

The Twenty One Balloons

5th Grade Summer 2011 Reading Project and Response

Part A: Professor Sherman and the Krakatoans were fascinated with hot-air balloons and how they worked. Today, hot-air balloons are used for scientific experiments, as well as for recreational uses. Using the information provided by the author, design your own hot-air balloon on paper or a 3-D model. Make your design colorful and be creative. Provide a brief explanation (2-3 sentences) of how your hot-air balloon works. (50 points)

Part B: Please choose one of the essay questions below to answer. You will answer the question using complete sentences. **The response should be a minimum of 5-8 sentences.** The final copy should be in your **best cursive writing or typed.** (50 points)

- Throughout the story, what were Professor Sherman's attitudes and feelings about scientists, children, and artists in general? Did his opinion of them change or remain the same as a result of his experience on Krakatoa?
- What did the Krakatoans think of the old saying "busy hands are kept out of mischief"? What do you think about it?
- What would have happened if a fishing boat had anchored off the coast of Krakatoa, and two fishermen from the boat rowed over to the island and discovered the settlement? What action do you think the Krakatoans would have taken? Support your prediction with evidence from the story.
- What do you admire most about Professor Sherman: the fact that he went around the world in forty days or the fact that he was loyal to the Explorers' Club, of which he was a member? Why?
- What would you do if you had an untold wealth of diamonds at your disposal? How does your solution compare to Professor Sherman's and the sailor's solution to the problem?
- If you could have any of the inventions mentioned in the story, which one would you choose and why?