



# THE PIÑATA

THAT THE FARM MAIDEN HUNG

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ILLUSTRATED BY SEBASTIÀ SERRA



# MAKE YOUR OWN PIÑATA!

A *piñata* is a container created by covering a balloon or clay pot with strips of paper soaked in a glue-like paste. The *piñata* is decorated with paint and/or tissue paper and typically filled with candy and toys. It is hung, from a tree or pole, for example, and people try to hit it with a wooden dowel or broomstick to break it open.

## MATERIALS

balloon (12-inch latex)

newspaper

scissors

water (1 cup)

large bowl

all-purpose white flour (1¼ cup)

whisk

rope or twine (36 inches or longer)

wrapped candy, small toys, and/or other novelty items

duct tape

colored tissue paper, cut into squares

paint, brushes, and craft glue

optional: a small fan

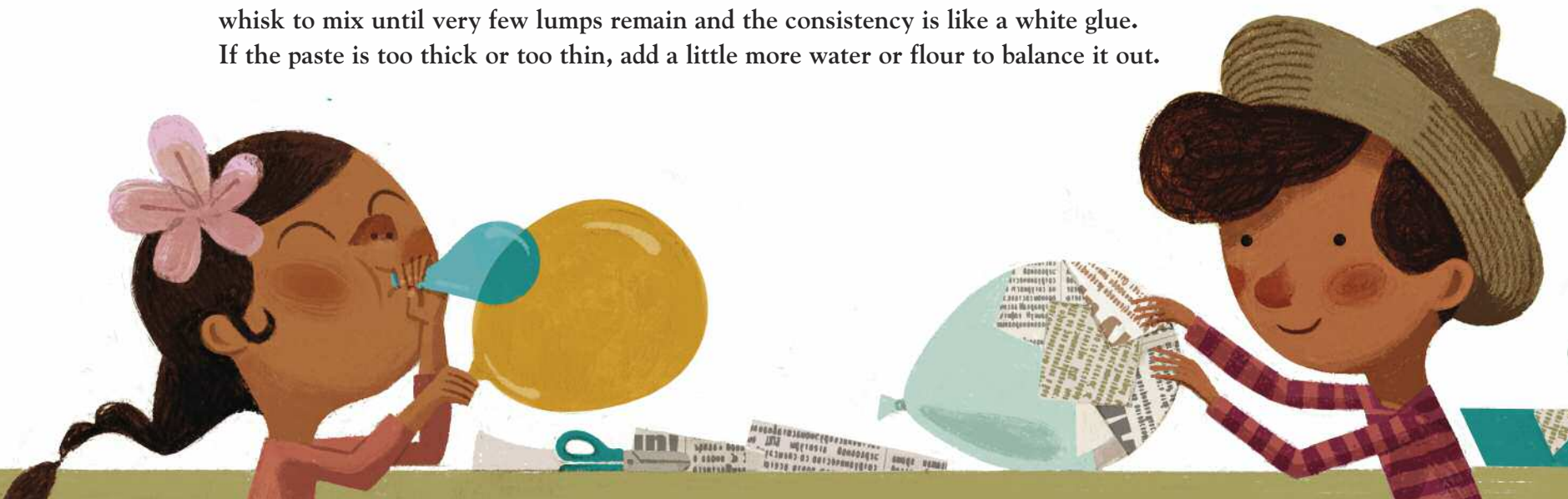
## INSTRUCTIONS

This project, including drying time, takes a few days. Before you begin, read all the instructions so you can plan ahead, and be sure to ask an adult for permission and help because making a *piñata* can be messy. You may want to wear an apron or old shirt and cover your work area to protect against spills.

**1. BLOW UP** the balloon and tie it with a knot.

**2. CUT** the newspaper into strips (approximately 1½ to 2 inches wide by 6 inches long). Cut enough strips to cover your balloon with two layers.

**3. ADD THE WATER** to the bowl. Gradually add small amounts of flour, using the whisk to mix until very few lumps remain and the consistency is like a white glue. If the paste is too thick or too thin, add a little more water or flour to balance it out.



- 4. DIP** a newspaper strip into the paste, coating the strip on both sides. Use your fingers to skim off any excess paste from each side of the strip.
- 5. APPLY** the coated strip—either vertically or horizontally—to the balloon, gently smoothing the strip across the balloon with your fingers.
- 6. REPEAT STEPS 4 AND 5** until the balloon is covered. All the strips should be applied in the same direction. Make sure not to cover the balloon's knot so you can remove it later from inside your *piñata*.
- 7. THROW OUT** any remaining paste. Let the strips dry for eight to twelve hours. To shorten the drying time, you can use a fan to blow on the balloon. The strips will create a hardened shell over the balloon.
- 8.** After the balloon has dried, **MAKE** a second batch of paste and repeat steps 4 and 5 to apply a second layer of strips. If the first layer was applied horizontally, apply the second layer vertically and vice versa.
- 9. FOLD** your rope or twine in half and place the middle point at the opposite end of the balloon from where it is tied. Paste a strip over the middle point, adding more strips to secure the rope or twine to the balloon.
- 10.** Let the balloon sit for two or three days to **DRY** completely. If desired, use your fan again.
- 11.** Once your *piñata* is totally dry, use your scissors to **POP** the balloon where the knot is tied. Gently pull the popped balloon out. Now you have a small hole to insert treats. If the hole is too small, enlarge it a little by cutting around the edge to make a slightly larger circle.
- 12. FILL** the *piñata* with candy, small toys, and/or other items.
- 13. YOU CAN COVER** the hole with strips of paper coated in a new batch of paste, or you can simply cover it securely with a few pieces of duct tape to be sure nothing will fall out.
- 14. DECORATE** the *piñata* using paint and by gluing tissue-paper squares to cover it.

