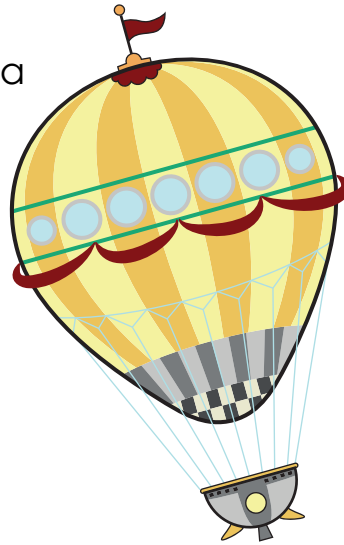
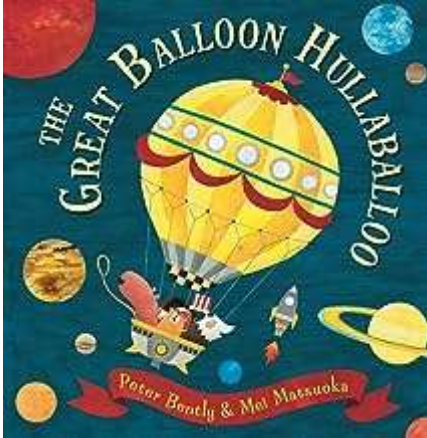


Read for Pleasure

The Great Balloon Hullabaloo

By Peter Bently & Mel Matsuoka



When Simon the Squirrel's mum sends him off to the shop, Simon decides to fly to the moon in Old Uncle Summerset's hot air balloon in search of cheese.

Shopping in outer space is very exciting but proves to be a bit of a distraction...

Title Talk

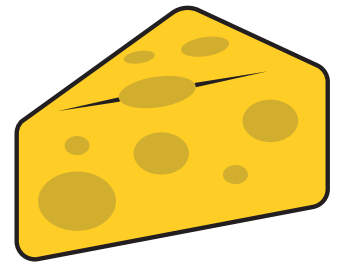
The title of this story is: The Great Balloon Hullabaloo.

- What kind of transport is mentioned in the title? Draw your answer.
- Where might this hot air balloon be travelling to?
- Who do you think might be travelling in the balloon to get there?
- Look at the word HULLABALOO. Say it out loud.
- What do you think this word means? Why do you think this?
- What might this word suggest this story will be about? Discuss.

Cover Chat

Now look at the cover of this picture book.

- What colour is the hot air balloon?



- Who is travelling in this hot air balloon?
- Where might they be travelling to?
- What can you see that suggests this?
- Do you think this will be an adventure full of excitement or one full of peril? Discuss why you think this might be,

Page 1-2

- What does Simon the Squirrel's mum ask Simon to do?
- What does she want him to buy? Make a list.
- What is the most important thing on this shopping list? Why is this?
- What do you notice about the word CHEESE?
- Why do you think it is written like this? Discuss.

Page 3

- Who accompanies Simon on his shopping trip?
- What does Simon see in the night sky?
- What does he tell Rodney Raccoon the moon is made from?
- What does Simon decide to do next? Why might this be funny? Discuss.

Page 4

- Are Simon and Rodney successful at reaching up to the moon?
- Where do they end up instead?
- Who is stood watching them when they KER-SPLASH in the lake?
- How big a splash was this? How can you tell?
- What is Bethany Bear doing while she stands watching? Act it out.
- What does she say to Simon and Rodney?
- What does Simon decide to do? Why might he decide this?
- What do you notice about the word FLY?
- Why do you think it is written in capital letters? Discuss.
- Think back to the title of this story. Where do you think Simon and his friends will go next? Why do you think this?

Page 5-6

- From whom do they borrow a hot air balloon?
- Look at how this part of the story is illustrated. Why do you think Simon, Rodney and Bethany are all smiling?
- What do you think will happen next in this story? Why do you think this?

