



Go Fly A Kite

by

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It was a **glorious** day for Jake to play. He went to bed the night before thinking about it. The television weatherman said it would be a **glorious** Saturday. The sun was bright. The clouds were puffy and white. The breeze was gentle. Jake was ready.

Ready to do what?

Dad will know what to play, thought Jake as he ran out to the garage.

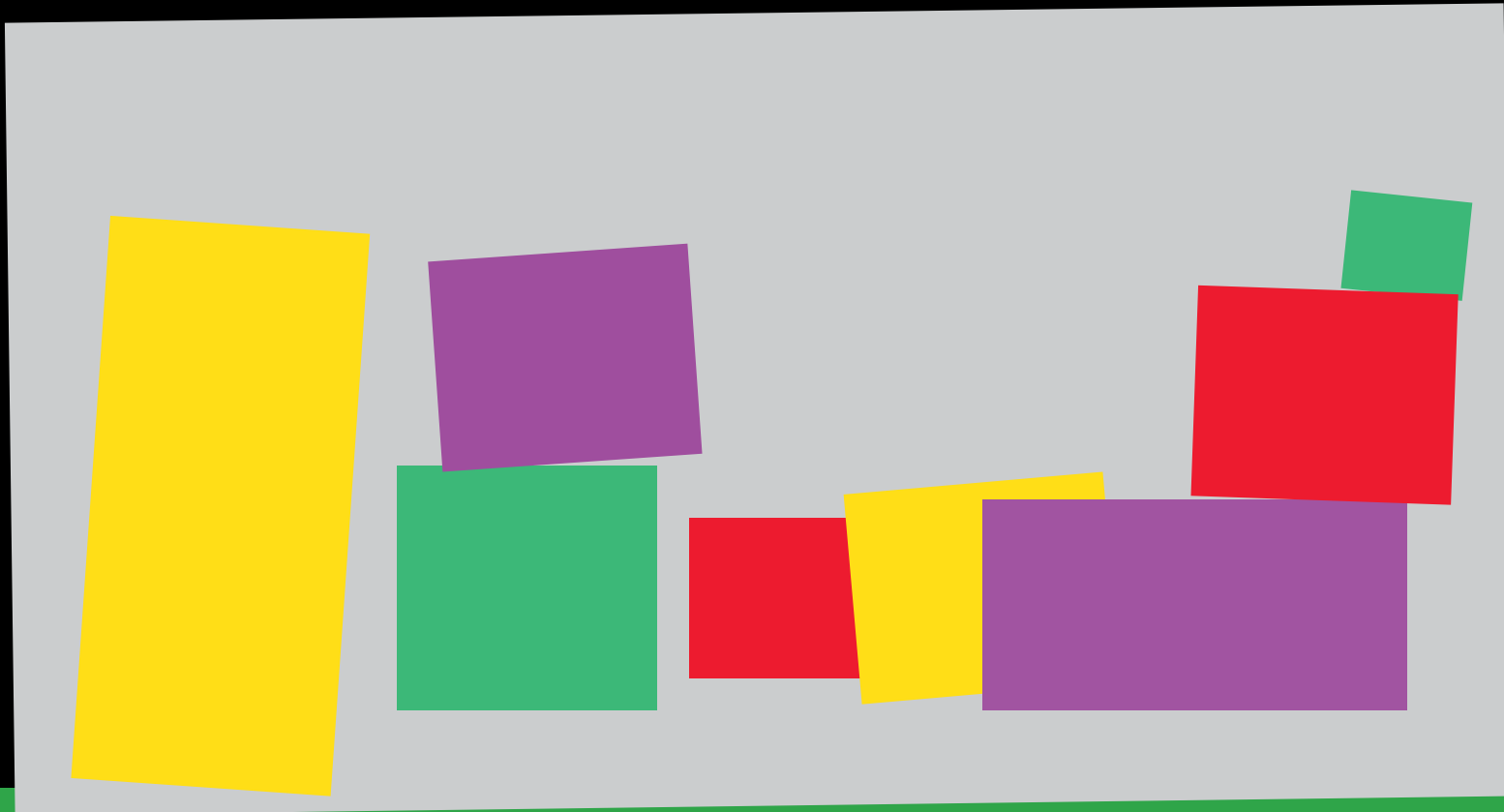
"It's a **glorious**
Saturday," Jake said
to his Dad.

