

The  
SCHOOLING  
SOCIETY

ENGLISH

P3



# Kite Fighters

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Name: .....

Teacher: .....

Date: .....



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Dear Students,

In **Kite Fighters**, two brothers combine their individual strengths to fly their kites majestically at kite-flying competitions. Their skill impressed the king so much that they were ordered to make a kite for the king himself!

In **Kite Fighting**, the non-fiction cloze touches on the historical development of this sport. We learn how the Korean new year is celebrated in **Wondan** while in **Coming of Age**, we see how this age-old tradition still continues in modern Korea today.

We hope that this Korean lesson will be a different kind of learning journey for you !

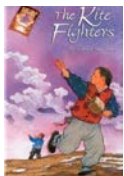
Yours sincerely,  
Your English Tutors

## Literature-based COMPREHENSION

### About the author

Linda Sue Park is an award-winning author of fiction for young readers. She started writing at the age of four and wrote her first poem at the age of nine. Her first book, *Seesaw Girl*, was published in 1999. Although she was born and raised in the United States, she has strong attachment to Korean history and Korean culture. In her books, she talks about the Korean culture such as embroidery, kite fighting, poetry, archery, and food. She won the Newbery Medal for her book *A Single Shard* in 2010.

### About the book



*Kite Fighters* is a remarkable narrative set in Korea in the fifteenth century. In the story, two brothers, Kee-sup and Young-sup, shared a passion for kites. Kee-sup had the extraordinary talent for crafting beautiful kites while his younger brother, Young-sup, had a knack for flying kites. The brothers were practising for the New Year kite-flying competition one day when their talent was noticed by the boy king who was watching them.

He instructed Kee-sup to craft a kite for him and told Young-sup to fly the royal kite. According to Korean tradition, Kee-sup should be the one to represent the family and fly the kite since he was the firstborn. However, both of them knew that Young-sup was the better kite-flier and they decided to leave the honour of the family in his hands.



# KITE FIGHTERS

Open-ended Comprehension (10 marks)

Read the passage below and answer questions 1-7



Young-sup and his older brother, Kee-sup, climbed the hillside to launch their kites. The exuberant boys ran swiftly with the masterpieces that they had spent days painstakingly crafting. With some guidance and much chiding from his brother, Young-sup had proudly put the materials together to build his own tiger kite. Kee-sup had a talent for building kites. With a glance at the fabric or paper, he would know the exact length required of the bamboo sticks to form the perfect kite frame. 5

Although the boys had their own kites, they had to share the same reel and line. Kee-sup had begged his father to buy another reel and line but to no avail. His father had suggested that he share it with his brother. Kee-sup might be an expert at making kites but he was an amateur at flying them. His kite kept plunging and crashing each time he attempted to fly it. After a few futile tries, Kee-sup reluctantly handed the reel to his brother who was waiting with great eagerness to fly his kite. With his great sense in reading the direction of the wind, Young-sup released his kite when he felt that the time was right. It lifted and danced in the air like a feather. Young-sup tugged and released the line skilfully and the kite gradually soared higher and higher in the sky. Kee-sup was **green with envy** as he glanced at the kite in his hands and looked up to see his brother's kite soaring in the air. With a little tweak, Young-sup brought the kite back down to the ground effortlessly. 10 15



Little did the boys realise that there was a royal observer nearby watching them. A few minutes later, a soldier came running towards them and told them that the king was approaching. He reminded them that they had to kneel in the presence of the king. A few moments later, the boys were amazed to see a small figure draped in the royal silk robes standing in front of them. Kee-sup nudged his brother's elbow and they both dropped to their knees in front of the boy king. They remained in the crouching position till they heard the order to rise. The boy king seemed to be about the same age as Young-sup. He praised the brothers for their magnificent kites and ordered them to make one for him. The boys were at a loss for words. 20 25

Kee-sup found his voice and muttered, "Yes, your highness. I'll make you a kite fit for a king."

The boy king replied, "Come to the palace when the kite is ready and my guards will allow you in."

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Pleased with the response from Kee-sup, the boy king left with his entourage. After the unexpected encounter with the boy king, the boys rushed home to break the good news to their father.

Their father received the news with a sense of pride, for his sons' talent had been recognised by the boy king. For the next few weeks, Kee-sup worked on the royal kite. He mulled over the design as well as the construction of the kite. When he was running out of ideas, he would consult his father. His father was quick to respond.

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"A dragon! A kite in the shape of a dragon would be fit for the king," his father exclaimed.

The boys replied almost in unison, "Yes!"

