

Children's Literature Reviews

Item 23 of 130

Pop Flop's great balloon ride

by Nancy Abruzzo ; illustrations by Noel Chilton.

Santa Fe, N.M. : Museum of New Mexico Press, c2005.

1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

Annotations:

Mary Pat sends one of her stuffed animals for a ride in her father's hot air balloon at the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta.
003-007.

Horn Book Guide:

Spring 2006 Picture Books Rating 5, Marginal, seriously flawed, but with some redeeming quality.

Reviews:

Gwynne Spencer (Children's Literature)

PopFlop the stuffed bunny gets to take a balloon ride during the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta (every October--the largest one in the world) one chilly morning. His adventure takes him high above the launch field where he can see the Rio Grande, the Sandia Tram and all the excitement on the ground. Written by balloon pilot Nancy Abruzzo, this is a lovely little story that explains a little about ballooning--how they launch, how they land--in the eyes of a small child. Also available is PopFlop's Activity Book, a classroom-oriented activity book that includes reproducible puzzles for older children. It is available free when you buy the book from the Abruzzo-Anderson Balloon Museum in Albuquerque, or \$5 if you order from the author at NancyAbruzzo@aol.com. In addition to a concise explanation of how balloons work, the activities introduce vocabulary like altitude, parts of the balloon, ballooning history, types of balloons. Like Hot Air Henry by Mary Calhoun, PopFlop explains ballooning without being didactic and offers the young reader a story with a child who stays on the ground (some stories put a child or an animal in control of a balloon--even though it is a registered aircraft and pilots must be licensed). A gentle introduction for little people! 2005, Museum of New Mexico Press, \$14.95. Ages 3 to 7.

Horn Book (The Horn Book Guide, Spring 2006)

A family attends the annual Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta, where Daddy pilots a hot-air balloon complete with a most unusual passenger--his daughter's stuffed animal. The story is flat, but the book successfully features plenty of information about balloon operation and introduces an interesting regional event. Brightly colored paintings complete the adventure. Category: Picture Books. 2005, Museum of New Mexico, 32pp, 12.95. Ages 4 to 9.
Rating: 5: Marginal, seriously flawed, but with some redeeming quality.

Subjects:

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