"Why, yes it is Jake," his Dad
said.

"What can we do, Dad?" Jake asked
as he bounced around on his tip-toes.

"Well, Jake, I've got to finish cleaning out this
garage. Why don't you go ask Alex?"

What a terrific idea! Alex was Jake's big brother and
he always had just the right answer.



Jake spotted Alex in the back yard practicing for his baseball game.

“Alex, guess what!” Jake yelled.

“What’s up, Jake?” Alex said while he continued with his baseball.

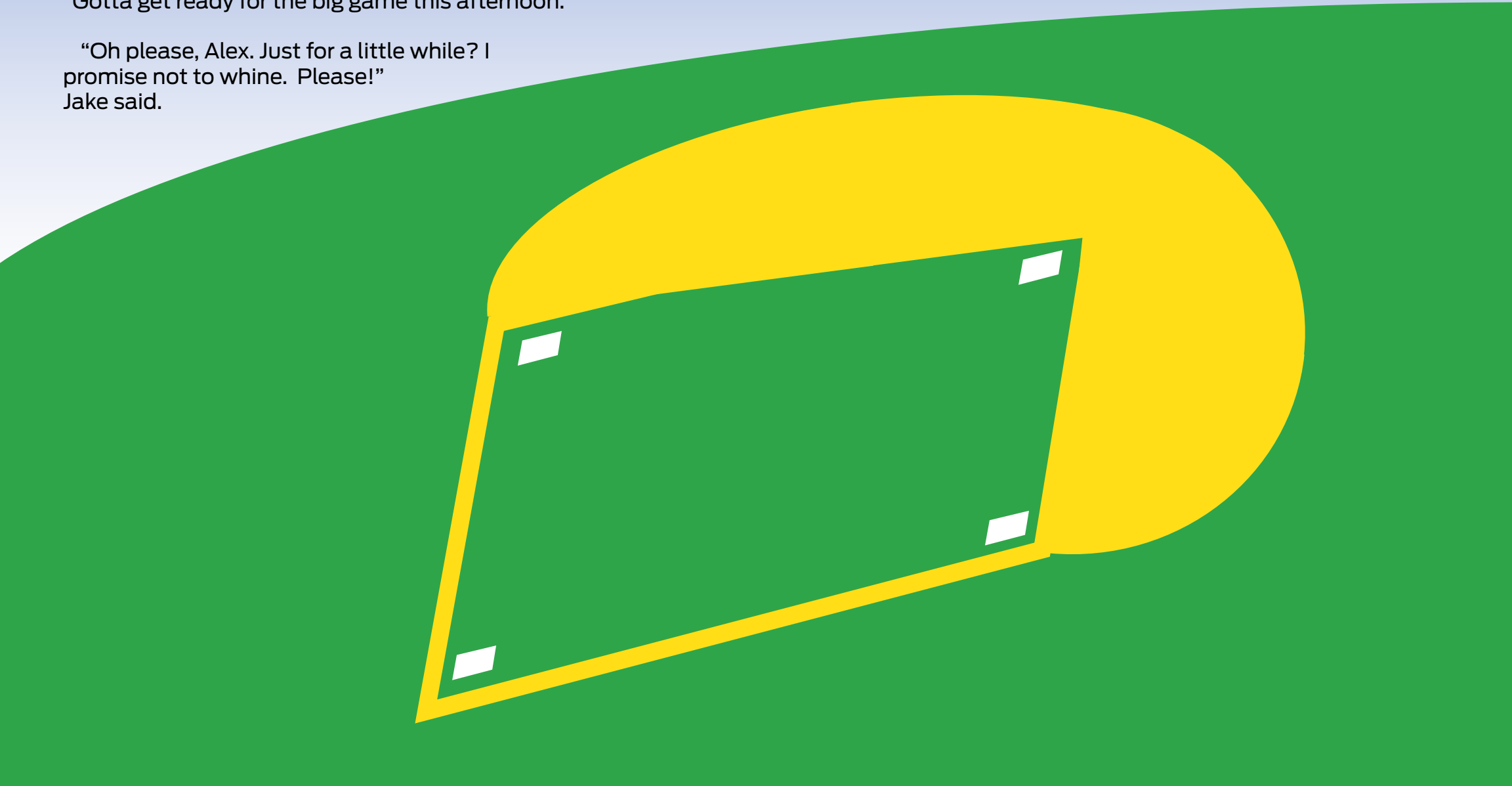
“It’s a **glorious** day,” Jake said. “What can we play?”

