



# The Dragon Balloon



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OXFORD

### About the story

Pip lets go of her dragon balloon and it floats away. Tom and Ben try to grab the balloon and then it frightens a hen. Eventually, the balloon floats back to Pip.

### Before reading

Talk together

Look at the cover. Ask: *What do you think might happen if the girl lets go of the string?*

Story words

These words may be challenging but they are important for the story. Read them together and talk about what they mean.

**balloon** – a toy filled with air (p3, 4, 6, 12)

**dragon** – a monster with wings (p4)

### During reading

If your child has difficulty with a particular word while reading the book:

- break it down into sections, help them to sound it out and blend the sounds together, e.g. p-i-ck-s
- tell them the whole word if necessary.

Tricky words

These words are common but your child might find them difficult to read: I, go, the, to

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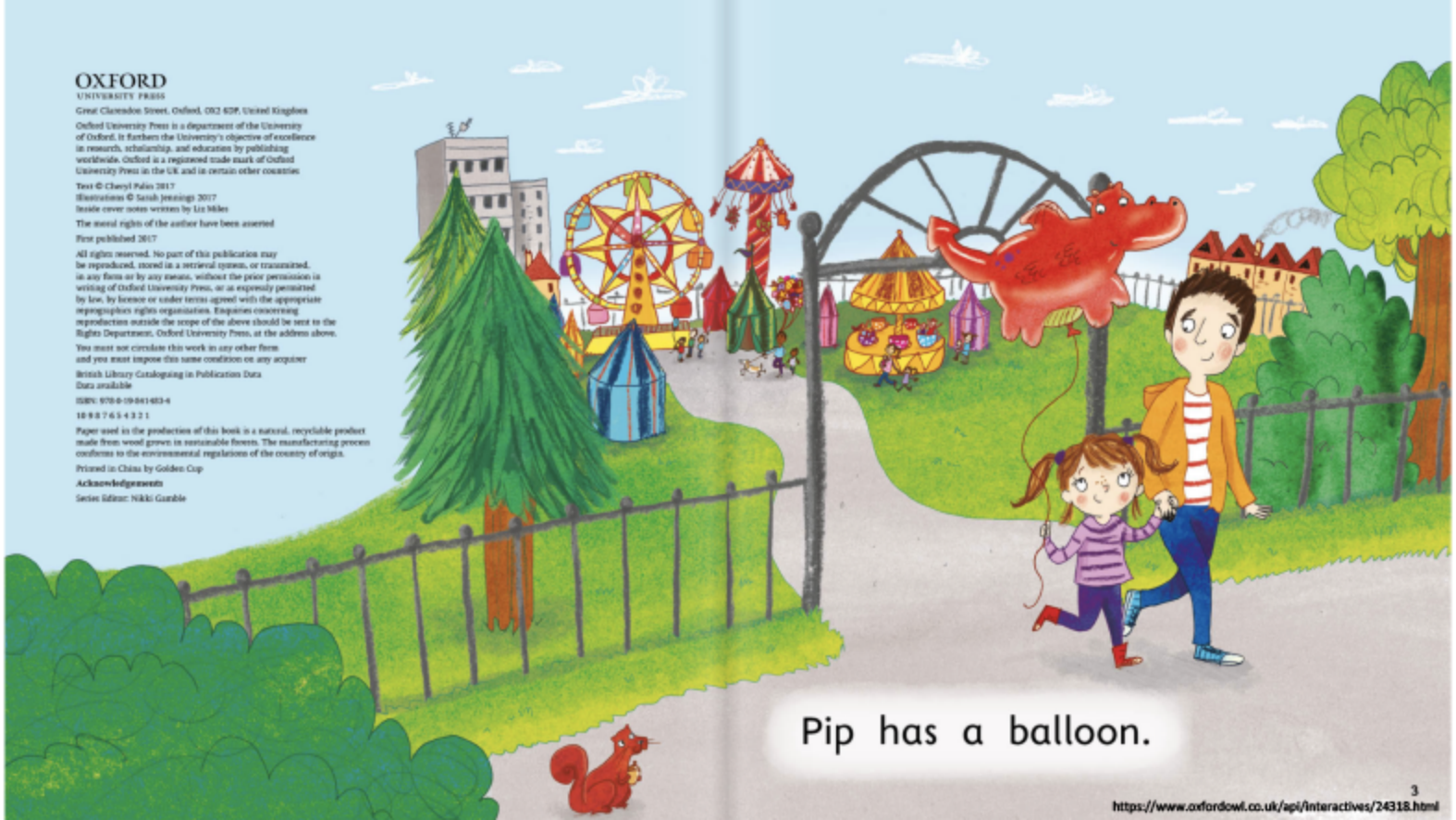
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Pip has a balloon.

