



## 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.

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- 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.

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- Fruit Fly #2:** Would I break the rules?
- Tiger Moth:** That is not a hard question to answer.
- Principal Pincers:** (approaches) 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:** (as he and Tiger walk away) I don't buy that. This stinks worse than a dung beetle!
- 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?