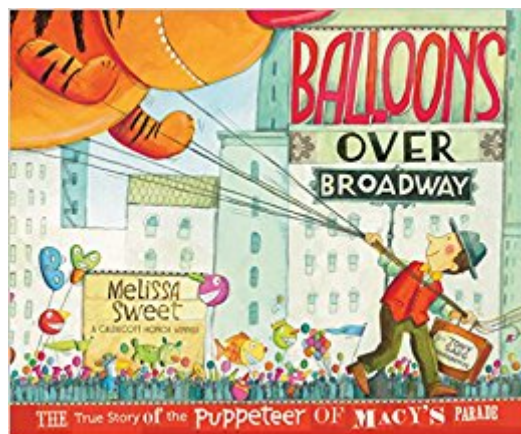


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# Balloons Over Broadway: The True Story Of The Puppeteer Of Macy's Parade (Bank Street College Of Education Flora Stieglitz Straus Award (Awards))



## Synopsis

Everyone's a New Yorker on Thanksgiving Day, when young and old rise early to see what giant new balloons will fill the skies for Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Who first invented these "upside-down puppets"? Meet Tony Sarg, puppeteer extraordinaire! In brilliant collage illustrations, Caldecott Honor artist Melissa Sweet tells the story of the puppeteer Tony Sarg, capturing his genius, his dedication, his zest for play, and his long-lasting gift to America—the inspired helium balloons that would become the trademark of Macy's Parade. Winner of the 2012 Robert F. Sibert Medal and the NCTE Orbis Pictus Award.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1000L (What's this?)

Series: Bank Street College of Education Flora Stieglitz Straus Award (Awards)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; 1st Edition edition (November 1, 2011)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 11 x 0.3 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 162 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #61,863 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #33 in [Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works > How Things Work](#) #39 in [Books > Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations > Thanksgiving](#) #44 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Art](#)

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

Sketches from the Author (Click on Images to Enlarge) Sometimes I have to play with pictures to find the words, so I'll make a collage to get warmed up. My writing looks like lists and doodles until the very end when I write it out on the computer. An early sketch in Tony Sarg's studio where they puppeteers are figuring out how to make the inflatable animals. This was the perfect place to have a spread that had to be turned, just like the "upside down marionettes" rising up. In a nonfiction book even the smallest detail needs to be accurate and I found this wonderful reference for a 1920's New York City bus stop sign that I used in *Balloons Over Broadway*.

"Sweet's brilliant combination of collage, design, illustration and text give *Balloons Over Broadway* an amazing richness. . . [no one] will ever see the parade in the same way." —Pete Hamill in *The New York Times Book Review*  
 "It's a history lesson, inventor's sketchbook, and inspirational story all rolled into one marvelous mixed-media masterpiece. Sweet's beautifully rendered true-life tale will have your child's imagination soaring to new heights!" —Education.com  
 "Sweet tells this slice of American history well, conveying both Sarg's enthusiasm and joy in his work as well as the drama and excitement of the parade. . . This one should float off the shelves." —School Library Journal, starred review  
 "Tony Sarg, the man who invented the giant balloons of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, has found a worthy biographer in Caldecott Honoree Sweet. The rush that comes from inspiration, the cliffhanger moments of creation, the sheer joy of building something and watching it delight the multitudes — Sweet captures it all in what is truly a story for all ages" —Publishers Weekly, starred review  
 "This clever marriage of information and illustration soars high." —Kirkus Reviews, starred review  
 "A joyous piece of nonfiction that informs and delights in equal parts." —Booklist, starred review  
 "Sweet's whimsical mixed-media collages, embellished with little dolls she made herself out of odds and ends, reinforce the theme that, for Sarg, work was play." —Horn Book, starred review  
 "Sweet's artwork is as joyous an affair as its subject." —Bulletin

While reading this delightful true story about Tony Sarg, the brilliant puppeteer behind the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, I keep hearing the strains of Victor Arden's and Ohman's old show tune ringing in my mind, "I love a parade, the tramping of feet, I love every beat I hear of a drum." Growing up and later when my own children were at home every Thanksgiving Day began by watching the Macy's Parade on live television. The bands and floats were nice, but the favorites by far were the giant balloons--well, except for Santa on his sleigh at the end. This book is sure to become a holiday favorite of teachers, librarians, parents, and children. Pair this book with Michael Ian Black's *A Pig Parade Is a Terrible Idea* for a story time session filled with facts and fun!