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For the next few weeks, the whole family helped Kee-sup build the royal kite. When the kite was ready, Kee-sup and his brother, Young-sup, walked ceremoniously to the palace with their precious gift. They presented the kite to the boy king and he beamed with delight at the sight of the royal kite. Knowing the talent that Young-sup had at flying kites, he ordered him to fly his royal kite at the New Year Kite-flying festival. Young-sup's mind went blank. It was the family's tradition that the firstborn son would represent the family in such an event. As a younger son, his role was to support his older brother and he knew that he would have a hard time convincing his father to allow him to take Kee-sup's place.

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Adapted from: Kite Fighters by Linda Sue Park



1. What does 'masterpieces' in line 2 refer to? [1m]

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2. Which word from lines 7-17 suggests that Kee-sup was not good at flying kites? [1m]

3. Based on the passage, state two things that Young-sup did to suggest that he was good at flying kites. [2m]

i) \_\_\_\_\_

ii) \_\_\_\_\_

4. Why was Kee-sup “green with envy”? [2m]

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Which word has the same meaning as ‘with a lot of energy’? Circle either (A) or (B). [1m]

The exuberant boys ran swiftly with their kites in their hands. (A)
They had spent days painstakingly crafting their masterpieces. (B)

6. Based on the text, state whether each statement in the table below is true or false, then give one reason why you think so. [2m]

Statement	True/False	Reason
The boy King was pleased with the royal kite that Kee-sup and Young-sup presented to him.		
Young-sup was willing to fly the royal kite for the boy King at the Kite-flying Festival.		



7. Write 1, 2 and 3 in the blanks below to indicate the order in which the events occurred in the story. [1m]

Kee-sup and Young-sup presented the royal kite to the boy King. \_\_\_\_\_

The boy King ordered Young-sup to fly his royal kite for him. \_\_\_\_\_

Kee-sup and Young-sup went to the hillsides to fly their kites. \_\_\_\_\_

# KITE FIGHTING

## Comprehension Cloze

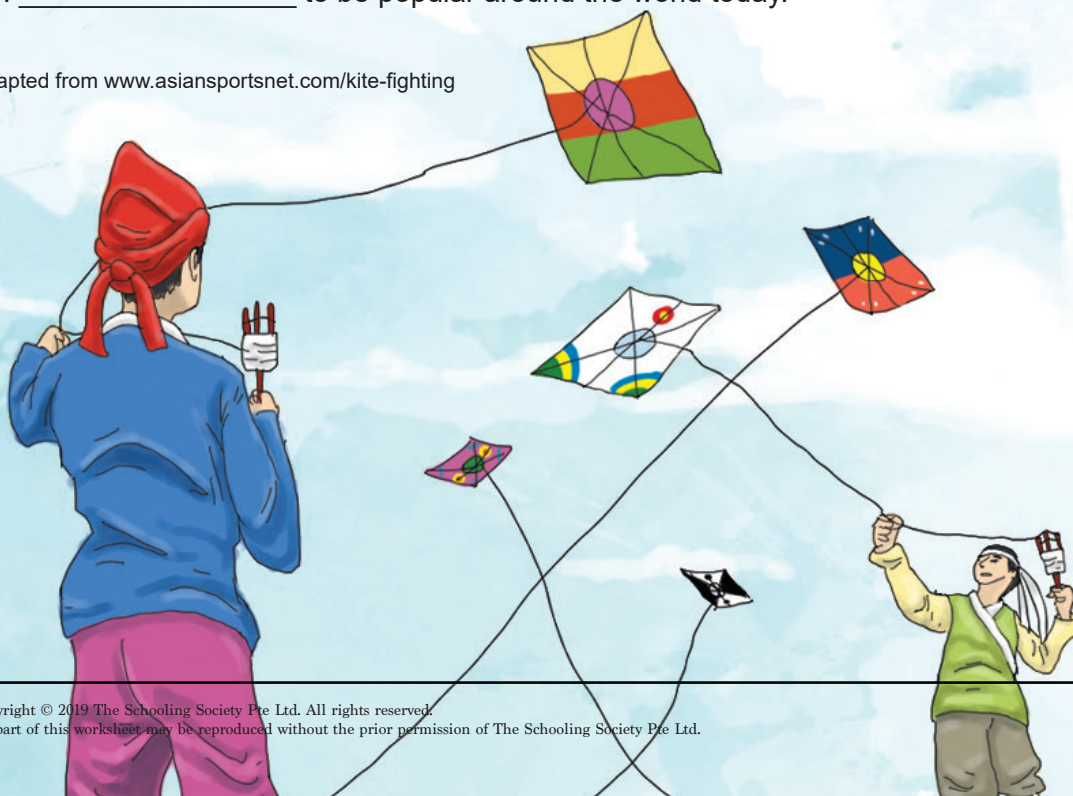
Fill in the blanks with a suitable word.

