

Welcome to Pollywog At Home, Session 11!
A Balloon For Grandad by Nigel Gray

Parts to **(read aloud)** to kids are labeled before the text.
Parts that are **((asides to caregivers))** are indicated with double parenthesis.

(read aloud)

Welcome back Pollywoggers. How are you doing today? How have you been feeling so far today? I have had mixed feelings about how quickly time has passed since I woke up, and my kids slept in extra long today.

Okay -

Welcome Song –

Let's start off with The Welcome Song:

~ sung to the tune of Rock-A-Bye Baby ~
Welcome to Art Class!
Ready for some fun?
First we sit still,
and quietly listen.
After our screen time,
we'll make something new -
but first we sing this
so we know what to do!

Opening (read aloud)

A nice way to make a Pollywog class last longer in our memory, and change something about the world around us, is to do a project that is intended as a decoration. Even better - a decoration that is meant to go in your bedroom, reading corner, or playroom! Can you think of a space in your room where you can hang a decoration on the wall? This project is good for hanging way up high where we usually have extra space. ((Pause to discuss if you have a space like this in either the child's bedroom or a spot where they frequently relax, read, or play.))

Storytime (read aloud)

I know you will only want to decorate with something that you actually LIKE - so, you might be wondering what we will make before you feel sure that you would like to decorate with it. Good thinking! Just because I have the idea that it would make a good decoration, does not mean you will agree after all. Our story today is called *A Balloon for Grandad*. Knowing that, and knowing that I said you can place this decoration way up high, do you have a pretty good guess as to what it will be? Let's get to storytime before I say anything else about the project. I love having found this video to tell the story. It is a reading by a grandfather, which is perfect for the story. It is also a man, like me, so it might be easier to imagine me reading it for the Pollywog friends who have known me for a while.

There are two more things that I think are especially good – he is making the video for grandkids he has not been able to see because of the Covid-19 safety rules we are following, and the reader becomes a little emotional a couple of times. If you've been in my storytime for a while, you may have seen me do this, too. By "becoming emotional", I mean that he is expressing some feelings by the way his voice changes - because of a sense of sadness or happiness (and often a mix!) that the story gave him.

Here we go! **A Balloon for Grandad** by Nigel Gray. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G1qeTKs05vU>
((copy and paste into browser if clicking does not work))

After Story (read aloud)

Now you know for sure what we're making, right? We are going to make balloons! Balloons can make a place feel like a celebration. Giving balloons to kids is much like grown-ups giving one another flowers - a special way to say "I love you", and to make the day (and some of the days afterwards) more special.

Our Project (read aloud)

I would like you to know how this is a subject that is near and dear to my heart. On a trip with my wife, I saw a sidewalk chalk fest with chalk art made by art students in Savannah, Georgia. Fest is a short form of the word "festival", and it really was a celebration of creativity. I saw students using pieces of cloth to rub over their chalk artwork, and it spread the chalk into the sidewalk cracks so it looked more like paint. I also saw students "shaving" their chalk into bowls, adding a little water, and painting with it!

I have always loved making art, and this was so fun to see. Hundreds of pieces of art were made that day, and people could walk in the grass of the park and look at row upon row of decorated sidewalks.

That memory stuck with me and was so strong that, years later, I had the idea of bringing the idea up in a meeting with other parents at my child's elementary school. I planned a sidewalk chalk fest for the school - and we held that event for 8 years in a row! Every year, over 100 students would come to school on a Saturday morning and everyone decorated a sidewalk rectangle with their very best artwork. We had judging, prizes, and snacks - but most of all we had sunshine, chalk, and hundreds of creative little hands at work outdoors.

Here is a picture from one of the chalk fests I helped with:



