COMPLETE STORY + QUIZ

Ruby Designs a Rocket for a Toy Mouse

Ruby Designs a Rocket for a Toy Mouse | Suggested ages 5-6



Ruby builds a balloon-powered string rocket to carry a toy mouse across the playroom safely.

Read, talk, and discover

The complete story is followed by questions and a separate answer guide. Read aloud together, pause to talk, and take your time.

Print on US Letter at actual size, or choose Fit for A4. Use single-sided printing for activity cards. Black-and-white printing is suitable.

Part 1

Ruby wanted her tiny plush mouse to cross the playroom like an astronaut. She and Grandma began building a balloon-powered string rocket between two chairs.

Part 2

They threaded the string through a paper straw. Grandma inflated the balloon and kept the loose balloons away while Ruby taped the inflated balloon to the straw.

Part 3

Her first paper rocket had heavy cardboard fins. When Ruby released the balloon, the rocket moved only a short distance.

Part 4

Ruby replaced the cardboard with light paper fins. She also made a tiny cup seat that held the plush mouse snugly.

Part 5

The next rocket spun around the string. Ruby noticed one fin was larger, so she trimmed all three fins to match.

Part 6

Grandma held the string tight and level. Ruby released the balloon, and escaping air pushed the balanced rocket forward.

Part 7

The mouse crossed the playroom and stopped at a soft pillow. Ruby measured the trip with six floor tiles.

Part 8

Ruby learned that lighter, balanced fins helped this rocket travel farther. Air rushed backward from the balloon, and the rocket moved forward.

Draw, tell, or write

Draw your favorite part of the story. Tell a grown-up what happened before it and what happened next.

My favorite part, and why I chose it

STORY QUIZ

Think about the story

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Name: _____ Date: _____

Read each question and all the choices. Circle one answer. A grown-up can read aloud; you can point or say your answer, too.

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1. What carried Ruby's plush mouse?

A. A balloon-powered string rocket	B. A real airplane	C. A rolling breakfast robot

Tell someone how you decided, or write a few words.

2. Why did the first rocket move only a short distance?

A. The mouse was singing	B. Its cardboard fins were heavy	C. The chairs were blue

Tell someone how you decided, or write a few words.

3. Why did the second rocket spin?

A. The balloon had stripes	B. The string was too quiet	C. One fin was larger than the others

Tell someone how you decided, or write a few words.

Questions 4 to 5

4. What pushed the balanced rocket forward?

A. Air escaping backward from the balloon	B. A hidden magnet	C. Water from a cup

Tell someone how you decided, or write a few words.

5. What helped Ruby's rocket travel farther?

A. Heavy uneven fins	B. Lighter balanced fins	C. A wet string

Tell someone how you decided, or write a few words.

ANSWER GUIDE

For the grown-up

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Keep this page separate from the child's activity. Read directions aloud when helpful, and invite the child to explain their ideas.

1. A - A balloon-powered string rocket

A balloon-powered string rocket

2. B - Its cardboard fins were heavy

Its cardboard fins were heavy

3. C - One fin was larger than the others

One fin was larger than the others

4. A - Air escaping backward from the balloon

Air escaping backward from the balloon

5. B - Lighter balanced fins

Lighter balanced fins

Keep exploring

Draw your favorite part of the story. Tell a grown-up what happened before it and what happened next.