“Sorry Bud,” Alex said. Alex always called Jake “Bud”.
“Gotta get ready for the big game this afternoon.”

“Oh please, Alex. Just for a little while? I promise not to whine. Please!”
Jake said.

“I’ve got the perfect thing for you to do. Why don’t you go fly a kite?” Alex said trying to get rid of Jake and his questions.

Jake was disappointed. He really wanted someone to play with on this glorious day. “Go fly a kite,” Alex had said. Jake didn’t understand what was so perfect about that but Alex always had the right answer. Jake decided he would give it a try. Maybe he could figure out what Jake meant.



Quickly, Jake ran to his room and began to dig. He dug under his bed. He dug behind his bookshelf. He dug on top of his desk. He dug to the very darkest corner of his closet and there it was...his purple dragon kite!

Jake ran out of the front door headed straight for the vacant lot at the end of the block. Jake's mom heard the door slam shut and hurried to see what was happening.

"Jake, where are you going?" she said.

"I'll be back in a minute, Mom. I have to do something for Alex."

Jake's mom shook her head as she went back into the house to finish the laundry.

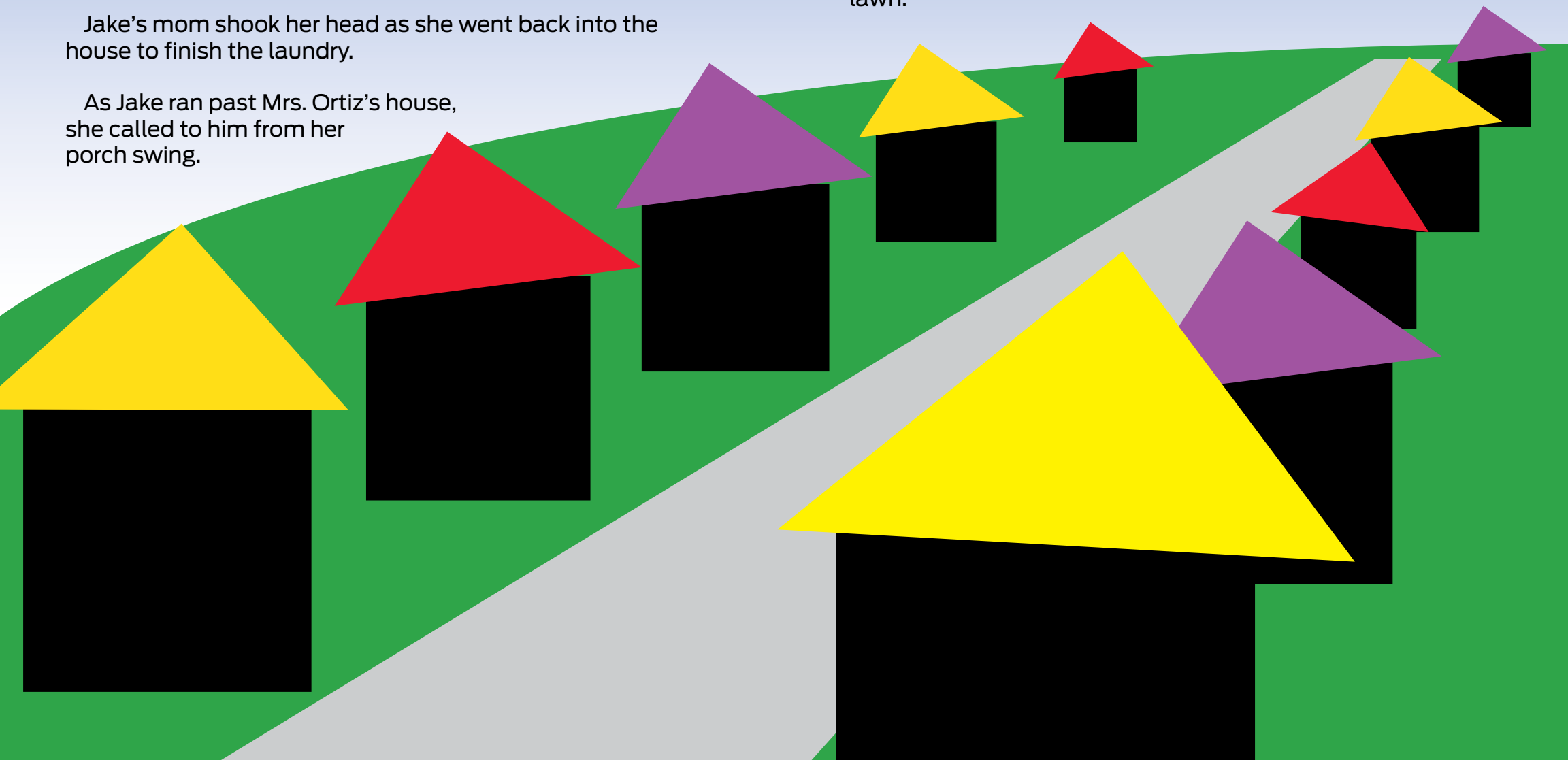
As Jake ran past Mrs. Ortiz's house, she called to him from her porch swing.