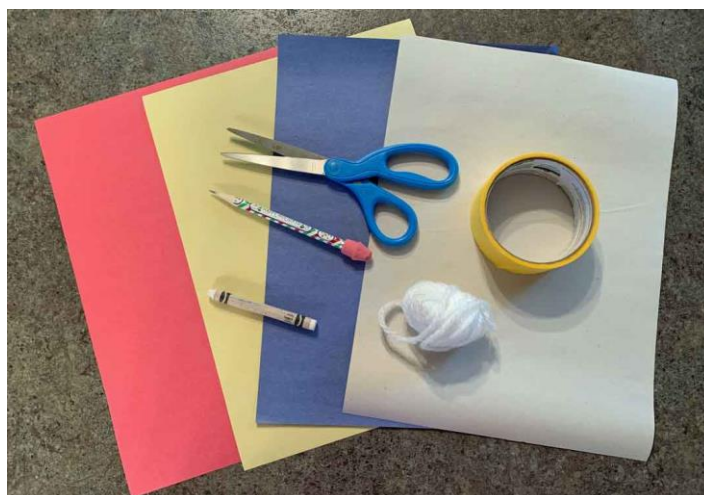
Materials –

- Your favorite colors of construction paper – I am going to make 3 balloons, and for art class I am a big fan of yellow, blue and red because they are Primary Colors. Primary Colors are special because they have the super power to make almost all the other colors, when you mix them. So choose your favorite colors - and you

can make 1, 3, or MORE balloons! If you do not have colored construction paper, you can use white printer paper, and just color it with your favorite art supplies (like crayons).

- White construction paper - printer paper would work too.
- Scissors.
- A pencil with an eraser (I always recommend pencils with erasers - the eraser is almost as important as the lead, or drawing part, for artists).
- A white crayon.
- White yarn – other colors are fine, too. You could also use ribbon if you like.
- Masking tape – but any tape will do.

((We will be using materials during Pollywog At Home that families are likely to already have on hand. If I list an item you do not have, see if you can think of a substitute - - if you're really stuck for a solution, feel free to email me for advice! r.schiding.studio@comcast.net))



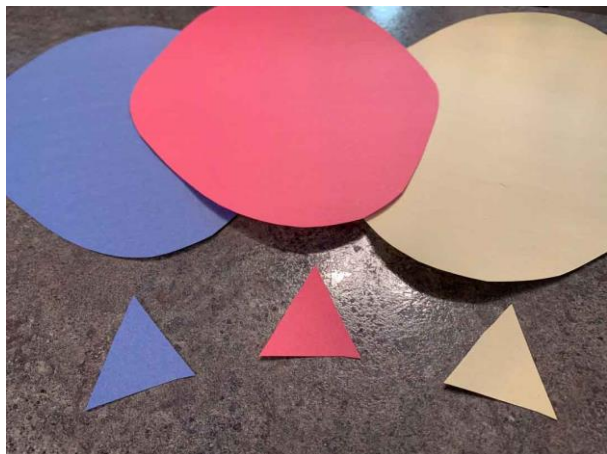
How To –

1) Our first step is to take our sheets of construction paper and, using our pencil, lightly draw very big ovals on them. See if you can make them so big that the lines touch all four sides of the paper. Make the bottom half of the oval a little skinnier than the top half, because that is more of a balloon shape. Here is how mine looks:



2) Next let's cut them out with our scissors. If you have safety scissor to use, that would be perfect. If you are not able to cut well yet, it is fine to have help from your grown-up. Save the scrap pieces for now.

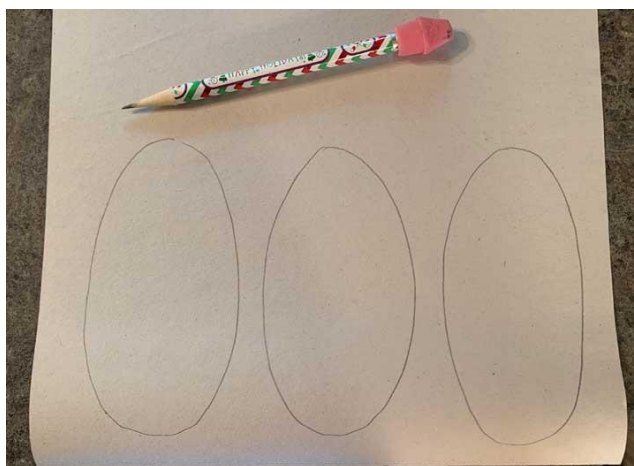
3) Cut some triangles from the scrap pieces of paper (about 2" tall) – then attach these to the bottom of your balloon shapes, to represent the bottom knot part of the balloon.



