Did That Tree Eat My Kite?

Story by Meg Livingston
Illustrations by Jennifer Clark
Green Words (Phonetic):

smashed  free  outside  chin
silly  cheered  crunch  kites
reach  inside  marched  joke
chasing  chomp  space  fly

Red Words (Sight):

watch  flew  don’t

Practice reading these sentences.

It is March. It is kite time.

Fran said, “Feel the wind? It chases kites up, up, up!”

“Yes,” said Steve. “I like chasing kites.”
One day the weather started to warm up, and the snow melted. A strong March wind began to blow.

Fran raced outside. She stuck up her chin and felt the strong wind.
She saw the trees shake.
“Yes!” she cheered. “It’s kite time!”
She ran back inside to get Steve.

Why did the trees shake? [The trees shook because the wind was blowing.]
What did Fran say when she went outside? [“Yes! It’s kite time!”]
Why did she go back inside? [She went to get Steve.]
Fran was really excited. She helped her little brother Steve put on his jacket and cap. “Where are we going? What are we doing?” asked Steve. “You’ll see,” said Fran.

Fran grabbed a kite and they ran outside. Fran led Steve to an open space. She said, “It is March.” “March?” asked Steve. “O.K. I can march.” He marched to a tree and back.

An “open space” is a large grassy area.
Fran said, “It is March.” She meant it was the month of March.
What did Steve think “March” meant? [Steve was thinking of the other kind of march—a way to walk.] Show me how to march.
Fran said, “No, I mean March is a time to fly kites. Feel the wind? It chases kites up, up, up!”

Steve clapped and cheered, “Yes! I like chasing kites!”

Was Steve excited about flying a kite? [yes]
How do you know? [He clapped and cheered. He said, “I like chasing kites.”]
Fran said, “We cannot let the kite land in a tree. Trees eat kites.”
Steve stared at Fran. “Trees EAT kites?” he asked. “Do you mean a tree can chomp up a kite and spit it out?”

Why can’t they let the kite near any trees? [Trees eat kites.]
Steve thinks a tree can really eat a kite. What do you think? Why? (T-P-S)
Fran grinned and said, “That is not what I mean, silly! Just don’t let the kite near a tree.”
She held the kite string and ran. The kite flew up and up! Steve cheered.
“Here,” said Fran. She gave the kite to Steve.

What did Fran do to get the kite in the air? [She held the string and ran.]
What is Fran going to do now? [She is going to give the kite to Steve.]
Fran said, “Run as fast as you can.”
Steve held the string and ran fast.
The kite flew up! Steve stopped running to watch the kite fly.
CRUNCH! The kite fell. Steve was sad.

Why did the kite stop flying? [Steve stopped running to watch the kite.]
What happened to the kite? [It fell.]

Make a Prediction: Will Steve be able to fly the kite?
(T-P-S) Have the students support their predictions.
“Try again, Steve,” said Fran. “Try again.”

Steve picked up the string and ran fast.
The wind chased the kite up, up, up! Steve ran near the trees.
“No! Not near the trees!” yelled Fran.

Does Steve get the kite back up in the air? (WGR) [yes]
Why is Fran yelling? [Steve is running with the kite near the trees.]
Steve did not hear Fran yell. He kept on running! CRUNCH! The kite smashed into the top of a tree. “Oh, no!” screamed Steve. “The tree is eating the kite! Fran, HELP!”

Why does Steve keep running? [He doesn’t hear Fran yell.]
What happened to the kite? [It smashed into the top of a tree.]
What does Steve scream? [“Oh, no! The tree is eating the kite!”]
Steve jumped up and down.
“Bad, bad tree!” yelled Steve. “Stop eating my kite! Help, Fran! I cannot reach the kite. The tree is eating it.”

Why is Steve jumping up and down? [He is angry that his kite is in the tree.]
What does Steve say to the tree? [“Bad, bad tree! Stop eating my kite!”]
Is the tree really eating the kite? (WGR) [no]
Fran patted Steve on the back. She said, “Steve, it was just a joke. The kite is stuck in the tree. We can get it out. I can reach the string.” Fran tugged and tugged at the string until the kite was free. Steve was so glad! He clapped and cheered.

How does Fran get the kite? [She tugs at the string until the kite falls out of the tree.]
Fran led Steve away from the trees. They tried again. She held his hand and ran with him as he held onto the string.

Steve held the kite string and Fran held Steve’s hand. Fran and Steve ran and the kite flew up, up, up.

What did Steve do? [He held Fran’s hand and ran with the kite. He flew the kite with Fran.]
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Use T-P-S to discuss these questions.

1. How did Fran know that it was kite time?
   [She felt a strong wind. Windy days are good for flying kites.]

2. Did a tree eat Fran’s kite?
   [No, the kite got stuck in a tree.]

3. How did they get the kite out of the tree?
   [Fran tugged at the string until the kite was free.]
Reading Roots, Level 3

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Reading Roots Shared Stories were developed under the direction of Robert E. Slavin and Nancy A. Madden, codirectors of the Success for All Foundation Family of Programs.

Success for All Foundation is a nonprofit education reform organization that develops and disseminates research-based reading and math programs for students in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, elementary and middle schools. These programs were originally developed at Johns Hopkins University.

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