**The Balloon Tree**

**Author: Phoebe Gilman**

Throughout the book, there are illustrations around each page to indicate that this book is a fairy tale. Show the children that underneath the written story are pictures that illustrate the words.

Page 1
Activity: Define a tier 2 word (i.e. “kingdom” means a place where kings, queens and princesses live)

Page 2

Activity: Define a tier 2 word (i.e. “invitation” is a way to ask people to come to an event, like a party. Has anyone ever given out invitations to a birthday party? Point out the invitation on page 3)

Page 4

Activity: Read the words in a “whiney” voice, then ask the children how you think Princess Leora feels about her uncle (i.e. does she like him, does she not like him, why?)

Page 5

Activity: explain what a “signal” is (i.e. it is a way to show someone who is far away that they need to come and help you)

Page 6

Activity: Ask the children how they would feel if someone destroyed something that was important to them

Page 8/9

Activity: Ask the children what they think is going to happen after she says the magic words.

Page 10/11

Activity: Point out each illustration as you read the words of who the Princess is visiting.

Page 12/13

Activity: Ask the children why the little boy hid the balloon. Explain that it was dangerous for him to hide it, because it could have gotten him in trouble. Ask the children if anyone has ever helped a friend in need?

Page 16

Activity: Define “quiver” (i.e. shake).

Page 17

Activity: Ask the children what is going to happen next. Remind them of the “signal” from the beginning of the story, who she was signaling, etc.

Page 19

Activity: Ask what they think he will see.

Page 21

Activity: Read the King’s words with a worried voice. Ask the children how the King feels.

Page 23

Activity: define “traitor” (i.e. someone who you cannot trust, someone who lied and did something behind your back).

Activity: define “dungeon” (i.e. a dark place underground, like a jail because you cannot escape. Where bad people go).

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