

# Flying High

by Adrienne Jansen

## Summary

A young basketball player has to give up his dream of playing professional basketball when he finds out that he has diabetes. His uncle encourages him to “fly high” by making kites instead.

## Features of the Text

- Fictional first-person recount
- Main events occur over a long period of time
- Sequence of events
- Descriptive language
- Factual information about diabetes

## Purpose

*Flying High* can be used for the following purposes:

- introducing the ideas and vocabulary in the associated nonfiction title;
- exploring the factual information in a fiction text;
- making personal connections with the text;
- making predictions;
- sequencing the main events.

## Following Up

The students can:

- use the copy master on page 37 to explore the narrator’s feelings and their own experiences
- design a poster that shows the symptoms of diabetes
- design a new logo for “Flying Man” kites.

## Guided Reading Summary

### Introducing the text

Ask the students to look at the title and illustration on the cover of the book.

- *What do you think “flying high” means?*
- *How might this relate to this story?*

Discuss the purpose of a recount and the students’ experiences of reading them. Recounts could include biographies, diaries, journals, interviews, letters, and postcards.

### Reading and discussing the text

Ask the students to read to the end of page 5.

- *Who is telling the story? How do you know?*
- *Why do you think the narrator is losing weight?*

The students can now read to the end of page 9, looking for evidence in the text that the narrator is sick.

- *How do you know the narrator is sick?*
- *How do you know that his illness is serious?*

Ask the students to find evidence in the text that supports their opinion.

The students can now read the rest of the story.

- *What did you learn about diabetes and how it is treated?*
- *How have things changed since the narrator got diabetes? Why?*