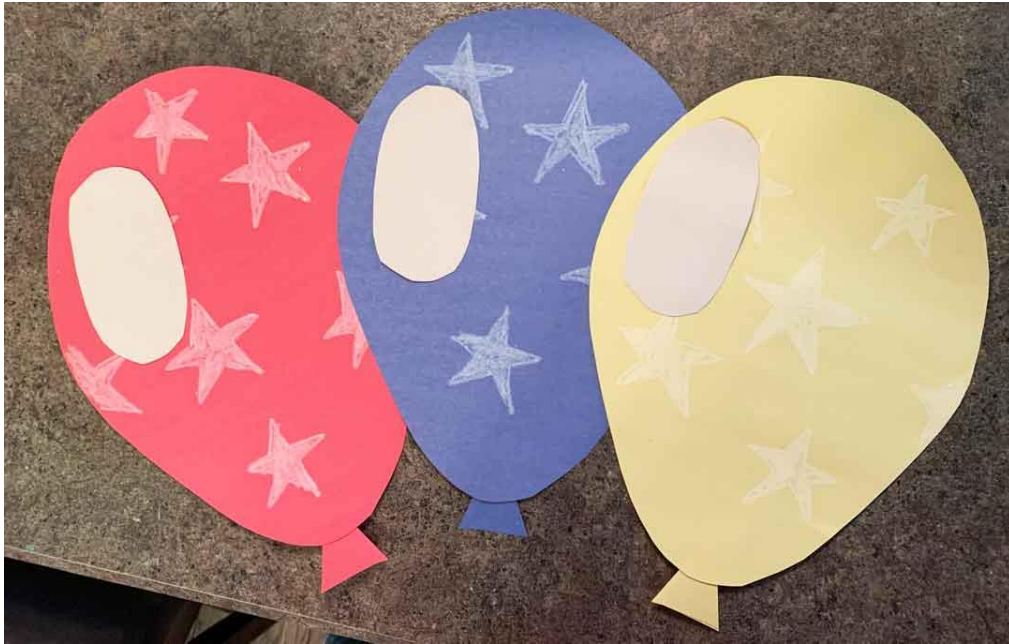
4) With the white crayon, draw some stars (or other designs) on your balloons. I am making my designs stars, because that was what was in the story (remember?). Making the designs on your balloons only using the white crayon will help them to keep looking like balloons. Many colored rubber balloons have white designs on them.



5) Now, use your pencil to draw a white oval, about the size of a bar of soap, on the white paper. Make as many of these ovals as you have balloons (example: 3 ovals for 3 balloons). Then cut these out, as well.



6) Use the tape to attach these white ovals to each of your balloons. Place them in the top left area of each balloon - in the same spot for all of them. These ovals of white represent the way light is reflected off of a balloon from either the sun or the lights in a house.



7) Cut one length of white yarn for each balloon - about the length of your arm is good. Then attach the string to the knot shape at the bottom of each balloon.

8) The last step is to hang the balloons in a spot where you decided to decorate with them. You will probably need help with this step to get them up high. It is a good idea to tape the string in different spots, so that they look like they are moving in a breeze.



Perfect! I hope you enjoy your balloons, and that they make you smile when you see them. It is fun to imagine all the places they could fly away to if they were in the sky - just like the balloon that visited the grandad of the boy in our story!

And – that is all for today's Pollywog! See you next time!

As we do Pollywog At Home, you are encouraged to send photos of your Pollywog projects to me at my email address: r.schiding.studio@comcast.net. I will share the work on the Library's website at the end of our Pollywog lessons. (I do not show children's faces in photos of their work that I share.)

You and I are lucky to be able to have art and storytime together. Thanks to **Wernersville Public Library!** Libraries are the best! They give us the chance to have wonderful things, without needing to spend extra money! Remember to thank them when you get the chance.

Pollywog at Home is being planned to continue throughout the whole summer. I am excited to be a part of Wernersville Public Library's Summer Reading Program this year. If you are using the Summer Quest app called READSquared, you can get points towards your summer reading prizes by logging your Pollywog time! Check out all the cool stuff they have planned virtually for you. We can have a great time with the library even while we are staying carefully separate from one another.

Follow the steps with the library file to register that you participated with Pollywog this week to get a prize. We are creating a whole set of rewards, including certificates and gift cards. **((You can receive credit for attending and working through this Pollywog At Home. Please follow this link to a form that will go to the Wernersville Public Library for an attendance prize: <https://forms.gle/SkZP5buJJXyXK3Bw8> – – copy and paste into browser if clicking does not work))**