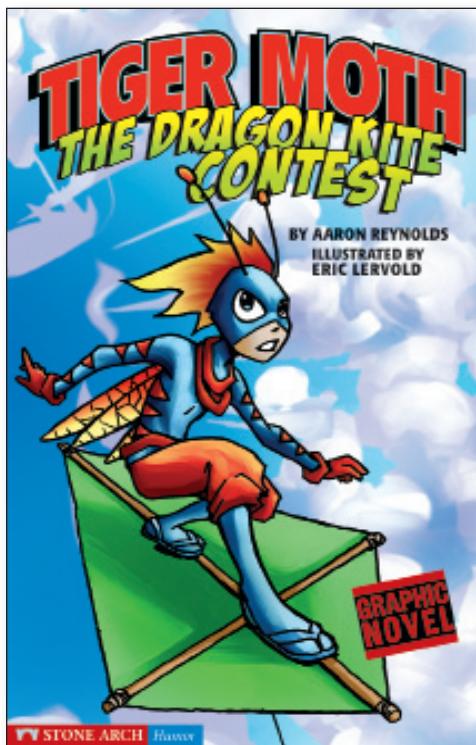




READER'S THEATER



Tiger Moth and the Dragon Kite Contest by Aaron Reynolds

Characters:	Narrator Tiger Moth Kung Pow Principal Pincers Fruit Fly #1 Fruit Fly #2
Genre:	Adventure
Ages:	8-10

Tiger Moth and the Dragon Kite Contest page 1

Narrator: Tiger Moth, Insect Ninja, defender of truth and justice — especially in the Fourth Grade. Today's tale is an encounter between Tiger Moth and the forces of greed and evil.

Tiger Moth: One of my most dangerous encounters with greed yet. Outside of school lunchtime, that is.

Narrator: At Antennae Elementary School, Mrs. Mandible's class has just received a surprise visitor, Principal Pincers.

Principal Pincers: Good Morning, Class. This week, bugs and girls, we will celebrate the Chinese New Year.

Kung Pow: But this is February!

Narrator: Tiger's assistant, Kung Pow, is not always the sharpest bug under the rock.

Principal Pincers: It may be February, Kung Pow, but the Chinese New Year falls at different times each year, not always in January like how we celebrate here.

Kung Pow: Oh, yeah. Right. Right. I knew that. Yup.

Principal Pincers: This year, to celebrate, I've decided the school will have a Dragon Kite Contest.

Kung Pow: A Dragon Kite Contest?

Principal Pincers: Yes, each person or team will build their own Dragon Kite. The kite that stays up in the air the longest wins this prize: a huge box of Yum Dung Clusters!

Tiger Moth: Wow! Great prize.

Principal Pincers: Good luck everyone.

Tiger Moth: (to himself) The contest sounds simple enough, but even a nice kite contest may tempt evil to become involved. I better keep an eye out.

Narrator: Later that day at lunch, Tiger runs into the Fruit Fly Boys.

Tiger Moth and the Dragon Kite Contest page 2

- Fruit Fly #1:** Hey, Tiger Sloth.
- Fruit Fly #2:** Heh, heh, Tiger Sloth.
- Fruit Fly #1:** Are you going to try to enter the Dragon Kite Contest?
- Tiger Moth:** Sorry guys, I am a fighter, not a kiter.
- Fruit Fly #1:** That is a good thing, because we are going to win!
- Narrator:** Tiger and Kung Pow go sit down for lunch.
- Tiger Moth:** I'm not surprised that those two would be after the prize. I wonder what they are up to. They always seem to be attracted to trouble.
- Kung Pow:** Yeah, like a moth to a flame.
- Tiger Moth:** You know, I have never really liked that phrase, but you're right, Kung. They do always seem to breed trouble.
- Narrator:** The Dragon Kite contest is a week later. On New Year's Day, Chinese New Year's Day, that is, kites are flying high and the contest is in full swing.
- Tiger Moth:** Something doesn't seem quite right. I just can't seem to put my feelers on it. Hmm, there is only one Fruit Fly and he is looking way too happy.
- Tiger Moth:** Hey, Fruit Loop, what's up?
- Fruit Fly #2:** My kite is up there tearing everyone else's kites to pieces! Ha, ha!
- Tiger Moth:** What's the deal?
- Fruit Fly #2:** How do you like it? It's a fighting kite!
- Tiger Moth:** It's ripping through all of the other kites like they were rice paper!
- Kung Pow:** That has got to be against the rules.

Tiger Moth and the Dragon Kite Contest page 3

Fruit Fly #2: Would I break the rules?

Tiger Moth: That is not a hard question to answer.

Principal Pincers: I am afraid that he is right, Tiger. There is nothing in the rules (approaches) about fighting kites. Oh dear, there goes another poor kite.

Fruit Fly #2: This is great. This thing practically flies itself. I am such a great kite maker!

Kung Pow: I don't buy that. This stinks worse than a dung beetle!
(as he and Tiger walk away)

Tiger Moth: You know, I have been thinking. Something is definitely smelly, because when I put two and two together, I get one missing Fruit Fly.

Kung Pow: What's your plan?

Tiger Moth: It is time for us to enter the Dragon Kite Contest.

Kung Pow: But I thought you were, "a fighter, not a kiter."

Tiger Moth: Well, actually, I am about to become a kite fighter.

Narrator: Tiger begins to tie a kite to his waist.

Tiger Moth: Hang on to your exoskeleton and grab the Tiger by the tail, Kung Pow. I am going to be the kite!

Narrator: Can Tiger save the contest?

Principal Pincers: Oh my, everyone's kites are being ruined.

Narrator: What exactly are the Fruit Fly boys up to?

Kung Pow: Something sure smells rotten.

Narrator: Where is that other Fruit Fly?