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, 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.

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

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

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

But this is February!

Tiger’s assistant, Kung Pow, is not always the sharpest bug under the rock.

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.

Oh, yeah. Right. Right. I knew that. Yup.

This year, to celebrate, I’ve decided the school will have a Dragon Kite Contest.

A Dragon Kite Contest?

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!

Wow! Great prize.

Good luck everyone.

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

Later that day at lunch, Tiger runs into the Fruit Fly Boys.
Hey, Tiger Sloth.

Heh, heh, Tiger Sloth.

Are you going to try to enter the Dragon Kite Contest?

Sorry guys, I am a fighter, not a kiter.

That is a good thing, because we are going to win!

Tiger and Kung Pow go sit down for lunch.

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.

Yeah, like a moth to a flame.

You know, I have never really liked that phrase, but you’re right, Kung. They do always seem to breed trouble.

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.

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.

Hey, Fruit Loop, what’s up?

My kite is up there tearing everyone else’s kites to pieces! Ha, ha!

What’s the deal?

How do you like it? It’s a fighting kite!

It’s ripping through all of the other kites like they were rice paper!

That has got to be against the rules.
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 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?