

Study Guide and Activities



This study guide includes information about our production along with creative activities to make connections in your classroom both before and after the show. We've aligned all activities to the North Carolina Foundations for Early Learning and Development. Look for the symbol below throughout the guide for curriculum connections.



Goal APL-2: Children actively seek to understand the world around them. Goal CD-5: Children demonstrate self-expression and creativity in a variety of forms and contexts, including play, visual arts, music, drama, and dance.

Touring production
Ages 3 and older



Written by
Barry Kornhauser

Director
Mark Sutton

Themes explored

emotions, making friends,
five senses, opposites

Synopsis

The Old Man, lives alone in a small apartment in Paris. It's his birthday, but he's stopped speaking, probably because he doesn't have anyone with whom to talk. He seems to have forgotten joy, how to play and interact with others. His life is rather staid and sad, and he's resigned to this. But soon an insistent red balloon floats through his window and, ultimately, breaks through his reserve. In contrast to the Old Man, the balloon is boisterous, playful and lighthearted, and it soon charms the Old Man. *Ballooney* is a story that explores and celebrates the power of friendship!

The Playwright, Barry Kornhauser



Barry Kornhauser spearheads the Family Arts Collaborative at Millersville University in Lancaster County, Pa. Prior to this, he served as playwright-in-residence and sundry other positions at the Fulton Theatre for more than 30 years. His honors include the Charlotte B. Chorpenning Cup Award, Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Play,

Ivey Playwriting Award, two AATE Distinguished Play Awards and the Bonderman Playwriting Prize. He has received grants and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, TYA USA/ASSITEJ, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and Pennsylvania Performing Arts on Tour. Kornhauser's work has taken him everywhere from a one-room schoolhouse to the White House and to such Tony Award-winning stages as the Children's Theatre Company, La Jolla Playhouse, the Shakespeare Theatre in Washington, D.C. and the Alliance Theatre. His plays have also been produced at the Kennedy Center, Childsplay and the Honolulu Theatre for Youth, among other theatres nationwide and overseas, as well as at festivals from New York City to California, including the Kennedy Center's New Visions/New Voices One Theater World. Kornhauser is deeply grateful for these opportunities, to his inspiring colleagues and to his wonderful family: wife, Carol; children, Ariel, Sam and Max; daughter-in-law, Sena; and his mother, Florence. And that's no humbug!

Biography provided by dramaticpublishing.com.

Before the show

About our theatre



Founded in 1948, Children's Theatre of Charlotte has opened young minds to the wonders of live theatre for seventy years. Today, it continues to be one of the most technically imaginative and resourceful theatres in the country. Annually, it reaches nearly 300,000 young people and their families through our Mainstage productions, Resident Touring Company and its Education Department's classes and workshops. Learn more about Children's Theatre of Charlotte at ctcharlotte.org.

Additionally, our touring productions are enjoyed by schools and community centers across the Southeast, bringing high-quality, live theatre to everyone in the region. Contact our Touring Performance and Sales Coordinator, Margot Parrott, at margotp@ctcharlotte.org to book your tour today!

Audience expectations

You may wish to have a discussion with your students about their role as audience members. Live theatre only exists when an audience is present, and your students' energy and response directly affects the actors on stage.

Young audiences should know watching live theatre isn't like watching more familiar forms of entertainment: they can't pause or rewind it like a DVD, there are no commercials for bathroom breaks, nor can they increase the volume to hear if someone else is talking. Encourage your students to listen and watch the play intently, so they may laugh and cheer for their favorite characters when it is appropriate.

At the end of the play, applause is an opportunity for students to thank the actors, while the actors are thanking you for your role as an audience member. Here are some other guidelines to remember while you're watching the performance:

- Respect others during the performance. Stay seated and keep your hands to yourself.
- Please turn off cell phones and other electronic devices during the performance.
- Photography and video of the performance is prohibited by copyright law.



Goal CD-4: Children demonstrate appreciation for different forms of artistic expression.
Goal APL-8: Children maintain attentiveness and focus.

