

# the BEAR and the MOON

WORDS BY Matthew Burgess  
PICTURES BY Cátia Chien

## About the Book

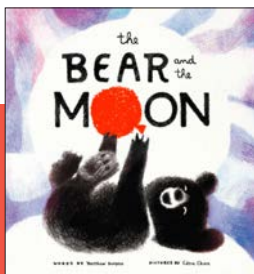
*The Bear and the Moon* by Matthew Burgess and Cátia Chien is a picture book that follows what happens when a red balloon suddenly floats into Bear's life. The two companions embark on a fun-filled journey that encompasses the joys of friendship and discovery. *The Bear and the Moon* is a gentle book that tackles complex topics like grief and forgiveness while also incorporating plenty of humor and playfulness.

## About the Author

**Matthew Burgess** is an assistant professor at Brooklyn College and a poet-in-residence in NYC schools through Teachers & Writers Collaborative. His award-winning first children's book, *Enormous Smallness: A Story of E. E. Cummings*, was a Junior Library Guild selection and an ALA Notable Children's Book.

## About the Illustrator

**Cátia Chien** was born and raised in São Paulo, Brazil, and now works in New York. Her children's book titles include an Ezra Jack Keats Honor winner, *Things to Do*, and an ALA Schneider Family Book award winner, *A Boy and a Jaguar*.



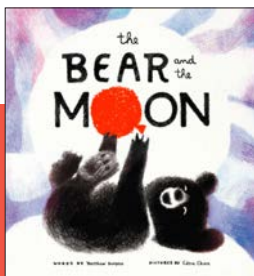
*The Bear and the Moon*  
by Matthew Burgess  
Illustrated by Cátia Chien  
Art 2020 © Cátia Chien  
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## Discussion Questions:

1. What happens after the bear finds the red balloon? How does the bear feel about his new friend?
2. What happens when the bear tries to give the balloon a hug? Why is the bear surprised when the balloon is gone?
3. Why does the bear say to himself, “Bad, bad, bear”. What emotions is he feeling in this part of the story?
4. Quietly, the moon says to him, “Good bear. Kind bear. Don’t worry, bear.” Do the bear’s feelings change when he sees the moon?
5. What does it mean to forgive yourself? Why is this important?
6. At the end of the story, the bear dances with the red balloon again. What do we learn about the bear in this part of the story? How does he feel about his friendship with the red balloon?



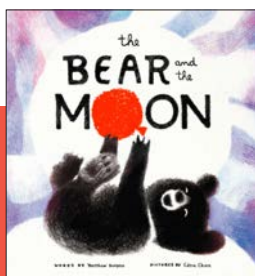
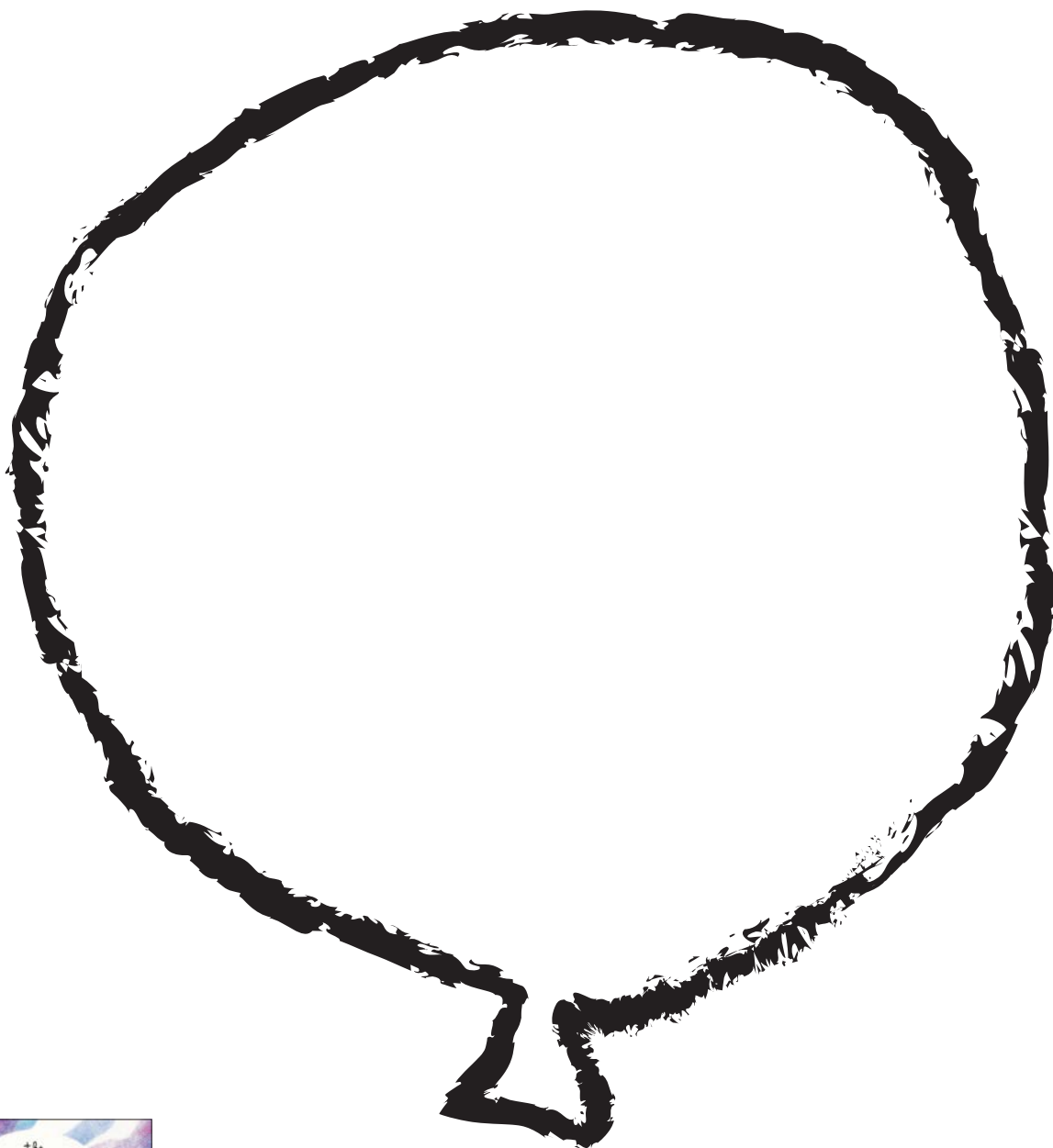
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## Design a friendship balloon!