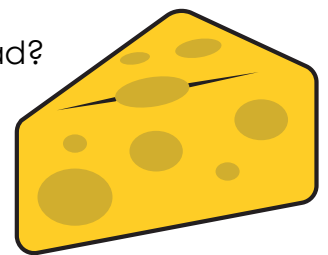
Page 7-8

- What blows the hot air balloon off course?
- How big a comet must this have been?
- Why might the word WHOOOOOSH! Indicate this?
- Where does Simon say they will have to go shopping instead?



Page 9-10

- What does Simon buy when he lands upon Mars?
- From whom does he buy these two items?
- Where does Bethany Bear decide to go?
- What does she say this funny old tree is covered in?
- Can you spot this tree on page 10? What do you notice about it?
- If this tree is not a tree, what might it be?
- How might such a monster feel, having a bear sat on its head?



Page 11-12

- How does the monster feel about being disturbed?
- Why do you think the monster's words are written in capital letters and is followed by an exclamation mark? Discuss.
- Where do Simon, Rodney and Bethany run to in order to escape the monster?
- Where do the three friends head to next?
- What does Simon try on when he is there? What do they look like?
- What do the aliens call Simon? Why do they call him this?
- Why is this funny?
- Look at page 12. Which pair of underpants would you want to buy?

Page 13-14

- What planet does Simon and his friends visit next?
- What do they find there that they might want to buy?
- How many loo rolls can you spot? Count them.



Page 15-16

- Where do Simon and his friends visit next before they head back?
- What do they decide to a) eat and b) drink while they are there?
- Do they get to eat fish and chips when they visit Neptune? Why not?

Page 17-18

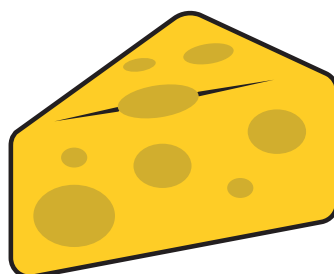
- What happens next to cause the three friends to yell YIKES!
- What happens to the balloon to make it go POP!
- Why do you think both these words are written in capital letters? Discuss.
- What does Rodney do to help save the day?
- Why is this so funny?

Page 19-20

- Who do they wake up when they land back home with a bump?
- Is he cross that his balloon has been punctured? Why not?
- What does Uncle Summerset tell Simon and his friends they'd better do next?
- What will happen to Simon if he doesn't do this?

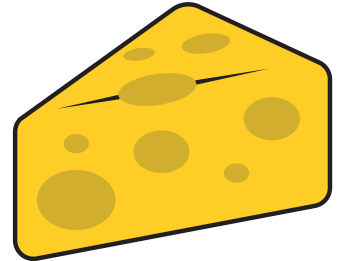
Page 21-22

- What has Simon's mum made for their tea?
- What does she need to finish these off?
- Look at page 22. What does Simon have in his shopping bag?
- What item is missing?



Page 23-24

- What has Uncle Summerset brought that saves the day?
- Look at how the single word CHEESE appears on page 23. Why do you think it has been written like this? Discuss.
- Apart from Simon and his mum, who else can you spot in this picture?
- Why might they be heading to Simon's house?



Page 25-26

- Who do we see sat around the table?
- Why do you think they are sat here? What are they about to do?
- Look at the table cloth. Describe it,
- Why do you think the illustrator chose to colour it dark blue and decorate it with stars? Discuss.

John Murray

John is a recognised specialist in developing children's reading and comprehension.

The creator of Reading Explorers, Top Class Comprehension and Reading Rocketeers, his seminars and CPD training focus on the teaching, learning and enjoyment of reading.

An independent Literacy consultant, he aims to support schools to improve their performance and secure best practice. Above all, it is to ignite within us a passion for books and a genuine love for the written word.

His enthusiasm and expertise can be seen throughout his work and his resources and training are used in classrooms worldwide.



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