

Story for performance #61
webcast from Paris at 08:59PM, 20 Aug 05



Source: James Bennet, 'Palestinians watch pullout and make plans', *New York Times* in *International Herald Tribune* online, 20/08/05.

Tags: [water](#), [travel](#), [shape-shifting](#)

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Tony Hawk is a great skateboarder. One day he went to the beach at Catherine Hill Bay not far north of Sydney, New South Wales, Australia. He took his skateboard and rode it along the beach for an hour or so. Then he had a great idea: he decided to ride over the waves to Paris on his skateboard, for an adventure.

On the way there he was greeted by a mighty black shark who ate his favourite blue skateboard and nearly ate Tony with it. This made him very upset because he liked that blue skateboard and now he would have to swim to Paris. He swam very quickly to get away from the mighty black shark, thinking all the while that he would need to buy a new skateboard.

When he arrived in Paris he was really very tired. After a little rest he searched all up and down the rue de Rivoli until he found a brand new red skateboard. This skateboard was very special—it had secret magical powers. When Tony started to ride his new red skateboard he turned into the magnificent Captain Eiffel Tower, complete with a magnificent sparkly red cape.

Now the great skateboarder Captain Eiffel Tower found that he was flying above the heads of the people as they walked up and down the rue de Rivoli. Then, just up ahead he saw a whole lot of coloured spots dancing in front of his eyes. As he got closer he could see that the coloured spots were actually balloons and they were in fact a forest of brightly coloured helium balloons. As he went skateboard surfing through them they jiggled and jostled around him and tickled him a little too. At that point he hovered on his skateboard and looked down to see what, or rather who, was at the end of the balloon forest. Why if it wasn't Madame Barbara Balloons about whom he'd heard so many great things. He was so delighted to see her, and she him, that she let all of the

balloons go and they watched as they spread themselves around the Paris sky.

They were having such a charming time together that pretty soon Captain Eiffel Tower and Madame Barbara Balloons went back to Madame B. B.'s studio at the Cité des Arts. Madame B. B. lived very high up in a tower block and she had magical windows that faced the river. The Captain and Madame B. B. looked out of the windows at the monstrous gargoyles of Notre Dame, now with balloons hooked around their beaks and claws. They danced with excitement at the sight of it and after many hours of dancing the Captain was ready to return home to Sydney.

So at sunset he dived into the River Seine, swimming out into the ocean. On his way back to Sydney he once again met the mighty black shark. He was still terrified at the sight of his mighty teeth, but to his surprise the shark spat his loyal old blue skateboard back at him, exclaiming as he did so: 'Young man, you had better take this and be gone as fast as you can'.

Captain Eiffel Tower now had two skateboards with which to ride the waves back to the safe shores of Australia. On arrival the red skateboard gave its powers to the blue skateboard and in turn the exhausted Captain Eiffel Tower changed back into the no-less remarkable Tony Hawk.

Tony slept very well that night in the comfort of his own bed and dreamt of Madame Barbara Balloons who he imagined was still dancing in her studio, way, way above the city of Paris.

Adapted for performance by Barbara Campbell from a story by Oskar Backent, 6 years old, going on 7 (with assistance from RaRa).