

Hueber Lektüren

Hot Air

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VORSCHAU

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VORSCHAU

Conderton, sixty-three

It was nearly night. The trees were dark shapes on the side of the road. I put my head against the car window and watched them fly past.

‘Here comes another sign, Dad!’ My little brother, Riley, bounced up and down on the car seat beside me. ‘What does it say?’

‘Conderton, sixty-three,’ I heard my father say. And through the window I saw the sign flash past.

‘Sixty-three kilometres,’ said Riley. ‘What speed are you doing, Dad?’

‘I’m doing eighty kilometres an hour.’

Riley flopped back against the seat and my head bumped against the window. ‘Okay,’ he said. ‘You’re doing eighty kilometres an hour and it’s sixty-three kilometres to Conderton. So we’ll be there...’

I turned to look at him.

‘...in forty-seven and a quarter minutes!’ he finished.

Dad looked at Mum.

‘Right!’ she said.

‘Good boy,’ said Dad.

I turned back to the window.

Was it right? I didn’t know. My brother is only eight years old but he’s clever. My father’s clever too. And my mother. But I’m not. I’m no good at school. I’m no good at sport. No good at music or dancing. I do like drawing – but I’m no good at it.

Mum says not to panic. *Donna, you just haven’t found your talent yet*, she says. But I am panicking. Maybe I don’t have

‘Conderton,’ said Dad suddenly. ‘Here we are. Now, where do we go?’

‘Jessup Road,’ answered Mum. ‘It’s the second road on the right past the church.’

We went past some houses and shops and an old hotel.

‘There’s the church,’ said Mum.

Dad turned the car into Jessup Road.

‘There it is!’ said Riley. He pointed to a house with a sign at the front. It said *BLUE SKY BALLOONS – Get Carried Away*.

Dad stopped the car and looked at the house. ‘The lights are on,’ he said. ‘Come on, everybody.’

We got out of the car and walked to the front door. It was open.

‘I can hear voices,’ said Riley. ‘Come on.’

Mum, Dad and I followed Riley through the house.

‘Hey, look,’ said Riley. He pointed into a bedroom. ‘Bunk beds! I’m having the top bunk!’

‘People are already in there,’ I said. ‘Look – their bags are there.’

‘Where are *we* going to sleep?’ Riley asked Mum.

‘We’ll see,’ she said. ‘Come on.’

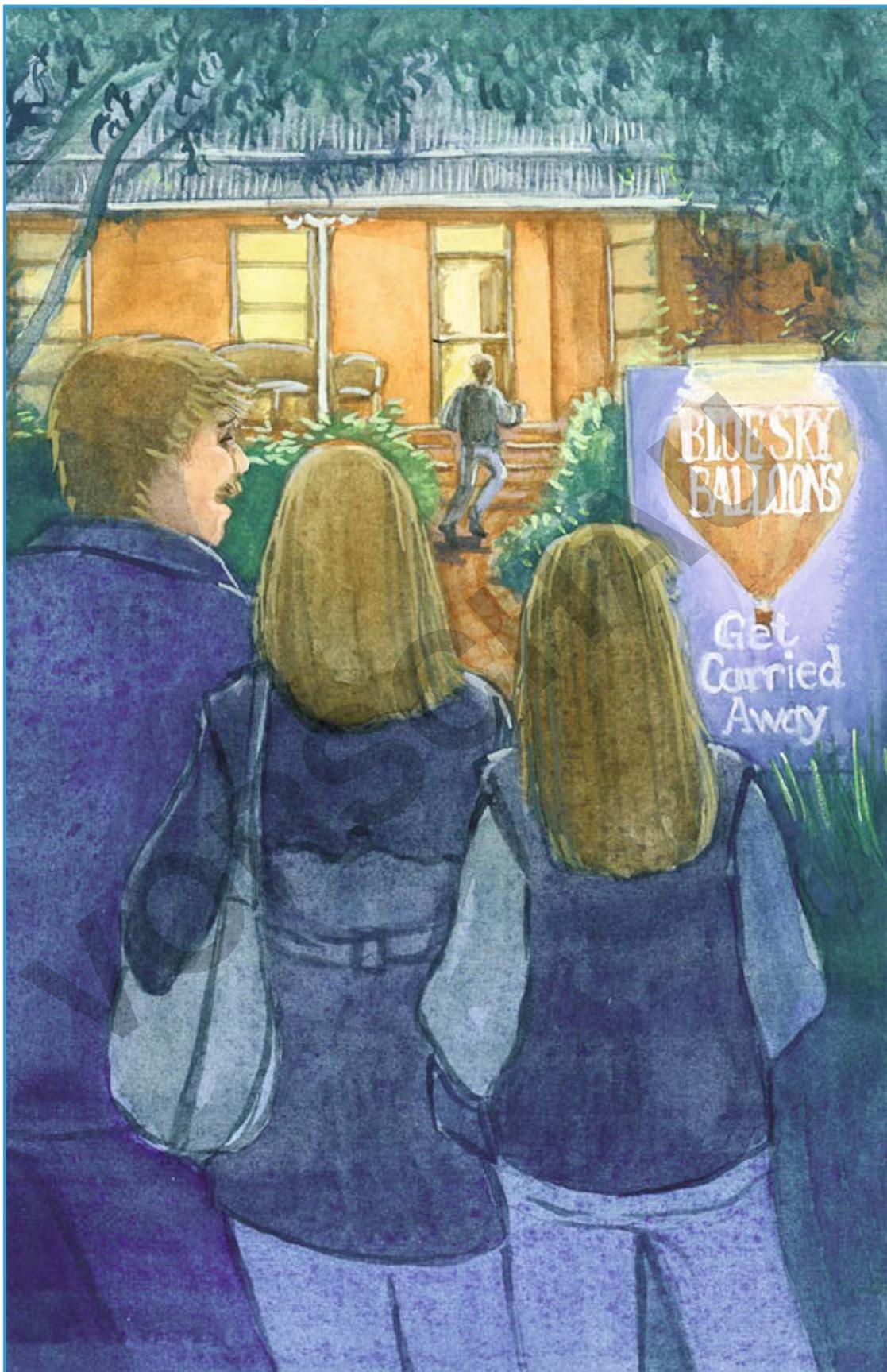
The voices were louder and suddenly we were in a large, bright kitchen. Five or six people sat at a long table and there were two women on the other side of the room. The voices stopped.