A big dragon balloon!



Dad! I let  
it go!





The balloon bobs up and up.



Can Tom grab it?



Can Ben grab it?



It is fun!

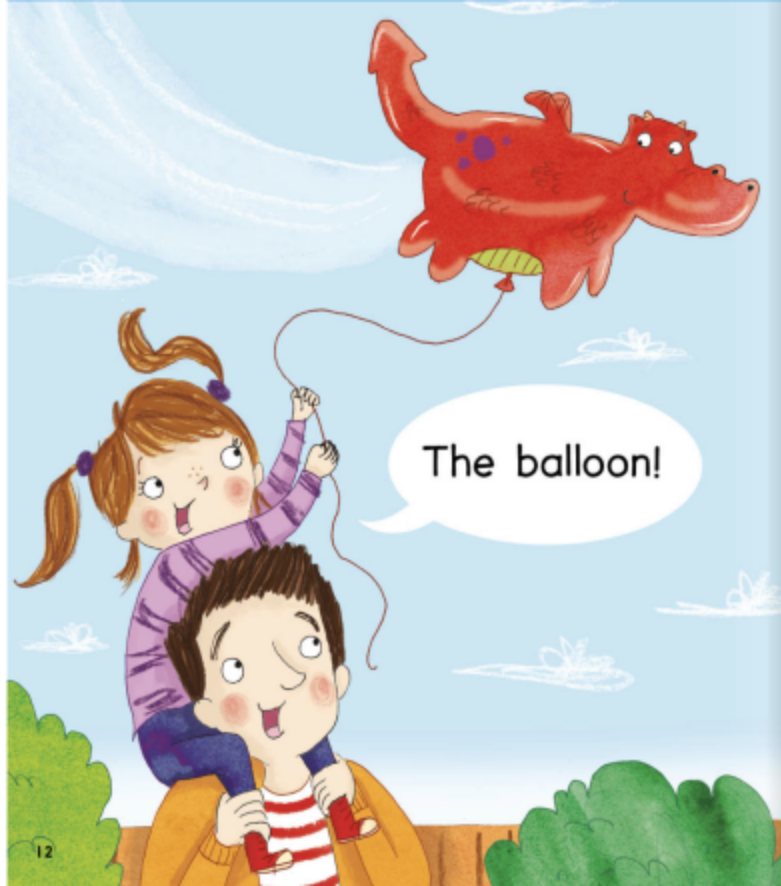




A hen has to run.

Dad picks Pip up.





## After reading

- Start to retell the story in your own words and encourage your child to join in. Look back at the pictures together to support your child.
- Look at p5 again. Ask: *How do you think Pip felt after she let the balloon go?*
- Read p6 of the story again. Ask: *What does 'bobs' mean? (Answer: moves gently up and down.)* Ask: *Can you move your hand like a bobbing balloon?*
- Look at the picture on p10. Ask: *Why is the hen running? (Answer: e.g. it is afraid of the balloon.)*

## Story words

Read the story words that were introduced in this book together, then ask your child to find them within the book. Ask them to tell you what each word means, prompting if necessary.

**balloon** (p3, 4, 6, 12) **dragon** (p4)

## Talk about the story

- Ask your child to pick another balloon from the picture on the cover and describe where it might go if it blew away.
- Ask: *Can you remember what 'grab' means?* Ask your child to think of one or two other words that mean the same as 'grab'.

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Pip has a  
dragon balloon  
but lets it go!



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