Kite fighting is a sport which is popular in countries in the East. The first kite to have been 1. \_\_\_\_\_ was in China, over two thousand years ago. At that time, China had all the materials 2. \_\_\_\_\_ for making kites. Subsequently, kite flying spread to neighbouring 3. \_\_\_\_\_ such as Japan, Thailand, Myanmar, Korea, India, and gradually to the rest of the world. The kite-fighting tradition has developed 4. \_\_\_\_\_ in each country, but the enthusiasm of the participants is still the same.

In kite fighting, the kite fighters 5. \_\_\_\_\_ against one another by cutting off the string of the opponents' kite. The string is sharp as it is coated 6. \_\_\_\_\_ broken glass. The person 7. \_\_\_\_\_ kite is the only kite in the air at the end of the day is the winner. Kite fighters spend hours 8. \_\_\_\_\_ their skills for the glory of winning at competitions during kite-flying Festivals.

However, kite fighting is banned in some countries as it can 9. \_\_\_\_\_ injuries to bystanders and damages to power lines. In some countries, there are areas reserved for kite fighting to prevent accidents. Although it is an old tradition, Kite fighting 10. \_\_\_\_\_ to be popular around the world today.

Adapted from [www.asiansportsnet.com/kite-fighting](http://www.asiansportsnet.com/kite-fighting)



# WONDAN

## Grammar Cloze

There are 10 blanks in the passage below. From the list of words given, choose the most suitable word for each blank. Write its letter (A to Q) in the blank. The letters (I) and (O) have been omitted to avoid confusion during marking.

### EACH WORD CAN BE USED ONLY ONCE.

A) is	B) are	C) up	D) in	E) while
F) which	G) this	H) these	J) on	K) as
L) to	M) with	N) but	P) who	Q) for

Korean New Year, also known as “Wondan”, generally falls on the same day as the Chinese New Year. It is a significant event 1. \_\_\_\_\_ is celebrated for three days. Many Koreans 2. \_\_\_\_\_ work in cities or overseas return to their hometown to visit their parents and relatives. They use the three-day holiday to catch 3. \_\_\_\_\_ with their family members and enjoy one another’s company. It is considered respectful 4. \_\_\_\_\_ the younger family members to bring gifts when they visit their elders.

On the first morning of the celebration, Koreans, usually donned 5. \_\_\_\_\_ colourful traditional clothes called hanbok, pay respect to their ancestors. However, many Koreans prefer comfort 6. \_\_\_\_\_ tradition and they decide to be dressed in modern casual attire instead. All kinds of food 7. \_\_\_\_\_ served, especially the *Tteokguk*, a traditional food which is eaten to signify that a person is one year older. Traditional games such 8. \_\_\_\_\_ the *yunnori* is still popular and played during New Year. It is a game which is played 9. \_\_\_\_\_ specially designed sticks. Men and boys still fly the rectangle kites called *yeon*, 10. \_\_\_\_\_ the women and girls would play the game *neolttwigi*, which requires them to jump on a seesaw.

The New Year celebration is definitely a joyous occasion in South Korea.

Source: KOREA.net



# COMING OF AGE

Editing

Write out the correct spelling of the underlined words in bold.

Every year, young Koreans celebrate the coming of age on the third Monday in the month of May when they turn 19. It is a **1. kasterm** ( ) dating back to the tenth century and was a ceremony **2. pawpuler** ( ) with the upper class people during the Joseon Dynasty.

During the ceremony, a young man in the family would wear an outfit with a full-length jacket and a cylindrical hat. At each stage of the ceremony, he would **3. risif** ( ) blessings from the elders. Out of respect and **4. grehtitute** ( ), he has to bow to all the **5. gas** ( ) who attended the ceremony. He is also allowed to have his first drink of **6. elkehall** ( ). After which, he is referred to as 'a ja', a new title given to him. With this title, he is acknowledged and **7. rargernised** ( ) as having the full rights of a mature adult and he can marry and vote.

For the girls, the coming of age begins at the age of 15 when they are **8. taut** ( ) the virtues of a woman. They would be dressed in a hanbok and their hair would be tied in a bun. The ritual is complete when both the young men and women visit the **9. ensestrel** ( ) shrines to pay their respects.

Today, the coming-of-age ritual is not as closely observed. Young men and women are presented with gifts such as flowers, perfume, and even **10. gehjets** ( ) to symbolise their transition to adulthood.

