

Name _____ Date: _____

Fly like a Bird

Lynn Jackson had always wanted to fly like a bird. Now, she does! She has a special kind of kite that lifts her high up in the air. It is called a hang glider. Lynn's glider is quite large. The frame is made of light metal. It is covered with a nylon said. Below the sail hangs a bar. Lynn rides under the sail in a seat. She uses the bar to steer.

Lynn belongs to a hang glider club. All those in the club fly together. The club teaches people like Lynn how to fly hand gliders. They help each other take off and land. This is important. It is not very safe to fly a hang glider alone.

One warm day in June, Lynn folded up her glider. She tied it to the top of her car and she drove to a hill by the sea. The other people in her club were already there. They helped Lynn get her glider ready to fly. Every wire was checked. Lynn checked the wind, too. It had to be blowing up the hill. Good news! The wind was fine. It was a great day for flying.

Lynn put on her helmet. She also wore a jumpsuit and boots. The clothes helped to protect her from bumps and scrapes. Lynn carried her glider to the top of the hill. She fastened herself into the seat. Everything was almost ready.

Lynn pointed her glider into the wind. She held the bar tightly. Then, she ran quickly down the hill. The wind filled the sail. She pushed the bar forward. The kite raised her off the ground. Lynn was off! She was really flying now.

When she wanted to turn right, she swung her body to the right. When she wanted to turn left, she swung her body to the left. Lynn could go where she wanted to go. When there was a strong wind, she could fly her glider for hours. The breeze would not take her far. The ground grew closer. It was time to land. Lynn pushed the bar forward again. The kite slowed down. Her feet reached forward. With a soft bump, they touched the ground.

It was a smooth landing. Once you've been up in the air, it's hard to come back down to earth.