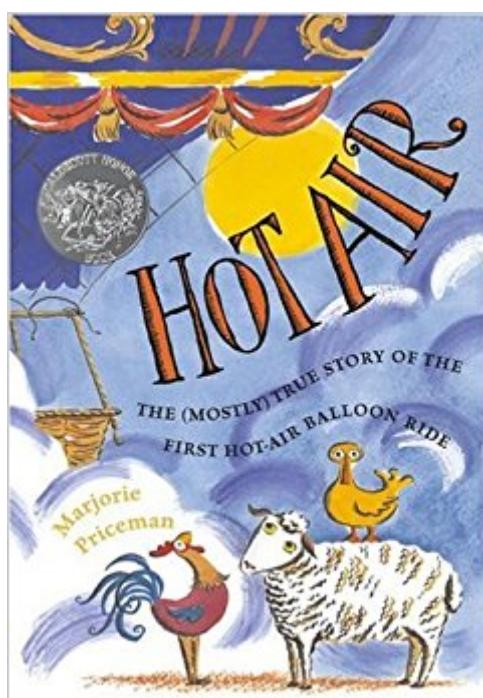


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# Hot Air: The (Mostly) True Story Of The First Hot-Air Balloon Ride (Caldecott Honor Book)



## Synopsis

The first "manned" hot-air balloon is about to take off! But what are those noises coming from the basket? Based on the (POSSIBLY) true report of a day in 1783, this is the story of (PERHAPS) the bravest collection of flyers the world has ever seen, as (SORT OF) told to Marjorie Priceman.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 690L (What's this?)

Series: Caldecott Honor Book

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Atheneum Books for Young Readers (July 1, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0689826427

ISBN-13: 978-0689826429

Product Dimensions: 8.2 x 0.3 x 12 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 24 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #77,807 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #41 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Europe #65 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Europe #173 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Farm Animals

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

PreSchool-Grade 3-Inventive illustrations depict the true story of the duck, sheep, and rooster that were "ballooning's first brave passengers" when the Montgolfiers tested their hot-air balloon in 1783. The first three spreads set the stage with lively conversational descriptions of the scene before the balloon takes off. A dramatic shift on the fourth page turn reveals the befuddled animal passengers as they ascend. Most of the remaining text is wordless, with occasional "quacks," "baas," and "cock-a-doodle-doos." With vibrant colors and varied use of panels, full-page illustrations, and spreads, Priceman paces the tale perfectly. An early four-panel scene showing the balloon at various heights while the animals try to figure out what's going on is priceless. So is the spread in which all three become attached to windblown laundry. The voyagers' progress is easy to follow, and events along the way are delightfully rendered. A time line on the endpapers fills in some of the

historical data, but this "(mostly) true" version (which the author "heard from a duck, who heard it from a sheep, who heard it from a rooster a long, long time ago") is just the way it should have happened. Sarah Wilson's *Three in a Balloon* (Scholastic, 1990; o.p.) covers the same event nicely, but this intriguing historical episode stands up to varied presentations, as Priceman's dynamic visual storytelling ably demonstrates.-Steven Engelfried, Beaverton City Library, OR  
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K-Gr. 3. Combining fact and fancy, -Priceman tells the story of the successful 1783 liftoff of a hot-air balloon, invented by the Montgolfier brothers, a flight made even more special because of its passengers: a duck, a sheep, and a rooster. Priceman sets the scene in several picture-text spreads, then segues into a nearly wordless visual narrative of the animals' comedic encounters with a clothesline, a boy with bow and arrow, a flock of birds, and more, capturing everything in buoyant artwork full of swirls and clever details (the balloon moves past animal-shaped clouds). The history, highlighted in an illustrated time line at the end of the book, takes a backseat to the humorous antics of the animals. As for the truth? Priceman claims she "heard this part of the story from a duck, who heard it from a sheep, who heard it from a rooster a long, long time ago." This differs considerably from Anik McGrory's *Mouton's Impossible Dream* (2000); both books employ aerial perspectives and focus on the animals, but Priceman's whimsical art is much livelier. Julie Cummins  
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Hot Air: The Mostly True Story of the First Hot-Air Balloon Ride is about . . . well, the title pretty much says it all, doesn't it? I wanted to love this book because it is about two things that are very important to my life: French History (I am an author of the subject) and aviation (I have been married to a pilot for almost 20 years). However, I just didn't LOVE this book. The writing was not clever or catchy, no fun repetitive phrases or colorful words that would engage young readers. Frankly, the story is bland, boring. I also found the different sizes of typeset annoying. The most important negative, however, is that the author contends Benjamin Franklin was at the hot air balloon ride over Versailles. This is not true. Benjamin Franklin witnessed early hydrogen balloon experiments. Now, for the positive. The illustrations in Hot Air are absolutely beautiful, full of bold, lively colors that reminds me of a bright sunny day in a garden in Paris. I love, love the colors this illustrator used. I also like the back leaf information about the history of ballooning. If you would like a children's book about the first manned hot air balloon flight, I highly recommend *Mouton's Impossible Dream* by Anik Scannell McGrory, which is a fun book to read...a sure hit with young readers.

AMAZING illustration. And great message for kids.

The book was exactly as described. I gave it as a gift and the person who received it really enjoyed the book. I would order from this company again.

It is a book about history through bright and colorful illustration. The story takes place in Versailles with names and description which certain children will not be able to follow. Marjorie Priceman's work have always been dramatic with flair and this is no exception. This illustrated story is an adventure as the three wildly matched creature comforts, a rooster, a duck and a sheep sail through the sky in a colorfully set ambient of historical monuments one after another. It is a visually exciting story for children who especially like history and science. Thumbs up!

Very enjouable! It's format is definitely different, but that seems to really have gotten my grandsons attention.

More of a picture book and less of a story, but cute.

This book is a clever mix of a picture book sandwiched by the (mostly) true story which can be read by an older child or an adult. The illustrations make it fun.

The students loved this book. They laughed so hard!

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(Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor Books) (Coretta Scott King Honor - Illustrator Honor Title) Air Plants: Everything that you need to know about Air Plants in a single book (air plants, air plant care, terrarium, air plant book) Curious George and the Hot Air Balloon How To Mount Aconcagua: A Mostly Serious Guide to Climbing the Tallest Mountain Outside the Himalayas (Mostly Serious Guides) A (mostly) Kids' Guide to Naples, Marco Island & The Everglades (Mostly Kids' Guides) Air Fryer Cookbook: 450 Amazingly Healthy & Delicious Air Fryer Recipes. (With Nutrition Facts of Each & Every Recipe) (Air fryer Cookbook, Air fryer Recipes, Air fryer Recipe Book) Air Fryer Cookbook: Healthy & Easy Air Fryer Recipes for Everyone (Air Fryer Recipe Book, Air Fryer Cooking, Best Air Fryer Recipes) Air Plants: A Beginners Guide To Understanding Air Plants, Growing Air Plants and Air Plant Care (Air Plants, Ornamental Plants, House Plants) Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom (Caldecott Honor Book) The Ugly Duckling (Caldecott Honor Book) Tops & Bottoms (Caldecott Honor Book) Duke Ellington: The Piano Prince and His Orchestra (Caldecott Honor Book) Bartholomew and the Oobleck: (Caldecott Honor Book) (Classic Seuss)

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