I bought *Balloons Over Broadway* to prelude our family trip to the 2011 Macy's Thanksgiving Parade. I wanted my kids to learn some history while I hyped them up for their first trip to The Big Apple. My boys ages 5 & 7 love the story. One of them brought it to school and the teacher shared it with his class before Thanksgiving break and they too liked *Balloons Over Broadway*. The pictures

are amazing! At one point the illustrator drew a balloon sideways to span vertically between the two pages making it so that you have to turn the book to see how giant the balloon is! While you won't see any of the modern day balloons in this book (Spiderman, Spongebob, ect.), the balloons that are featured in it are very nice and relevant to its time period, (mostly zoo animals, elves, stars, a policeman, & Santa Claus of course!) *Balloons Over Broadway* really brings Tony's story to life in a way that everybody will be able to appreciate. One of my kids favorite parts of the book is the replica of the original 1933 New York Times Advertisement of the parade which also spans across 2 pages making it almost the length of a real newspaper.

3rd to 5 grade *Balloons over Broadway* *Balloon over Broadway* tells the true story of Tony Sarg and the great impact his skills of manipulating marionettes created the beauty behind Macy's Thanksgiving parade. I believe this story falls under the category of informational books in that it tells the history of Tony Sarg with colorful covers and attention grabbing pictures to display his progress throughout his work. The artwork used through the book is amazing in the order it was used along with a small tribute with Tony's picture and a famous quote that Tony had always lived by. The arts played a huge role in *Balloons over Broadway* in that it introduced children to express themselves in their products which could range from painting all the way to building such huge balloons like Tony Sarg. The artwork used in the book looks that of a scrapbooking project and toys used from the early 1900's made of wood and cloth. We all know information books make the reader follow along easy and learn factual information about past history, *Balloons over Broadway* has done just that with chronological sequencing the evolution of Tony's puppets all the way to giant floating balloons tugged from below instead of above like his puppets.

I loved learning the history of how those big floating ballons we all seen on TV came about. I thought this book was so interesting and insightful that I've read it more than once just to make sure I caught everything on every page!!! I love how the illustrator used watercolors, collages and old papier-mache to really give us a feel of how he created the pieces. The illustrator used some of Tony's collections for the illustrations which I think is so great because we can see what was actually being thought of in Tony's mind. The story of this book is so passionate that you just can't put the book down. It's very thought out and detailed but easy enough to read so children can understand it. This book shows kids how something so small can turn into something so big and exciting! No matter what your hobby if you believe in it you can make people love it as much as you. I truly believe that children would love to listen to this book and *Ballons over Broadway* could be a

history lesson for me to use in my future teaching career!!

I had this book on my wish list for over a year and I'm so sorry now that I didn't buy it earlier. I'm constantly on the look out for books like this, ones that entertain, educate and inspire. All too often I am disappointed. Many children's book over promise and under deliver, but not this one. This book does an excellent job of introducing us to Tony Sarg, his time and his place as well as the creative process he went through to create the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. The author blends science and history with the suspense of 'what will he do next?' We'll be reading this one every Thanksgiving and saving it for any future grandkids. Plus, we'll be making our own rod puppet inspired by the book. Highly recommend.

This is the true story of how the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade started having giant floating characters in the sky. Tony Sarg is the creator of the balloons, but that is not where he started. He liked marionettes and wanted to make them when he grew up, but by the time he was ready to set out on his own, there was not a need for marionettes. He started making his own puppets and created a show with them. After he moved to New York, he was contacted by Macys. He then began to make his puppets for their store windows and parades. Every year he would try to make them better until finally he created the giant balloons that we see today. This book shows how perseverance will pay off. Even though Tony Sarg loved something of the past, he was still able to make it work for him. He was able to keep this treasure alive so that future generations can enjoy it. The story is very interesting and the illustrations grab your attention. This is an excellent picture book for older children.

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