The Kite
from Days with Frog and Toad
by Arnold Lobel
Frog and Toad went out to fly a kite. They went to a large meadow where the wind was strong. “Our kite will fly up and up,” said Frog. “It will fly all the way up to the top of the sky.”

“Toad,” said Frog, “I will hold the ball of string. You hold the kite and run.”
Toad ran across the meadow. He ran as fast as his short legs could carry him. The kite went up in the air. It fell to the ground with a bump. Toad heard laughter. Three robins were sitting in a bush. “That kite will not fly,” said the robins. “You may as well give up.”
Toad ran back to Frog.
“Frog,” said Toad,
“this kite will not fly.
I give up.”
“We must make a second try,” said Frog.
“Wave the kite over your head. Perhaps that will make it fly.”

Toad ran back across the meadow. He waved the kite over his head.
The kite went up in the air and then fell down with a thud. “What a joke!” said the robins. “That kite will never get off the ground.”
Toad ran back to Frog.
“This kite is a joke,” he said.
“It will never get off the ground.”
“We have to make a third try,” said Frog.
“Wave the kite over your head and jump up and down. Perhaps that will make it fly.”
Toad ran across the meadow again. He waved the kite over his head. He jumped up and down. The kite went up in the air and crashed down into the grass.
“That kite is junk,” said the robins.
“Throw it away and go home.”
Toad ran back to Frog. “This kite is junk,” he said. “I think we should throw it away and go home.”

“Toad,” said Frog, “we need one more try. Wave the kite over your head. Jump up and down and shout UP KITE UP.”

Toad ran across the meadow. He waved the kite over his head. He jumped up and down. He shouted, “UP KITE UP!”

The kite flew into the air. It climbed higher and higher.
“We did it!” cried Toad.
“Yes,” said Frog.
“If a running try did not work, and a running and waving try did not work, and a running, waving, and jumping try did not work, I knew that a running, waving, jumping, and shouting try just had to work.”
The robins flew out of the bush. But they could not fly as high as the kite. Frog and Toad sat and watched their kite. It seemed to be flying way up at the top of the sky.
Arnold Lobel’s Story
Arnold Lobel was often sick and missed many days of school when he was young. When he went back to school, he made friends by telling stories and drawing pictures. Many years later, Lobel’s children liked to catch frogs and toads. Arnold Lobel loved the animals and wrote about them in his Frog and Toad stories.
Arnold Lobel wrote about two good friends. Write about your friend. Tell how you help each other.
Arnold Lobel was often sick and missed many days of school when he was young. When he went back to school, he made friends by telling stories and drawing pictures. Many years later, Lobel’s children liked to catch frogs and toads. Arnold Lobel loved the animals and wrote about them in his Frog and Toad stories.

Other books by Arnold Lobel

Write About It
Arnold Lobel wrote about two good friends. Write about your friend. Tell how you help each other.

Find out more about Arnold Lobel at www.macmillanmh.com
Think and Compare

1. What problem do Frog and Toad have? How do they solve it?
2. How do you feel when you try to do something hard? How does Toad feel?
3. How do Frog and Toad act like friends?
4. What do Little Cub in “See the Ball Fly!” and Frog and Toad have in common?

Comprehension Check

But
So
Wanted
Somebody