

# Family Resiliency Reading Guide THE TWENTY-ONE BALLOONS

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After reading *The Twenty-One Balloons* with your child, use this reading guide to continue the conversation around resiliency at home. In this guide, you will find a description of how this book relates to Resiliency Characteristics, literacy tips, and sample conversation starters for you and your child.

## SYNOPSIS

Professor William Waterman Sherman wanted to fly across the Pacific Ocean alone in a hot air balloon. *The Twenty-One Balloons* follows his story and the challenges he faced on his journey. During his journey, Professor Sherman landed on an island and discovered a world of unimaginable wealth, fascinating people and incredible balloon inventions. Although he encountered many challenges, with **grit** and determination, Professor Sherman never gave up on his goals.

## LESSONS IN RESILIENCY

- ▶ Professor Sherman went on his adventure alone and his journey had the potential to be very dangerous. He encountered problems along the way that led him down an unexpected path. Professor Sherman used his determination and **grit** to overcome the challenges he faced and to help others.
- ▶ Professor Sherman was at the center of saving everyone on the island of Krakatoa when a volcano eruption threatened their lives. He had to use his knowledge and ingenuity to help everyone survive and escape the island. This event was stressful and required Professor Sherman to be resilient to help others and himself escape danger.
- ▶ Professor Sherman demonstrated **grit** through the many challenges he faced throughout his journey. He overcame the destruction of his balloon, learned how to adapt to a unique society and escaped a natural disaster. Through all these challenges, he did not lose hope and continued to work toward his goals.

## RESILIENCY CHARACTERISTIC



### Grit

Working consistently toward my long-term goals.

## RESILIENCY CONVERSATION STARTERS:



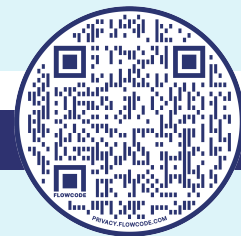
Ask your child if he or she ever had an idea that other people did not think would work. Discuss with your child the challenges he or she faced and ways to demonstrate **grit** to overcome peer pressure in these circumstances.



Professor Sherman wanted to embark on his adventure without anyone else. Discuss with your child what strategies he or she can use to develop **grit** and stay positive while working independently. Talk about strategies your child can use to stay focused on long-term goals, such as making short-term goals and critically thinking through challenges. Additionally, discuss the right time to incorporate a team member to help.

## LITERACY TIP

Help your child identify and set achievable reading goals, such as finishing a certain number of books within a month or exploring a new literary genre. Celebrate your child's accomplishments to reinforce the importance of literacy.



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