

Balloons over Broadway

A RIF GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY COORDINATORS

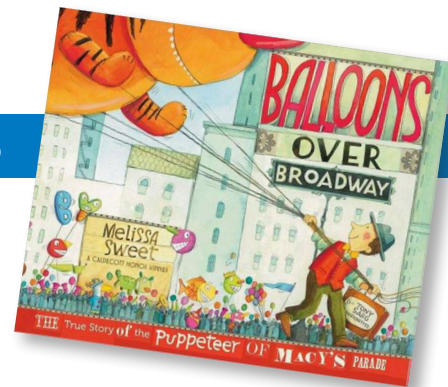
Themes: Celebrations, Physics, Puppetry

Grade Level: 3rd to 5th grade

Book Brief: This book tells the story of Tony Sarg, the puppeteer behind the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade.

**Author and
Illustrator:**

Melissa Sweet



TIME TO READ!

Before reading: Has anyone in the group ever seen or been to the Macy's Parade? What about another parade? What was the parade like? Who was in the parade? What was it for? What's the point of a parade?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

TECHNOLOGY LINK (ALL AGES)

Watch this clip of a marionette puppet show:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=KhYdvvnZ9Ko.

Then watch this clip of the 1939 Macy's Parade:

www.vimeo.com/24693682. How are the puppets and the balloons alike?

RUBE GOLDBERG CONTEST (AGES 8-12)

Materials: whatever you have around the center

A Rube Goldberg machine is a complicated machine that performs a very simple task. Tony's pulley system for feeding the chickens is like a very simple Rube Goldberg machine. Divide the children into teams and have them compete to make some more complicated ones! Pick an easy task (like knocking a cup over), then have children set up a complex chain reaction of as many steps as possible to complete it. Use only what you find around the center. First team to complete the task with their machine wins! (Watch www.youtube.com/watch?v=EjOFeC-Dm7U to see a sample machine.)

BALLOONS ON PARADE (AGES 6-12)

Materials: balloons, markers, tape, rods (unsharpened pencils or straws)

Hold a balloon parade at your center! Give children a number of balloons in different colors and sizes to blow up. (Younger children may need help inflating balloons.) Have the children tape the balloons together to make animals, like dragons or tigers. Let them decorate with markers. Tape rods to the balloon animals at each end so children can carry them. When every child has a balloon, put on some music and hold your own parade!



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

OTHER BOOKS BY THIS AUTHOR

Carmine: A Little More Red (2008), *Fiddle-I-Fee* (2002), *Tupelo Rides the Rails* (2008).

TECHNOLOGY LINK FOR KIDS

www.rif.org/kids

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