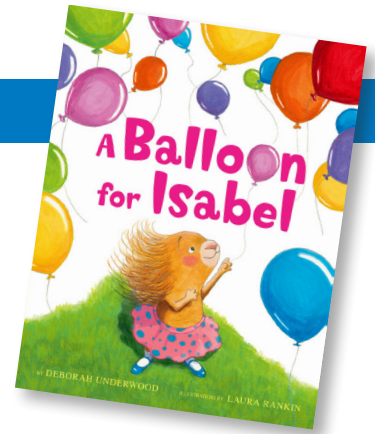# A Balloon for Isabel

Themes: Problem Solving, Scientific Method, Perseverance

Book Brief: A porcupine on a mission, Isabel wants a balloon at her graduation just like her classmates will have. She and her friend Walter experiment until they find a way to keep porcupines' balloons from popping!

Author:
Deborah Underwood

Illustrator:
Laura Rankin

TIME TO READ!

Before reading, make predictions: Isabel is a porcupine who wants a balloon. What do you think will be the problem in this story?

While reading, make connections: Think of a time you had a balloon. What was it for? Did it do the same things Isabel describes? Have you ever popped a balloon? Describe how you felt.

After reading, ask questions:

◆ Why was Ms. Quill afraid that the porcupines would pop the balloons?

◆ Can you think of another solution to Isabel's problem?
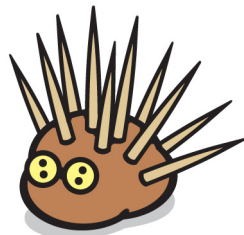
◆ How is Isabel like a scientist in this story?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

PRICKLY PORCUPINE

Materials: modeling clay, toothpicks, buttons

Mold the clay to form a porcupine body. Press 2 buttons into clay for eyes. Insert toothpicks all over the porcupine's back. Gently touch the porcupine's back. How could the porcupine use those quills to protect itself? If desired, test ways to make the "quills" safer to touch, as Isabel did. What were your solutions?

BAFFLING BALLOON!

Materials: balloon, plastic bottle, funnel, vinegar, baking soda

Pour 1/4 cup vinegar into bottle. Place funnel in balloon opening and add 2 tablespoons of baking soda. Attach opening of balloon onto bottle top. Lift to let baking soda fall into bottle. Watch as the 2 ingredients mix together; what happens to the balloon? How did that happen?

BALLOON BOP!

Materials: balloon, 2 or more dice

Blow up the balloon and tie the end. Roll dice and add for a total number. Can you "bop" the balloon into the air that many times without it hitting the ground?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

OTHER BOOKS BY THIS AUTHOR

The Loud Book (2011)
Part Time Princess (2013)
The Quiet Book (2010)