Theatre 360 connections



Theatre 360 provides a way to interact with Children's Theatre of Charlotte productions by extending the theatre experience for families and classroom—providing access to all! Best of all, many programs are free. Go to ctcharlotte.org/theatre-360 to view the full list of events throughout the year.

Audience engagement These interactive experiences located around *ImaginOn* are available from the first public performance of a production through the entire run of the show. We change the exhibits to reflect the uniqueness of each show.

Online engagement Whether you're a teacher or a parent looking for quality activities, we've assembled a collection of online games, websites and articles that deepen the connections of elements from the show. [Click here](#) for online content for *Balloonacy*.

Workshops and residencies Teachers, are you looking for a way for your class to make stronger connections with our shows? You can add our workshops, led by our professional teaching artists, before or after you view the performance. Or incorporate the arts into your everyday classroom through a residency created to fit your subject area. Contact our programs coordinator, Tommy Prudenti, at tommyp@ctcharlotte.org to book yours today!

Before the show

The BIG QUESTIONS before the show

1. Have you ever hurt someone's feelings before? Whom did that make you feel? How did it make the other person feel?
2. Do you have a special friend? What makes them special? What are games you like to play with your special friend?



Goal LDC-2: Children participate in conversations with peers and adults in one-on-one, small, and larger group interactions. Goal CD-9: Children explore concepts connected with their daily experiences in their community.

Pantomime

Pantomime is a type of acting using gestures and facial expressions but no sounds or words. Pantomime is prominent in the performance of *Balloonacy*.

Lead students through a creative pantomime activity in the classroom. Encourage the class to act out the activity at once. Describe an event or environment to students (we list suggestions below) and explain they'll act out activities within this environment without any using any words or sounds. After the class has had an opportunity to explore, ask the class to sit on the floor and encourage a few students to show their activity. See if the rest of the class can guess what they're doing!

Birthday party

Trip to the beach

Visit to the library

Going fishing



Goal HPD-4: Children develop the large muscle control and abilities needed to move through and explore their environment.

Masked emotions

Encouraging students to talk about feelings isn't always easy. One way is to turn it into play. The goal of this activity is to play with and open up a dialogue about feelings with your students. What happens when you feel sad? How does your face change? Create a paper plate mask. Direct students to choose an emotion and decorate their masks as that emotion.

1. Gather your materials. You will need half a paper plate per mask. You will also need Popsicle sticks, crayons or markers, scissors, and tape. Start by cutting the plates in half.
2. Brainstorm some emotions with your class. You can list them on the board. Have the students write the emotion on the back of the plate.
3. Decorate the masks! A happy mask might have bright colors. A sad mask might have darker colors.
4. Tape the sticks onto the mask.
5. Play with the emotions. See if you can make one emotion with your mask and another with your eyes.



Goal HPD-5: Children develop small muscle control and hand-eye coordination to manipulate objects and work with tools. Goal ESD-7: Children recognize and respond to the needs and feelings of others.



The Red Balloon

The Red Balloon (Le Ballon Rouge) is a 1956 French fantasy film written, produced, and directed by Albert Lamorisse. The 35-minute short film follows the adventures of a young boy who one day finds a sentient, red balloon. It was filmed in the Ménilmontant neighbourhood of Paris. Lamorisse used his own children as actors in the film.

The film won the Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay, even though it has little dialogue. Lamorisse also published a tie-in book, using black and white and color stills from the film.

Balloonacy's playwright, Barry Kornhauser, suggested the Old Man in his story might be the grown-up version of the boy in Albert Lamorisse's film.

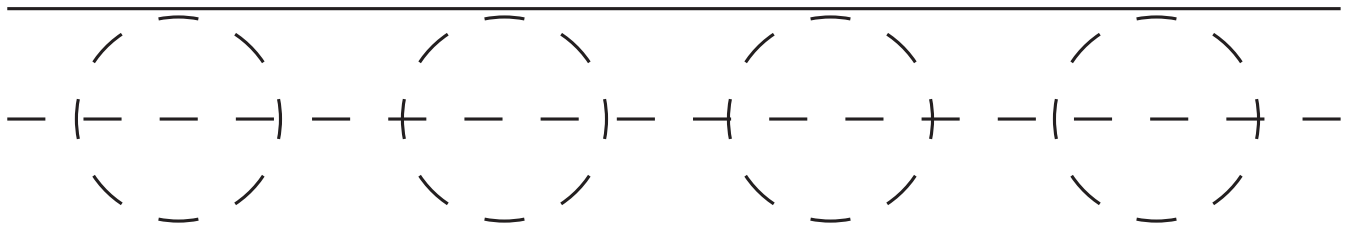
[Click here](#) to watch the film's trailer.