Going on adventures with family and friends is so much fun! In the big balloon below, draw a picture of a time you did something extra special with someone you care about.



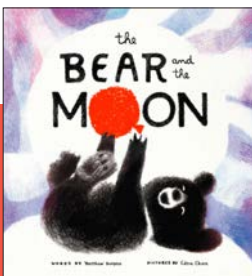
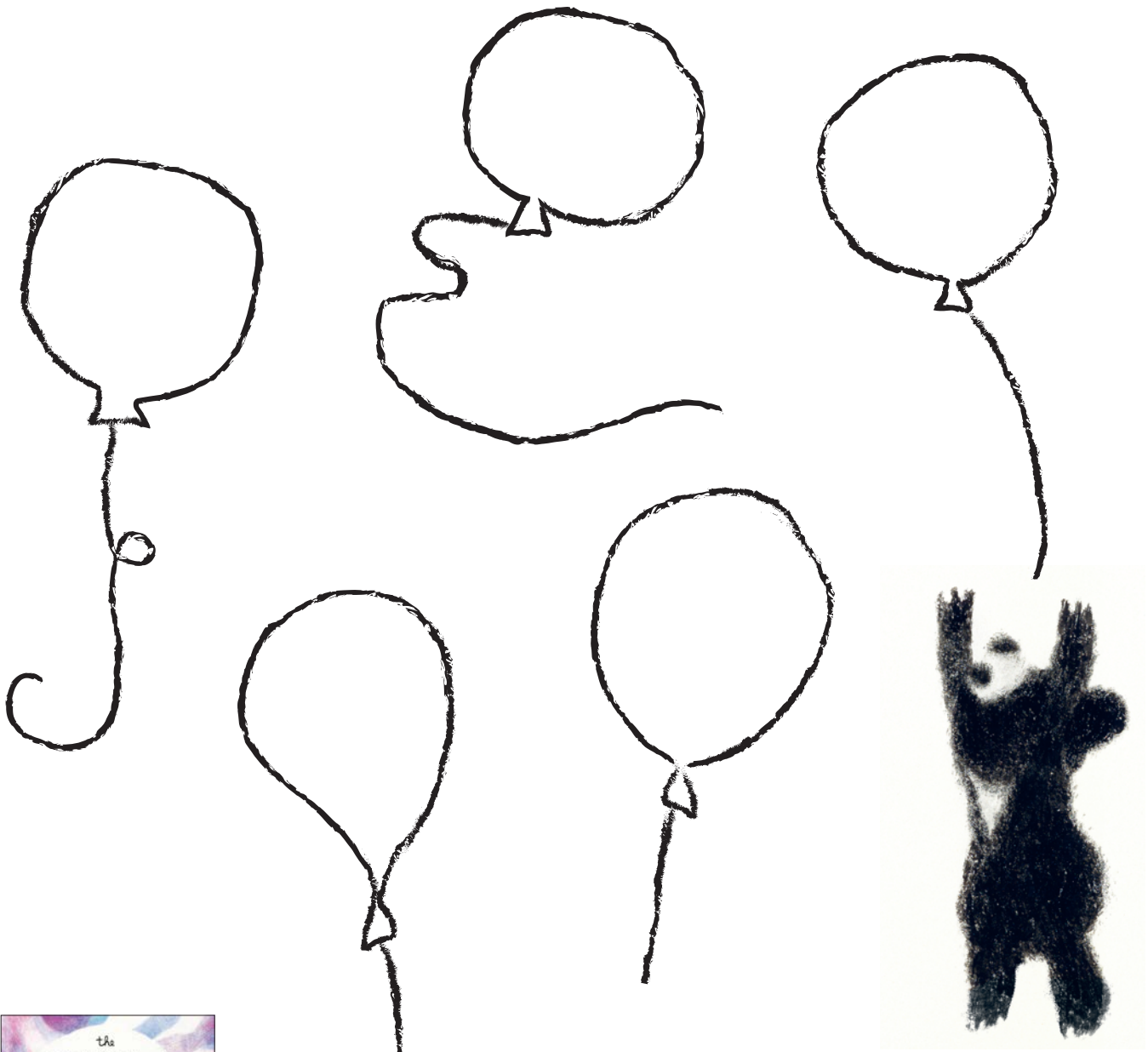
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## Fill the balloons with feelings!

Color in the five balloons in a way that reflects your different emotions. What does a happy balloon look like? What colors would you use to convey a sad balloon? What about a hopeful balloon? An excited balloon? There are no wrong choices!



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