

Balloons over Broadway

A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

Themes: Celebrations, Physics, Puppetry

Grade Level: 3rd to 5th grade

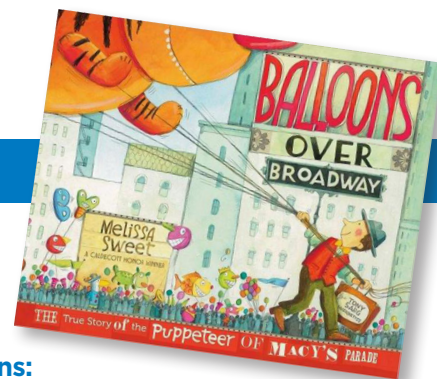
Book Brief: This book tells the story of Tony Sarg, the puppeteer behind the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade.

Author and Illustrator:

Melissa Sweet

Content Connections:

Math, Science, Social Studies, Art



TIME TO READ!



BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

The Cover: See if the students can predict what the book is about based on the title and cover illustrations. Where is Broadway? What is the

Macy's Parade? Have any students ever been to the parade or watched it on television?

The Pictures: Briefly flip through a few pages. Based on the pictures, what does the main character do? Do the students know what a *puppeteer* is?

Prior Knowledge: Ask students what they know about puppets. Can they give any examples of puppets? Explain that puppetry is actually an ancient art form practiced around the world. A *marionette* is a special kind of puppet controlled from above by strings. To familiarize students with the Macy's Parade, have them watch this clip of the 1939 parade: www.youtube.com/watch?v=QoeZaflgzFO (or www.vimeo.com/24693682).

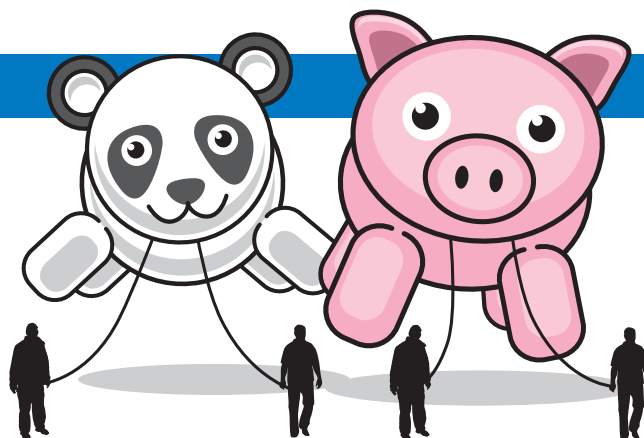
Vocabulary: marionette, gear, pulley, immigrant, helium

Purpose for Reading: "As we read, think about the different problems Tony faces and how he solves each one."

WHILE WE READ

MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ Why does Tony's father stop making him do chores?
- ◆ Why does Macy's begin putting on a parade?
- ◆ What does the first parade look like?
- ◆ Why does Macy's want to replace the animals?
- ◆ What makes the balloons float?



LET'S THINK ABOUT

Our Purpose: "How does Tony solve each of the problems he faces? How does he use his different interests, skills, and knowledge to come up with creative solutions?"

Extending Our Thinking: Watch this clip of the 2011 parade: www.youtube.com/watch?v=We3svBFgGjQ (or this 2010 clip: www.vimeo.com/17371275). How is today's parade different from the parade in 1939? How is it the same? Why do you think it's changed? How will the parade look in 70 more years?

NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.
- ◆ Vocabulary Scaffolding Sheet also available.



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