Worksheet for before the show

COPY PAGE

NAME _____

Practice drawing curved lines. Trace the dotted lines around the balloons, then trace the circles.



After the show

The BIG QUESTIONS after the show

1. Why do you think the Old Man in the story doesn't speak?
2. On what special day does this story take place? How did you know that day was special? What clues did you see?
3. What does this story teach us about friendship? Can you remember specific events that happened in the story?



Goal LDC-2: Children participate in conversations with peers and adults in one-on-one, small, and larger group interactions. Goal CD-9: Children explore concepts connected with their daily experiences in their community.

Pass the face

Instruct the class to stand in a circle. Choose one student to make a face (sad, happy, etc.), then have the student take it off and throw it to another student in the circle. Once the other student has caught it, he or she puts on that same face. That student now puts on a new face and then passes it to another person in the circle. For younger students, it may be helpful to pass the face to the person on his or her right or left and let it travel around the circle before creating a new face.



Goal ESD-5: Children demonstrate the social and behavioral skills needed to successfully participate in groups.

Balloon Olympics

This activity provides plenty of opportunities for running, jumping, counting and balancing. You could also have students make medals before the activities to celebrate with at the end. **Please note:** If your school has a policy regarding balloons and possible latex allergies, you can use mylar balloons, qualatex bubbles, or other non-latex options. We recommend young children NOT try to inflate balloons as they can be a choking hazard.

1. String up a rope or long scarf across the classroom and play volleyball.
2. The rope is used to divide the room into two. Equal numbers of balloons are placed on each side of the rope, and two teams are formed and placed on either side of the rope. The timer is set and at the signal, each team tries to throw or hit the balloons to the other side. When the timer goes off, the team with the least amount of balloons on its side wins.
3. Mark off a obstacle course in your classroom. Can students walk the entire course with a balloon between their legs?
4. Have students balance a balloon on their fingertip for as long as they can.
5. Have students count while bouncing a balloon against a bare wall. Increase the challenge by using one of these variations: stand on one leg, clap three times, or spin around before the balloon bounces back.
6. Divide the class into teams. Each team must sort all of the balloons of one color into their space in the room.
7. When the games are over, it's time to celebrate! Reward your hard-working athletes with medals and a balloon popping finale!



Goal HPD-4: Children develop the large muscle control and abilities needed to move through and explore their environment. Goal CD-11: Children compare, sort, group, organize, and measure objects and create patterns in their everyday environment.

To have a good friend, you must BE a good friend.

Begin this activity by leading a discussion on the characteristics of a good friend. Then talk about the play and allow students to give examples about times when the Old Man showed he was becoming the balloon's friend.

Jumpstart your discussion by talking about some of these characteristics of good friends.

- Listen to each other.
- Build each other up rather than put each other down.
- Try to understand each other's feelings.
- Help each other solve problems.
- Disagree without hurting each other.
- Care about each other.
- Are honest with each other.

Finally, draw a picture of what you think a good friend is.



Goal LDC-13: Children use writing and other symbols to record information and communicate for a variety of purposes.

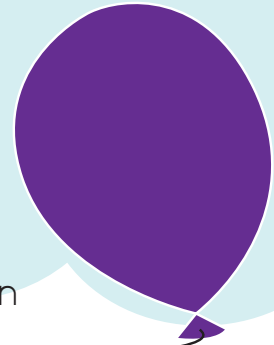
Worksheet for after the show

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NAME _____

Bb

The balloon is flying away! Draw a path from the balloon to the fence to tie it down by following the letter B.



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Check out these recommended books at your local library or order them online.

