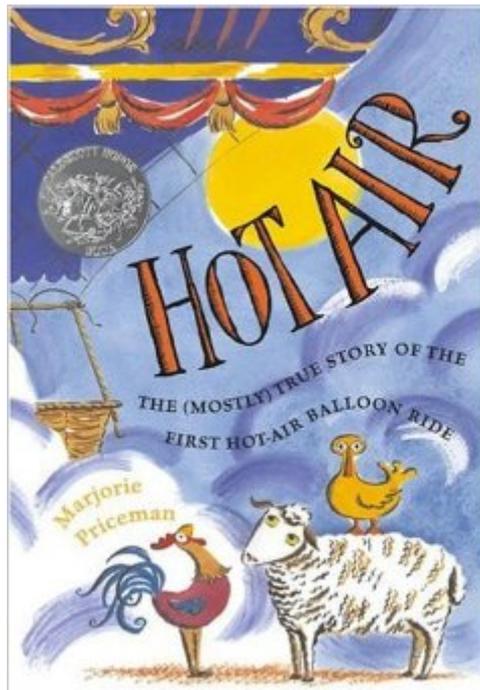


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# Hot Air: The (Mostly) True Story Of The First Hot-Air Balloon Ride (Caldecott Honor Book)



## 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 0.4 x 12 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (21 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #96,697 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #47 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Europe](#) #92 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Europe](#) #252 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Farm Animals](#)

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

In *Hot Air: The (Mostly) True Story of the First Hot-Air Balloon Ride*, author and illustrator Marjorie Priceman shows once again why reviewers have christened her "the master of whimsy." Recounting the Montgolfiers' 1783 test run of their balloon and imagining, with postmodern verve, the story of the duck, sheep, and rooster who formed the first flight crew, Priceman's narrative is sure to delight both young readers and parents alike. (Reassurance: no animals were harmed in the telling of this Enlightenment-era tale). But the illustrations are the real treasure here (and the Caldecott committee concurs). While infused with the same spirited energy as her earlier books--*How to Make an Apple Pie and See the World*, *Zin! Zin! Zin! A Violin*, *Emeline at the Circus*--the panels in *Hot Air* glow with a luminosity that outshines even Priceman's earlier work.

*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.

Starting with the historical facts of the first hot-air balloon ride, which took place in Versailles, France in 1783, Priceman lets her imagination - and illustrations - run wild. The first hot-air balloon aviators (i.e., the guinea pigs) were a sheep, a duck and a rooster. After a few introductory pages of text, Priceman depicts the flight with a series of wordless illustrations. The complex pictures lend themselves to careful inspection to catch all the elements of the story. In the end, our barnyard aviators land safely, which I hope this is one of the true facts of this story. 2006 Caldecott Honor Book.

Very charming book. My grandchildren, ages 7 and 4, very much enjoyed it. My grandson especially liked the rooster.

This book wasn't what I had imagined it to be. The first several pages contain a lot of words, and the last several pages are just pictures. My 6 year old son really enjoys this book, though, and asks for it at night.

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!

Great book for kids fascinated with Hot Air Balloons. It centers around the "mostly true" story of the first hot air balloon ride in France. Cute illustrations and historical references on the inside covers make it an educational and interesting read. Also check out "Hot Air Henry" - our son loves that one as well.

My 26 year old daughter just asked about this book. She remembered it from a child and now wants to give it as a gift. What better a recommendation! This is actually one of the books that we have saved to read to grandchildren.

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