

Have students read the passage three times, each with a different purpose. After each read, ask the questions below and discuss the answers in small groups or as a class.

## Read 1 What Does the Text Say?

1. What is this passage mainly about?
2. Why had the paraglider pilot avoided flying in the middle of a summer day during previous flights?

## Read 2 How Does the Text Say What It Says?

3. Who is narrating the text? How does his narration add to the passage?
4. What is the tone of the passage? How does the narrator create this tone?
5. What problem does the narrator face? How is the problem solved?
6. How does the final quote in the passage apply to the narrator's experience?

## Read 3 What Is the Meaning and Value of the Text?

7. How do the narrator's thoughts, feelings, and actions change throughout the passage? Why?
8. What might the paraglider pilot do differently next time he flies?



## Extension Activity

What did the narrator learn from this experience?

Write a letter from the narrator to a new paraglider pilot explaining a few things he learned from this paragliding experience.

## Optional Question Bank

### Read 1

1. Where do the events in the passage take place?
2. How does the narrator's experience compare to kayaking?
3. How does the narrator feel when he finally lands?

### Read 2

4. What words does the narrator use to describe his experience flying at Parker Mountain?
5. What is a thermal? Why is this important in the context of the passage?

### Read 3

6. How did training help the narrator?
7. Do you think the risks of paragliding outweigh the rewards? Why or why not?
8. Have you had a nerve-wracking experience? How did you handle the experience, and what did you learn from it?

## Read 1 What Does the Text Say?

1. *This passage is about a paraglider pilot's frightening experience flying at Parker Mountain in the middle of a summer day.*
2. *Flying in the middle of a summer day can be dangerous due to turbulence and strong thermals, so the paraglider pilot had only flown mornings or evenings during previous flights.*

## Read 2 How Does the Text Say What It Says?

3. *A new paragliding pilot is narrating the text. His narration gives a firsthand account of his experience flying at Parker Mountain, so readers have a better understanding of what he was thinking, feeling, and doing throughout his flight.*
4. *The tone of the passage is serious and tense. The narrator builds tension by describing the dangerous, unpredictable conditions that he experiences while paragliding, using descriptive language such as "blasted by strong winds," "rocked and rolled in all directions," and "fought to keep my wing above me."*
5. *The narrator gets blasted by strong winds as he is paragliding and struggles to maintain control because of the force of the thermals. The narrator solves the problem by remaining calm and using his training to help him land safely.*
6. *The quote describes the narrator's feelings as he struggles through his difficult paragliding experience. The narrator explains how he wanted to land as soon as he could.*

## Read 3 What Is the Meaning and Value of the Text?

7. *When he first takes off, the narrator describes the magical feeling of flight. As he moves through the strong thermals, the narrator grows concerned, but is able to remain calm. When he lands, the narrator's body shakes as he tries to calm down. The narrator's thoughts, feelings, and actions change because of the challenges he faces while paragliding.*
8. *Answers will vary but may indicate that the paraglider pilot may choose to fly mornings or evenings when turbulence and thermals are not as strong.*



## Extension Activity

*Student responses will vary based on students' discussion and research.*

## Optional Question Bank

### Read 1

1. *The events take place at Parker Mountain in Washington state.*
2. *The narrator rocks and rolls through an invisible "river of air" as he is paragliding, in the same way a kayaker passes through whitewater rapids.*
3. *The narrator is happy to be back on the ground, but his hands are shaking, and it takes him several minutes to calm down.*

### Read 2

4. *The narrator uses words such as dangerous, magical, and awful to describe this experience.*
5. *A thermal is a rising column of warm air that glider aircrafts use to fly higher. The narrator describes how he navigates through strong thermals during his paragliding experience.*

### Read 3

6. *As the narrator trained, he learned and practiced techniques that would help him move through the strong winds as he was paragliding. He knew how to move his body and use his paragliding equipment.*
7. *Answers will vary.*
8. *Answers will vary.*