The Yellow Balloon

by Charlotte Dematons

In this wordless book, a yellow balloon sails around the world.

Emily's Balloon

by Komako Sakai

A little girl's new friend is round, lighter than air and looks like the moon at night.

My Red Balloon

by Kazuaki Yamada

A little girl begins a bus outing with her beautiful red balloon. But when the balloon suddenly flies away, the bus driver and other animal passengers begin a wild chase to help her rescue her friend.

It's Tough to Lose Your Balloon

by Jarrett Krosoczka

Illustrations and simple text suggest ways to see the positive side of difficulties, from losing one's balloon to being left with a new babysitter.

Bird, Balloon, Bear

by Il Sung Na

A shy bird wants to become friends with a bear, but the bear already has a friend—a big, red balloon!

Perfectly Percy

by Paul Schmid

Percy the porcupine loves balloons but he must find a way to keep them from popping.

The Red Balloon

by Albert Lamorisse

A young boy finds a red balloon with a mind of its own floating across the skies of Paris. Based on the short film.

You Can't Take a Balloon Into the Metropolitan Museum

by Jacqueline Preiss Weitzman

In this wordless story, a young girl and her grandmother visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art, while the balloon she has been forced to leave outside floats around New York City causing a series of mishaps that mirror scenes in the museum's artworks.

Every play Children's Theatre of Charlotte produces is created by a talented team of designers, technicians, actors and a director. A play is different from a television show or a movie because it's presented live. As a class, discuss what you experienced when you saw the performance.

THEATRE CORNER

1. What was the first thing you noticed on the stage?
2. Name three things you noticed about the set. Did the set help tell the story? What sort of set would you have designed?
3. What did you like about the costumes? Did they fit the story? What sort of costumes would you have designed?



Goal CD-4: Children demonstrate appreciation for different forms of artistic expression. Goal LDC-2: Children participate in conversations with peers and adults in one-on-one, small, and larger group interactions.

Storytimes To Go!



Contact: Pamela McCarter

Phone: 704-416-4662

[Contact Outreach Services](#)

Preschool centers in Mecklenburg County can acquire activity kits from the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library. [Storytimes To Go!](#) kits are designed to encourage pre-literacy development. Each kit includes ten picture books and may contain other materials such as flannel board activities, puppets, manipulatives or music recordings to enhance the theme. All residents with a Library card are eligible to borrow kits and may have the kits sent to the library location of their choice. The [Friends Kit](#) or [Happy Birthday Kit](#) would tie-in specifically to the *Balloonacy* play.

Meet the Preschool Touring Company



Caleb Ryan Sigmon (OLD MAN) travels the nation creating theatre and sharing magic. He joyously returns to Children's Theatre of Charlotte after playing the title role in Dr. Seuss' *The Cat in the Hat*. A graduate of University of North Carolina School of the Arts, some of his favorite credits include *Peter Pan* (Captain Hook), *Cyrano de Bergerac* (Cyrano), *Alice in Wonderland* (The Mad Hatter), and *Wizard of Oz* (Scarecrow). Caleb and his wife, Katy, are excited to call Charlotte "home," giving honor and thanks to God for this and all blessings. Catch Caleb's one-man illusion show, *Nothing Up My Sleeve*, playing at Children's Theatre of Charlotte in March of 2018. Visit his website: CalebSigmon.com.



Janeta Jackson (BALLOON) is beyond excited to return to Children's Theatre of Charlotte. Since graduating from Florida International University with a Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance, Janeta has traveled worldwide sharing her gifts and talents. Credits include roles in *Festival of the Lion King*, *Dreamgirls*, and *Shrek the Musical*. When she's not on stage she's probably enjoying a delicious pizza with an ice cold ginger ale. Janeta is extremely thankful to her family and friends for all of their love and support along this journey toward her dreams and she is living proof that "Anything can happen if you let it." Follow her journey on Facebook and Instagram [@janetasvoice](https://www.instagram.com/janetasvoice).



Write to Us!

Children's Theatre of Charlotte
300 E. Seventh St.
Charlotte, N.C. 28202



Goal LDC-13: Children use writing and other symbols to record information and communicate for a variety of purposes.

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