ran beside him, our shoes splashing through shallow puddles. The silver stripe flashed whenever the kite turned, a little reminder that a tear did not have to be the end.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does “My courage was a match in the rain” suggest about the narrator before the first launch?

2. The wind is described as “impatient to play.” How does this description shape the mood before the kite rises?

3. What sound does “Snap!” help you hear, and how does it change the mood?

4. Why does the narrator say, “Well, that went perfectly,” when the kite falls? What does Eli's reaction reveal about the narrator's tone?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

In three or four sentences, explain what the silver stripe on the kite could symbolize. Use one detail from the repair and one detail from the second flight to support your interpretation.

**ANSWER KEY**

# A Kite Takes Flight

**GRADE 7 · 7.3.R.4**

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two examples of figurative language, circle a word that sounds like a noise, and write 1 beside a line that means the opposite of what the speaker says. Use your marks to notice how the narrator's feelings change. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | What does “My courage was a match in the rain” suggest about the narrator before the first launch? | **The narrator's confidence feels small and fragile, as if it could disappear easily.** |
| 2 | The wind is described as “impatient to play.” How does this description shape the mood before the kite rises? | **It makes the wind seem eager and playful, adding excitement to the launch.** |
| 3 | What sound does “Snap!” help you hear, and how does it change the mood? | **It suggests the sudden sound of the string or kite tearing. The mood shifts from excitement to alarm.** |
| 4 | Why does the narrator say, “Well, that went perfectly,” when the kite falls? What does Eli's reaction reveal about the narrator's tone? | **The narrator means the launch went badly, the opposite of what the words say. Eli steps back because the narrator's tone sounds sharp.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The silver stripe could symbolize how a setback can become part of a new beginning. The narrator and Eli make the stripe when they tape the torn wing together instead of giving up. On the second flight, the kite stays in the air, and the stripe flashes as it turns. Its shine makes their repair visible instead of hiding it.

For the marking job, accept clear figurative examples such as the match metaphor, the playful wind, or the tired-bird simile. For Your Turn, accept other supported interpretations of the stripe, such as teamwork or resilience.