

Neck & Neck

Written and Illustrated By: Elise Parsley

Synopsis: A giraffe's self-esteem is tested when he competes with a balloon for a young boy's attention.

Suggested Reading Date: Anytime

Activity Descriptions:

- Using a Venn diagram, compare and contrast the live giraffe with the balloon giraffe. A book to use in conjunction with this is *Living Things and Nonliving Things* by Kevin Kurtz.
- Use a database, such as PebbleGo or World Book Kids, to research giraffes.
- Persuasive writing assignment – students write down reasons why either a real animal or a stuffed animal would be better.
- Put up a measuring tape to 6 feet tall. This is the height of a newborn giraffe. Have students measure themselves against it. Typically, adult giraffes are 15 to 20 feet tall.

Related Websites:

- Official Elise Parsley Website: <https://www.eliseparsley.com/>
- Interview with the Author: <https://vimeo.com/269246336>
- Cheyenne Mountain Zoo Giraffe Webcam: <http://www.cmzoo.org/index.php/animals-plants/giraffe-cam/>
- Animal Adventure Giraffe Webcam: <https://www.aprilthegiraffe.com/>

Text to Text Connections: *Harvey Potter's Balloon Farm* – Jerdine Nolen
How to Make Balloon Animals - Megan Atwood
A Giraffe and a Half - Shel Silverstein

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