



MADIELINE'S MARVELOUS WEEK

CHAPTER FIVE - by Kay Hively

High above her head, and off in the distance, Madeline saw what looked like a huge balloon drifting through the sky. Hanging beneath the balloon was a big basket. Two people were standing in the basket. Maddie had never seen anything in the sky except a bird or a ball that someone threw high in the air. Now she actually saw men up in the sky, being carried away by a balloon.

Mama said it was a hot-air balloon. She said she had seen pictures of them in magazines. For a long time, Maddie and her mother stood looking up into the sky. The balloon continued to move, and before long it was not far away.

Maddie wondered who had blown up the big balloon. When the balloon got very close, one of the men in the basket leaned over the side and waved. Even though many people were standing nearby, Maddie was sure the man was waving to her. She waved back as hard as she could, but she also held her breathe, hoping the man would not fall out of the basket.

As Maddie waved to the man in the basket, Mama pointed and said "look." Another big balloon was coming toward them. Maddie's heart pounded in her chest. Seeing two giant balloons at one time was just breathtaking.

Suddenly, a man in a gray suit standing nearby began yelling up at one of the men in the first balloon. The man in the balloon answered back. Everyone became very quiet so the man on the ground and the man in the basket could hear each other.

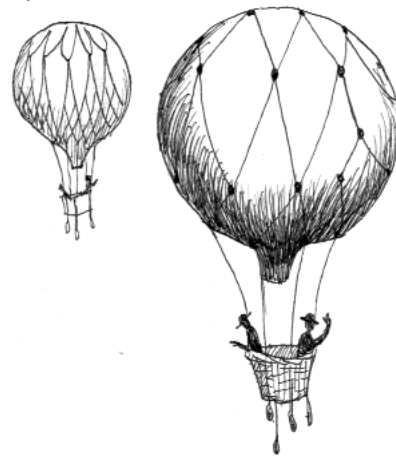
When the first balloon passed, the young man in the gray suit smiled at Maddie. Mama asked the man why he was yelling at the man in the balloon. He said the two balloons were in a race and he was helping the men in the first balloon. He also said he was an engineer and that his name was Hugh Robinson.

Mr. Robinson asked Maddie if she had ever seen a hot-air balloon. Maddie shook her head no, and then began asking questions. Patiently, the man answered her questions. He said that a fire inside the basket created heat waves that floated up into the balloon to keep it from falling to the ground.

Maddie asked Mr. Robinson if he had ridden in a hot-air balloon. He said that he had, but that he really hoped to fly an airplane. Then he told Maddie about two brothers, Wilbur and Orville Wright. He said these men had a machine with a motor that let them fly through the air like a bird.

As Maddie watched the two balloons drifting out of sight, she tried to imagine what it would be like to ride the wind. How exciting that would be.

Maddie sighed and wondered if the fair could get any better or any more marvelous. What would tomorrow bring? She could hardly wait to find out.



Author Kay Hively and Illustrator Billie Goforth-Stewart are both of Neosho, Missouri.
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CLASSROOM EXTENSIONS

Things to Think About and Do

- Write a short essay on Orville and Wilbur Wright and their first airplane flight. Tell where the flight took place. Research in the library or on the internet and learn more about Hugh Robinson.
- Mr. Robinson said that heat waves kept the big balloon from falling. Explain how that works.

Next Week: Chapter Six – And the wheel goes 'round