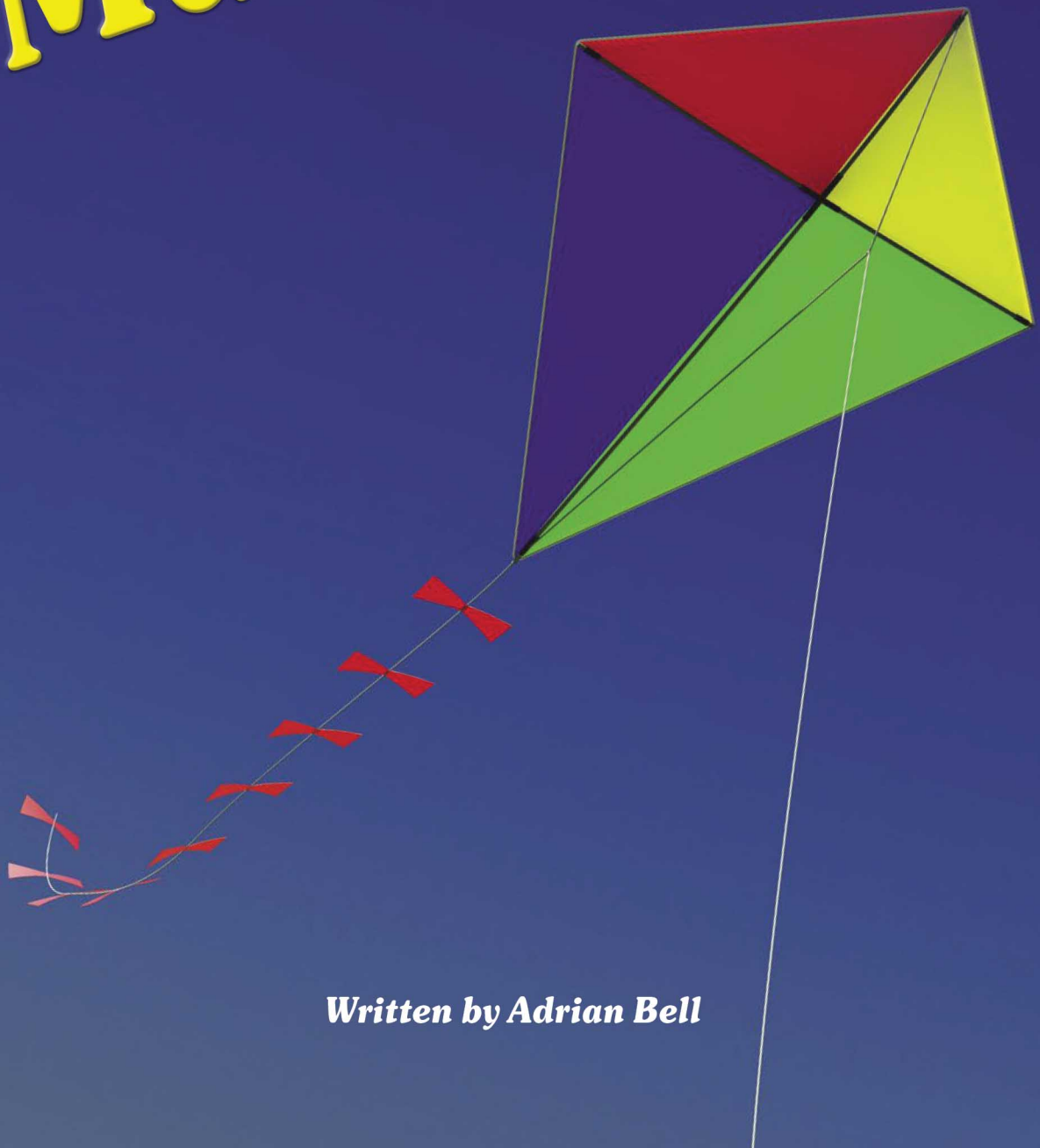
TALK ABOUT TEXTS

Make It Fly!



Written by Adrian Bell

Make It Fly!



For Review Only

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More Than Just Toys

If you go out to a park on a windy day, you will probably see people flying kites. Kites come in all colours, shapes and sizes. But they are more than just colourful toys. There are kites that race, kites that carry people and even kites that fight!

Kites are popular all around the world. They have a long history. The story of kites begins more than 2000 years ago.



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Chinese Kites

Kites were invented in China. The earliest known kite is from about 200 BCE. An army general named Han Xin used a kite to plan an attack on a city. The kite helped him measure the distance from his camp to a point inside the city's walls. The soldiers used this measurement to help them build tunnels under the walls. They went through the tunnels and captured the city.



Ancient Chinese kites were sometimes designed to look exactly like birds. This was a good disguise for kites used in battle.

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Chinese people made kites in all kinds of shapes, such as animals, ships and dragons.

Wealthy people in China were the first to make kites as toys. They used bamboo to make the **frame**. They used light silk for the covering and the flying line. Those who could not afford silk made the covering from paper.

Some people put little bamboo pipes on their kites. In the wind, the pipes made a sound like the music of a stringed instrument called a zither, or zheng. The Chinese word for kite became fengzheng, meaning ‘wind zither’.

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