

'**W**hat's that?' George pointed to the flash of red at the top of a tree. He was staying with his uncle and they had gone for a walk. It was very cold and George was ready to go back inside.

Uncle Bob shook a branch and down fell a shrunken balloon with a postcard attached. 'Ah, it's a balloon from this year's charity balloon race in Crowmarket,' said Uncle Bob. 'Have you ever seen one?'

George shook his head so Uncle Bob explained. 'People pay £5 each for a balloon – the money goes to charity. They write their names on a postcard, and it's tied as a label to a balloon. At the race, all the balloons are released. They're filled with helium gas, and so they float away on the breeze. When someone finds a balloon, they write the address on the postcard and post it back to the charity.'

George shivered with cold.

'But this balloon hasn't travelled very far,' said Uncle Bob, 'Crowmarket is only 2.456 km away. Last year, the top three balloons all came from the same village – because of the wind direction. A purple balloon travelled 27.205 km, an orange balloon travelled 27.792 km and a brown balloon travelled 27.069 km.'

'Why don't we go back to your house and fill in the label?' said George, wanting to get warm again.

Uncle Bob laughed. 'Okay! We could have some hot chocolate too!'



# Balloon race winners

## Comprehension questions

- This year, the balloons that travelled the furthest were red, blue and green. Which balloon won?
  - red 34.405 km
  - blue 34.045 km
  - green 34.450 km
- Last year, which balloon won?
  - purple
  - orange
  - brown
- To the nearest kilometre, how far is Uncle Bob's village from Crowmarket?
  - 2 km
  - 3 km
  - 4 km
- To the nearest 10 m, how far is Uncle Bob's house from Crowmarket?
  - 240 m
  - 2450 m
  - 2460 m
- George lives 100 times as far from Uncle Bob's house as it is from Crowmarket. Which is correct?
  - George lives 2456 km from Uncle Bob
  - George lives 245.6 km from Uncle Bob
  - George lives 24.56 km from Uncle Bob
- The balloon that travelled the shortest distance travelled 0.015 km. What is this to the nearest kilometre?
  - 0 km
  - 1 km
  - 5 km