

# The Kite

Once upon a time there was a boy named Darin. The only toy that Darin had was a beautiful kite he had made by himself.

One day Darin went to the park to play. For lunch he packed 24 apple slices and a sandwich. As he was eating, a dozen little caterpillars crawled up to him.

“We're so hungry,” said the caterpillars, speaking in one voice. “Won't you share some of your delicious apple slices with us?”

Darin said, “I won't be able to enjoy my apple slices if I know you're hungry. You can have some of mine.” He gave each caterpillar a slice of apple, and the caterpillars gobbled them up. Then they said, speaking again in one voice, “Thank you for sharing your food with us. If you ever need our help, just call for the caterpillars.” And with that, they crawled away.

At that moment, a group of 4 robins flew down. “We're so hungry,” they said. Will you share your apple slices with us?”

Darin said, “I won't be able to enjoy my apple slices if I know you're hungry. You can have some of mine.” And he gave two apple slices to each robin, who gobbled them up. “Thank you for sharing your food with us,” they sang. “If you ever need our help, just call for the robins.” And with that, they flew away.

Darin ate his few remaining apple slices, and then decided he wanted to fly his kite. The wind was strong, and he let the string out and watch the kite dance in the wind. He watched it happily until suddenly a gust of wind pushed the kite right into the oak tree, where it stuck. He tried to get it down, but it was too high, and there was nothing he could do.

Suddenly, he thought of the caterpillars. “Little caterpillars,” he cried out, “please help me get my kite back!” And no sooner were the words out of his mouth that a crowd of caterpillars crawled out from a hole in the tree and began to eat the leaves where the kite was stuck. Darin saw that each of the original dozen caterpillars had brought 6 friends with it. Within moments the kite was loose, and dropped down. But instead of falling to the ground, it caught in the lower branches of the tree. The string was within Darin's grasp, but he was afraid to pull, or he might break the kite. “Suddenly, he thought of the robins. “Robins!” he cried, “please help me get my kite back.” No sooner than he said those words but robins flew down from the surrounding trees, and he saw that each of the birds he had fed brought 18 of its friends with it. “Hold tight to the string,” they called out.

When Darin had the string tightly in his grasp, the robins flew to the kite and pulled it up out of the branches. And to Darin's surprise and delight, he was lifted right off the ground with it. He was flying!

And he flew around the park until it was time to go home.

# The Kite: Questions

Answer the questions below. Defend your answers. Draw pictures as necessary.

1. How many apple slices did Darin give away?

2. How many apple slices did Darin keep for himself?

3. How many caterpillars helped to save the kite?

4. How many robins helped to save the kite?