Directions

Read this story. Then answer questions 19 through 24.

The Shark Kite

by Jane McAdams

1 "Oh, no!" said Stella, as the string of her shark kite tangled with the string of a biplane kite. The biplane dove toward the ground, the grinning shark spiraling behind it. "I feel like a spider in a web," she said, frowning as the tangled strings drifted down around her.

2 "I think that shark kite has too many strings," said the owner of the biplane kite, as he untangled his string from Stella's.

3 "My kite doesn't have too many strings," said Stella. "It's a grownup's kite. That's why it's complicated to fly."

4 "You should really try flying a paper plate," said Stella's friend Robby. Stella looked at Robby's kite. He had decorated a plate with stickers and a long yellow streamer and attached a string to it. Right now, his paper plate was flying so high that Stella could hardly see it.

5 "Your shark kite hasn't flown as high as my paper plate all day," said Robby, wiping his nose on his sleeve.

6 "Paper plates are for babies," said Stella. She felt like being mean, because her shark kite could hardly fly.

7 Just then Stella noticed a fluffy pink jellyfish kite sailing overhead, bobbing a little as it passed Robby's paper plate. Stella wished she could trade her shark for that jellyfish.

8 Stella wound the string of her fallen kite around its spool. Then, holding the string near the shark's belly, she started running. If she could catch a tiny breeze, her kite would fly.

9 "Stella, it's almost time to go!" called Stella's mother from a park bench in the shade. "We have to pick up your sister at the pool."

10 "Come on, shark, fly!" Stella said as she tossed the kite into a little puff of wind. For a moment, the shark looked as if it was swimming up into the sky. Then, it dove back toward the grass, teeth and all.

11 "Maybe it's too heavy," said Robby. He tugged lightly on the string of his paper plate, which dipped gently in the air.

12 "It's not heavier than that one," said Stella. She pointed at an enormous monster truck kite gliding past Robby's paper plate. The monster truck had big black wings. "I bet that kite weighs more than you do, Robby," said Stella.

13 Robby squinted at the sky. "No, it doesn't. I weigh forty pounds," he said.

14 "Stella, your sister is waiting," her mother called again.

15 "One more try, Mom," yelled Stella, running with the shark. This time, the shark kept its nose pointed downward the whole time, refusing to fly at all. Stella tripped over the shark's fin and fell into the dirt.

16 "Come on, brush yourself off, Stella," said her mother. "We're leaving."

17 "You can take my paper plate if you want," said Robby. "At least you'll get to fly something today." He looked at Stella hopefully.

18 Stella sighed. Robby's paper plate was nothing like the fancy shark she had imagined flying. But it did fly pretty high.

19 "O.K.," Stella agreed with a shrug. She took Robby's string and felt the strong, steady pull of the kite dancing at its end. She gave a slight tug. The paper plate swirled and floated even higher on the breeze. Stella smiled at Robby. "You're right," she said. "Paper plates do make good kites."

20 "You can keep it," said Robby. "I'll make another one next weekend."

21 "Want to borrow the shark, then?" asked Stella, handing the tangle of strings and the grinning shark to Robby. "Maybe you can make it fly."

22 "Hey, thanks," he said. "See you next weekend, Stella."

23 Stella and her mother walked toward the car. Stella held the string of her new kite, and the paper plate sailed along above them, its yellow streamer wriggling through the air.

24 "What happened to your shark kite?" asked Stella's mother.

25 "Robby and I swapped for a while," Stella replied.

26 As Stella rode in the car, she held on to the paper plate's string and watched it bob next to her window. "I bet that big old shark couldn't do this!" she laughed.

19 In paragraph 1, what does Stella mean when she says, "I feel like a spider in a web"?

A Stella is untangling the strings.

B Stella is confused by the strings.

C Stella is surrounded by the tangled strings.

D Stella is winding the strings around her spool.

20 In paragraphs 6 through 8, what do you know as the reader that Robby does not know?

A Stella wishes she could trade her kite for a jellyfish kite.

B Stella has to run to make her kite fly.

C Paper plate kites are easier to fly than other kites.

D Paper plate kites are easier to make than shark kites.

21 Read this sentence from paragraph 8.

If she could catch a tiny breeze, her kite would fly.

What does "catch" mean as it is used in the sentence?

A stop and hold a moving object

B bring in while hunting or fishing

C get an illness

D find and use

22 What happens after Stella trips over the shark's fin and falls into the dirt?

A Stella tries to fly her kite again.

B Stella takes Robby's paper plate home with her.

C Stella's kite points downward and refuses to fly.

D Stella points at a kite shaped like a monster truck.

23 What do the details in paragraph 17 show about Robby?

A He is at the park most weekends.

B He is a thoughtful friend to Stella.

C He is better at flying kites than Stella.

D He is creative with paper plates.

24 What happens because Stella cannot fly her shark kite?

A Stella tries to fix her kite.

B Stella notices a pink jellyfish kite.

C Stella gets into the car with her mother.

D Stella tries the paper plate kite.

STOP