

# Balloons over Broadway

## A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

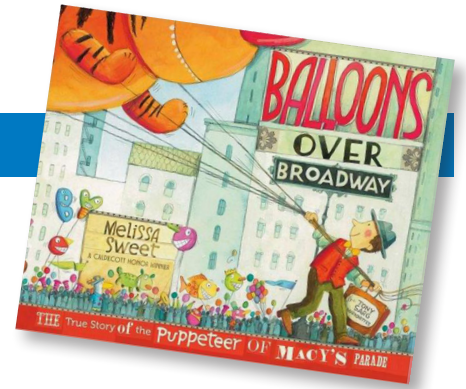
**Themes:** Celebrations, Physics, Puppetry

**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, build background knowledge:** Has your child ever seen or been to the Macy's Parade? What

about another parade? What was it like?

**While reading, make connections:** How does Tony use the things he's interested in and the things he's good at to solve problems with the parade?

**After reading, ask questions:**

- ◆ Why does Tony love to make things move?
- ◆ How does the Macy's Parade start?
- ◆ Why does Tony invent the balloons?
- ◆ What other celebrations or holidays have parades?

## RELATED ACTIVITIES

### MACY'S DAY PARADE FLOAT

Ingredients: lemon sherbet and fizzy lemonade

Everyone loves a good float! Fill a glass halfway with fizzy lemonade and top with a scoop of low-calorie lemon sherbet or vanilla frozen yogurt. Enjoy! (You can also use more traditional flavors like vanilla ice cream and soda, though that version is less healthful.)

### RUBE GOLDBERG

Materials: whatever you have around the house

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. Help your child make a more complex one! Pick an easy task (knocking a cup over, for example), and then help your child set up a complex chain reaction of as many steps as possible to complete it. Use only what you find around the house.

(Watch [www.youtube.com/watch?v=EjOFeC-Dm7U](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EjOFeC-Dm7U) to see a sample machine.)

### BALLOON ANIMALS

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

Let your child create a parade balloon! Blow up a number of balloons in different colors and sizes. Tape them together to make an animal, like a dragon or a tiger. Decorate with markers. Tape rods to the balloon animal at each end so you can carry it. Make more than one and have your own parade!

### TECHNOLOGY LINK

Watch this clip of a marionette puppet show: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=KhYdvvnZ9Ko](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KhYdvvnZ9Ko). Then watch this clip of the 1939 Macy's Parade: [www.vimeo.com/24693682](http://www.vimeo.com/24693682). How are the puppets and the balloons alike?

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### OTHER BOOKS BY THIS AUTHOR

*Carmine: A Little More Red* (2008),

*Fiddle-I-Fee* (2002),

*Tupelo Rides the Rails* (2008).



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