‘Hello,’ said Dad.

A man got up from the table and said, ‘Thank heavens. Another man!’

He was the only man in the room. The women laughed.

He shook Dad’s hand. ‘Brian Richardson’s my name.’ He pointed at a woman and a pretty girl at the table. ‘And this is my wife, Patsy, and my daughter, Katie.’



Katie jumped up from the table and shook Dad's hand too. And Mum's. And Riley's, and mine. She smiled a big, bright smile.

'It's nice to meet you. I'm sixteen,' she said to me. 'How old are you?'

'Fifteen,' I said.

'Oh,' she said. She smiled at me and sat down again.

A woman with grey hair came over to us. 'I'm Erica Thornton,' she said. 'And the other ladies and I are friends from the Cavendish Tennis Club.'

'I'm Molly Mason,' said one woman.

'Lyn Porter,' said another one.

'I'm Kay Hudson.'

'And I'm Judy Cook.'

'We'll never remember all the names!' laughed Mum. 'I'm Helen Grant.'

'And I'm Ben,' said Dad. 'And that's Donna and Riley.'

'Where's the balloon, Dad?' asked Riley.

Everyone laughed.

'The balloon pilot was here earlier,' said Mr Richardson. He looked at his watch and said to Riley, 'He'll be back in fifteen minutes, young man. Then he'll tell us about our first ascent in the balloon.'

'So, can we find our beds now, Mum?' said Riley.

'Okay,' said Mum. 'Okay.'

We went and got our bags from the car. Riley ran back into the house. I followed, and looked into one of the rooms.

'You can't go in there,' said a voice behind me. 'That's our room.' It was Katie.

'Oh, sorry,' I said.

She pointed at another room. 'That one's empty. You can sleep in there. It's not very big.' She smiled at me. 'But you

‘Oh, be careful,’ laughed Katie. ‘You don’t want to fall on your head.’

My face went red and I stood in a corner of the basket and looked at the ground.

‘Are you okay, Donna?’ said Mum beside me.

‘Yeah,’ I said.

Dad and Mrs Mason got in and then Ross said, ‘Here we go!’

The burners roared and the flames were very high and bright. Slowly we rose into the air.

Then the people on the ground were smaller. And I forgot about Katie. Because it was wonderful. I’ve flown in a plane, but this was different. It felt strange and wonderful. I felt free.

We flew very high into the bright blue sky. The roar of the burners stopped and the balloon drifted on the wind. It was very quiet and beautiful. We drifted over fields and farms. I could see roads and a river. The water shone in the early morning sun.