"Where are you going in such a hurry, Jake?" Mrs. Ortiz lived alone and she made the best chocolate chip cookies ever.

"My big brother said the perfect thing for me to do is to go fly a kite. Do you know what he meant?"

"Surely he meant that the warm sunshine is just perfect for flying a kite. I'll bring some chocolate chip cookies and come along," Mrs. Ortiz said.

Jake and Mrs. Ortiz walked along the sidewalk and passed by the Baker's house. Mr. Baker had just finished mowing his lawn.



“Say, Jake, what have you got there?” Mr. Baker said.

“Oh, it’s my purple dragon kite. My big brother said the perfect thing for me to do is go fly a kite. I’m trying to find out what he meant.”

“That’s no secret,” said Mr. Baker. “Your brother probably meant there is a perfect breeze for taking a kite up into the clouds. You know, a kite can be hard to handle. Would you like me to come along?”

“Thanks, Mr. Baker. That would be great. I’ve never flown a kite all by myself.” Jake said.

Jake, Mrs. Ortiz and Mr. Baker walked down the street and talked about how high the kite would fly. As they walked past the next house, Cathy and Chloe Cox were jumping rope in their driveway. Cathy and Chloe were twins and always did everything together.

“Where you going, Jake?” Cathy called.

“Can we come too?” Chloe called.

“My big brother told me to go fly a kite. We’re on our way to the vacant lot to find out what he meant. You can come along, if you want,” Jake said.

“All right!” shouted Cathy and Chloe together.

“I think your big brother knew that flying a kite would be the perfect way for all our neighbors to get together,” Chloe said.

So Jake, Mrs. Ortiz, Mr. Baker, Cathy and Chloe walked down the street. Mr. and Mrs. Wong were gardening as they passed by.

“What’s going on, Jake?” Mr. Wong asked.

“My big brother said the perfect thing for me to do is to go fly a kite. We’re on our way to find out what he meant.”

Mr. Wong looked up at the beautiful blue sky and the white puffy clouds.

“I believe your brother thought that today was a perfect day to sit and watch a purple dragon kite flying high in the clouds. We sure could use a break from gardening. May we come along?”

“Sure, Mr. Wong,” Jake said.

“I’ll get the lawn chairs,” Mrs. Wong said.

Soon Jake and all his neighbors reached the vacant lot. Mr. and Mrs. Wong got settled in their lawn chairs. Mr. Baker helped Jake with the kite string. Cathy and Chloe were helping Mrs. Ortiz serve chocolate chip cookies to everyone.

Back at Jake's house, Jake's mother was leaving for the mall. She was looking for Jake. She looked in Jake's bedroom. She looked in the kitchen. She looked in the basement. Finally, she looked in the garage and found Jake's dad but no Jake.

"Have you seen Jake?" she asked. "I'm on my way to the mall and thought he might like to go."

"Yes, he was here earlier. I think he's in the backyard with Alex."