And there wasn’t any wind in my face or behind me. We drifted on the wind – not faster, not slower – but with the wind. So – there wasn’t any wind. We just moved quietly across the sky.

Ross sat up on one side of the basket. He looked up into the balloon and lit the burners again. They roared for a minute, and then they stopped.

‘Can you control the direction of the balloon?’ Mrs Mason asked Ross. ‘Or do you just have to go with the wind?’

‘The wind can blow in different directions at different heights,’ answered Ross. ‘I just have to find the right wind. I’ll show you.’



He pulled on the vent line and I looked up and saw the vent at the top of the balloon open. We drifted lower and he closed the vent. We drifted down towards some trees on a small hill. Then suddenly we moved in a different direction.

‘See,’ said Ross. ‘Near the ground here the wind is blowing up the side of the hill.’

We were very low now – only five or six metres from the ground. The basket touched the leaves on the top of the trees.

‘Look at that tree,’ said Ross.

There was a dead tree in front of us. It had two big black branches. Ross flew the balloon between them. The branches drifted past and we laughed.

We rose over the hill and saw water on the other side. It was a small dam in a field.

Ross smiled. ‘Who wants to go for a swim in the dam?’

Everyone looked at him.

‘I don’t,’ said Riley.

Ross smiled again.

‘Perhaps I’ll just get your feet wet.’

And down went the balloon towards the water.

Everyone started to laugh.

‘No!’ cried Mum.

But Ross flew the balloon down to the dam and bounced the bottom of the basket into the water.

Everyone screamed and laughed. We quickly rose again and drifted higher.

Then Dad saw the bus and Ross said, ‘Okay, look for a good place to land.’

Quick thinking

My hand was in front of my face. I could see a cut on it.

I moved my head.

Mrs Mason was on top of me. She was heavy.

'We've stopped,' I said.

There was another sound. It was Katie.

'I want to go home,' she said softly. Then she said it again, more loudly. She said it again and again and started to crawl out of the basket.

'You're on my legs!' cried Mrs Thornton.

Katie crawled over the top of us and out of the basket. She walked away.

Mrs Mason tried to sit up but she groaned and fell down again.

I looked at Ross. His head was on the ground and his eyes were shut.

'Ross?' I said.

He didn't move.

Suddenly the wind blew the balloon and the basket moved again. I grabbed the front of Ross's overalls and dragged him into the basket.

'We have to get out!' I said. 'Can you move, Mrs Mason?'

'It's my right knee,' she said. 'It hurts very badly.'

'I'll help you,' I said. 'Mrs Thornton, are you okay?'

'I want my money back!' she said. She groaned and sat up. 'My hand hurts. This is not right. I want my money back. Get me out of this basket!' She pulled Ross's arm.

'What's wrong with him?'

'I'll get you out,' I said.

Activities

Chapter 1

Before you read

A. Look at the picture on page 10 and circle the correct answers.

1. How many people are in the picture?
a. eleven b. twelve c. thirteen
2. Where are these people?
a. in an office b. in a kitchen c. on a train

B. Find these words in your dictionary. Use them in the sentences.

talent bunk pilot bright

1. Harry sleeps on the top _____ when he visits his cousin.
2. Janet loves planes. She wants to be a _____.
3. It is good to have a _____ light on your desk.
4. Mary has a _____ for cooking. Everyone loves her food.

C. Listen to Track 3 on the CD and answer these questions.

1. What was on the sign that Riley saw?
a. a picture of an elephant b. a picture of a balloon
2. Where were they going to stay?
a. in a big house b. in a hotel
3. When Donna looked out of the window, what was the sky like?
a. It was dark. b. It was light.

After you read

COMPREHENSION

A. Circle the correct answers.

1. What was Donna's brother called?
a. Conderton b. Ross c. Riley
2. How old was Donna's brother?
a. eight b. nine c. ten
3. What town were Donna's family driving to?
a. Ross b. Conderton c. Jessup
4. Who said that he wanted the top bunk?
a. Ross b. Riley c. Donna's father

B. Circle T for true or F for false for these sentences.

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1. Power lines are full of electricity. | T / F |
| 2. Ross was twenty-two years old. | T / F |
| 3. Donna went on the first flight at dawn with Katie. | T / F |
| 4. Donna felt free when the balloon rose into the air. | T / F |

C. Complete these sentences.

1. Ross wore a thick white sheepskin _____.
2. The burners heated the air inside the _____.
3. The balloon drifted on the _____.
4. At the dam, Ross bounced the bottom of the balloon into the _____.