Jake's mom and dad found Alex in the backyard still practicing baseball but no Jake.

"Have you seen Jake?" his mother asked Alex.

"He was here a while ago but I don't know where he went."

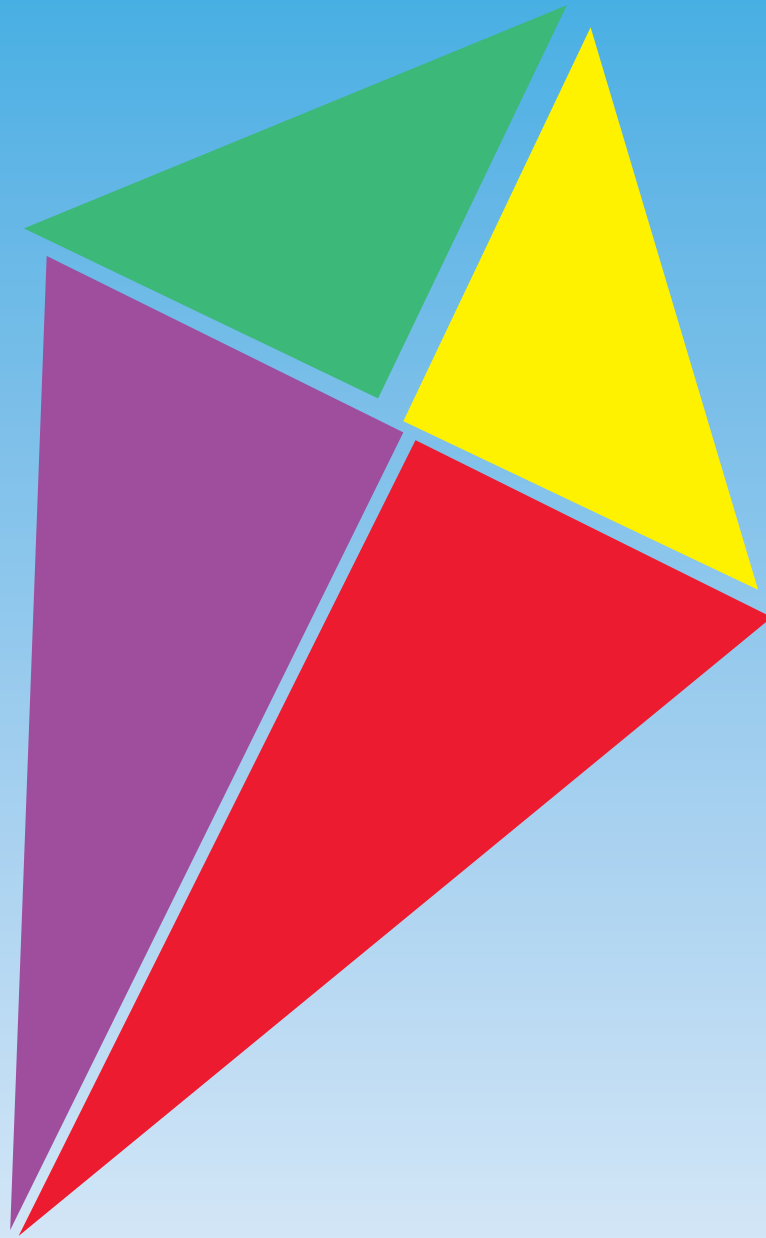
"I'm worried about Jake," his mother said. "He told me earlier that he was doing something for Alex and would be right back. I've looked everywhere and I can't find him. He's not in the house. He's not in the garage. He's not out here with you."

"Jake! Jake! Jake!" called his parents and Alex as they began to search for Jake.

Suddenly, Alex looked up and saw the purple dragon kite flying high in the sky.

"I think I know where Jake might be. Follow me," Alex said.





Jake's family ran to the end of the block and found Jake busy flying his kite with all of his neighbors. Jake saw them and shouted, "Hi Mom! Hi Dad! Guess what, Alex? You were right! It is a perfectly **glorious** day to fly a kite."

"I can see that," said Alex. "I think I'll stay for a while, Bud. It looks like fun."

"It sure does," said Jake's mom and dad together as Cathy and Chloe served them cookies. "It is a perfectly **glorious** day to fly a kite."