D. Write short answers to these questions.

1. What colour were Ross's overalls?

2. What did Ross use to blow the hot air from the burners into the balloon?

3. The balloon was red, yellow, purple – and what other colour?

4. Who didn't want to get out of the basket after the first flight?

LANGUAGE ACTIVITIES

A. Match each word with its opposite from Chapters 2 and 3.

- | | |
|----------|--------------|
| 1. up | a. hot |
| 2. cold | b. dangerous |
| 3. quiet | c. down |
| 4. safe | d. loud |

B. Use these letters to make words from Chapters 2 and 3.

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. nkpi: p _____ | 3. uebl: b _____ |
| 2. eygr: g _____ | 4. llowye: y _____ |

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What did Donna like about going up in the balloon? Do you think you would like to try it?

B. Circle T for true or F for false for these sentences.

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1. Mrs Thornton's hand hurt. | T / F |
| 2. With one person in it, the basket was light. | T / F |
| 3. The vent line went up the outside of the balloon. | T / F |
| 4. Ross woke up and crawled out of the basket. | T / F |

C. Complete these sentences.

1. Donna pulled and pulled on the vent line and the vent at the top of the balloon _____.
2. Riley asked Donna if she'd had a ride in the _____.
3. Mrs Mason broke her _____.
4. Mrs Thornton said she'd needed an _____.

D. Write short answers to these questions.

1. After the landing, who was on top of Donna?

2. Which line did Donna use to pull the balloon away from everyone?

3. Who went to hospital in a helicopter?

4. Who said that Donna was 'a rare person'?

LANGUAGE ACTIVITIES

A. Match the words that go together in Chapter 6.

- | | |
|-----------|-------------|
| 1. quick | a. line |
| 2. vent | b. light |
| 3. tennis | c. thinking |
| 4. search | d. ladies |

B. Use these letters to make words from Chapter 6.

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1. rma: a _____ | 3. cefa: f _____ |
| 2. ndha: h _____ | 4. egl: l _____ |

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Donna said, 'I feel different.' How was she different after the accident?

direction /dɪ'rekʃn/ <i>n.</i>	Richtung
drag /dræg/ <i>v.</i>	ziehen
drift /drɪft/ <i>v.</i>	treiben
dusk /dʌsk/ <i>n.</i>	Abenddämmerung
edge /edʒ/ <i>n.</i>	Rand
fan /fæn/ <i>n.</i>	Ventilator
feel /fi:l/ <i>v.</i>	sich fühlen
flame /fleɪm/ <i>n.</i>	Flamme
flash /flæʃ/ <i>v.</i>	aufblitzen
flop /flɒp/ <i>v.</i>	plumpsen
fluffy /'flʌfi/ <i>adj.</i>	flauschig
free /fri:/ <i>adj.</i>	frei
glove /glʌv/ <i>n.</i>	Handschuh
grab /græb/ <i>v.</i>	packen
groan /grəʊn/ <i>v.</i>	stöhnen
gust /gʌst/ <i>n.</i>	Böe
heat /hi:t/ <i>v.</i>	Hitze
height /haɪt/ <i>n.</i>	Höhe
helicopter /'helɪ,kɒptə/ <i>n.</i>	Hubschrauber
hold on /həʊld ɒn/ <i>v.</i>	festhalten
hospital /'hɒspɪtl/ <i>n.</i>	Krankenhaus
hug /hʌg/ <i>v.</i>	umarmen
hurt /hɜ:t/ <i>v.</i>	verletzen
inflate /ɪn'fleɪt/ <i>v.</i>	die Luft herauslassen
instructions /ɪn'strʌkʃns/ <i>n.</i>	Anweisungen
jeans /dʒi:nz/ <i>n.</i>	Jeans
jumper /'dʒʌmpə/ <i>n.</i>	Pullover
land /lænd/ <i>v.</i>	landen
landing /'lændɪŋ/ <i>n.</i>	Landung
laugh /lɑ:f/ <i>v.</i>	lachen
lay out /'lei aʊt/ <i>v.</i>	auslegen
let go /let gəʊ/ <i>v.</i>	loslassen
life /laɪf/ <i>n.</i>	Leben
line /laɪn/ <i>n.</i>	Leitung
map /mæp/ <i>n.</i>	Landkarte