

# The Pirate's Secret

## Teacher Resources, Week 1

### This pdf contains:

- **Text Questions:** In this section, you will find questions about the chapter. These can be used orally in guided or shared reading discussions, as an independent comprehension exercise, or as part of a written homework or reading club activity.
- **Making the Choice and Voting:** Before choosing how to vote, students could discuss, as a group or a class, the wider context of the story and the consequences for the characters of each voting option at the end of the chapter. Students should be encouraged to use a variety of resources in their research, including books and the Internet.
- **Writing and Art Activities:** Fiction Express for Schools provides a brilliant springboard into writing and some ideas and inspiration are provided in this section.
- **Starter Vocabulary Lists:** Students might find these lists useful for their writing and drama exercises.
- **Templates:** This section provides printable templates for one, or some, of the exercises suggested in the 'Writing and Art Activities' section.
- **Worksheets:** This section provides printable worksheets for student use. Answers are also provided.
- **'Find out for Yourself' Activity:** This section provides an activity involving students researching the answers to questions on the Internet and in library books. Answers are provided.
- **Picture Resources:** This section provides images to inspire student discussion. These images can be displayed on a whiteboard or printed.
- **Resources:** Here you will find a list of relevant websites that students might find useful.

## Text Questions

### Chapter 1 Taken!

1. Did you enjoy the opening chapter of *The Pirate's Secret*? Were you excited by the subject of this new story? If yes, why? Did the author keep you interested and entertained all the way through the chapter?
2. In what century does the action of this story take place?
3. What are the names of the main characters?
4. What does Bill Tregorey mean when he says, *sure as gulls is gulls*? What is this sort of phrase called (an idiom). Can you think of a similar phrase that means the same thing (sure as eggs are eggs).
5. What sort of upbringing do you think Arden had after his mother died? How do Arden and his father make a living?
6. What does Bill Tregorey mean when he speaks of Arden's *tender years*? What reasons does Bill give for not telling Arden the golden secret?
7. What is Luggole Spain's real name? How did he get his nickname?
8. What does Arden think his father feels about Luggole Spain?
9. What time of day did Arden set off for the market? Why did he need to go there?

10. Why didn't any of the local people stop the ruffians from dragging Arden's father away?
11. What does *experienced fighters* mean? Can you write down the first word as it would normally be written. Why do you think the author wrote it in this way? How does the author show that some letters are missing from this word?
12. What simile does the author use to describe the way the crowd standing around his house was behaving? Go back to the story to find out.
13. Mrs Willerby describes the captain as *evil-lookin'*. What letter is missing from the end of the second word? How does the author show that a letter is missing? Why has he written it in this way?
14. Why do you think Arden's father has been kidnapped?
15. Mrs Willerby describes the men who kidnapped Arden's father as *ruffians*. What sort of person is a ruffian?
16. How do you think you would feel if you discovered that your father had been kidnapped?
17. Which city and what area of the city does Arden head towards?
18. What can Arden smell when he gets to the quayside? Go back to the story to find out.

19. What happens to Arden when he asks the second person about Lambert Spain?
20. Which country does Pierre Marchand come from? How do we know this?
21. What does *mon petit ami* mean? You may have to look in a French dictionary. Can you find any other French words in chapter 1?
22. What do you notice about the way that Pierre speaks English?
23. Why do you think the Blue Parrot is *anchored some distance from the quayside*? Where is the *Blue Parrot* about to sail to?
24. What is the quickest way for Arden to get to Jamaica?
25. How does Pierre offer to help Arden? What job would Arden have to do while she was on board *Le Roi d'Or*?
26. Pierre mentions some *leetle problems*. What are these problems? What is the correct spelling for *leetle*? Why does the author write the word in this way?
27. *Le Roi d'Or, she is very old...maybe she is sinking in the Atlantic?* says Pierre. What do you notice about the way Pierre refers to this ship? (He uses the word 'she'.)

## Making the Choice and Voting

### What does Arden decide to do?

#### 1. Risk his life by trying to sneak aboard the *Blue Parrot* unseen before the ship sails?

How easy would this be? The *Blue Parrot* is anchored some way from the quayside, and the seamen on board the ship would be on the lookout for unwanted visitors – especially if the ship is indeed a pirate vessel. Even if he got on board the ship, how would he move about it undetected, so that he could find his father? If he was caught, would the seaman/pirates think that Arden, as Bill's son, would know the golden secret? Maybe Arden is a good actor and could fool the pirates into believing that he only wants to become one of them!

#### 2. Wait a day and sail to Hispaniola with his new friend on the dangerously leaky *Le Roi d'Or*?

As Pierre seems a friendly sort of person, and willing to help Arden, is he better off going with him? Remember the ship is very leaky and in danger of sinking. Also the ship isn't going to Jamaica and so Arden would need to make another journey before reaching his final destination. Would he get to Jamaica in time to save his father?

#### 3. Use all his money to sail the next day directly and swiftly to Jamaica as a passenger on the merchant ship *Ryswick*?

This seems the fastest and safest way to get to Jamaica. It would, however, mean he would arrive penniless in a strange place, but at least it would be the right place! Maybe he could earn some money on the merchant ship during the voyage, or save up some of his food rations to keep him going for a while once he reached Jamaica.

**Think about which choice would make an exciting chapter 2.**

## Writing and Art Activities

Arden doesn't see his father being dragged away. Imagine you are Bill Tregorey. Write your account of your capture and kidnap. Make it as exciting as you can. Include lots of description of the kidnappers and don't forget to describe your thoughts and feeling as the events happen.

(Vocabulary List A)

What sort of ship do you think the *Blue Parrot* is? Go back to chapter 1 to find the name of this sort of vessel. Using the Internet and books, find out what these vessels looked like. Find out why they were called brigantines and who used them. Then draw a picture of a brigantine making sure you include all the important features. Label your picture and give a descriptive account of what these boats were like and what they were used for, plus any other interesting information. You can use the picture frame templates in these resources to make a frame for your picture.

Using the comic strip template, make a cartoon strip of chapter one. You need to include all the main events and use speech bubbles and extended captions to explain what is going on. Your comic strip could go something like this – 1. Arden listening to his father's stories and pleading to be told about the golden secret. 2. Arden going to market very early in the morning. 3. Arden arriving home to see the neighbours outside his house and his front door knocked off its hinges. 4. Arden leaving home to go to Bristol. 5. Arden arriving at the quayside and asking people about Lambert Spain. 6. Arden talking to Pierre Marchand and looking out towards the *Blue Parrot*.

# The Pirate's Secret by Stewart Ross



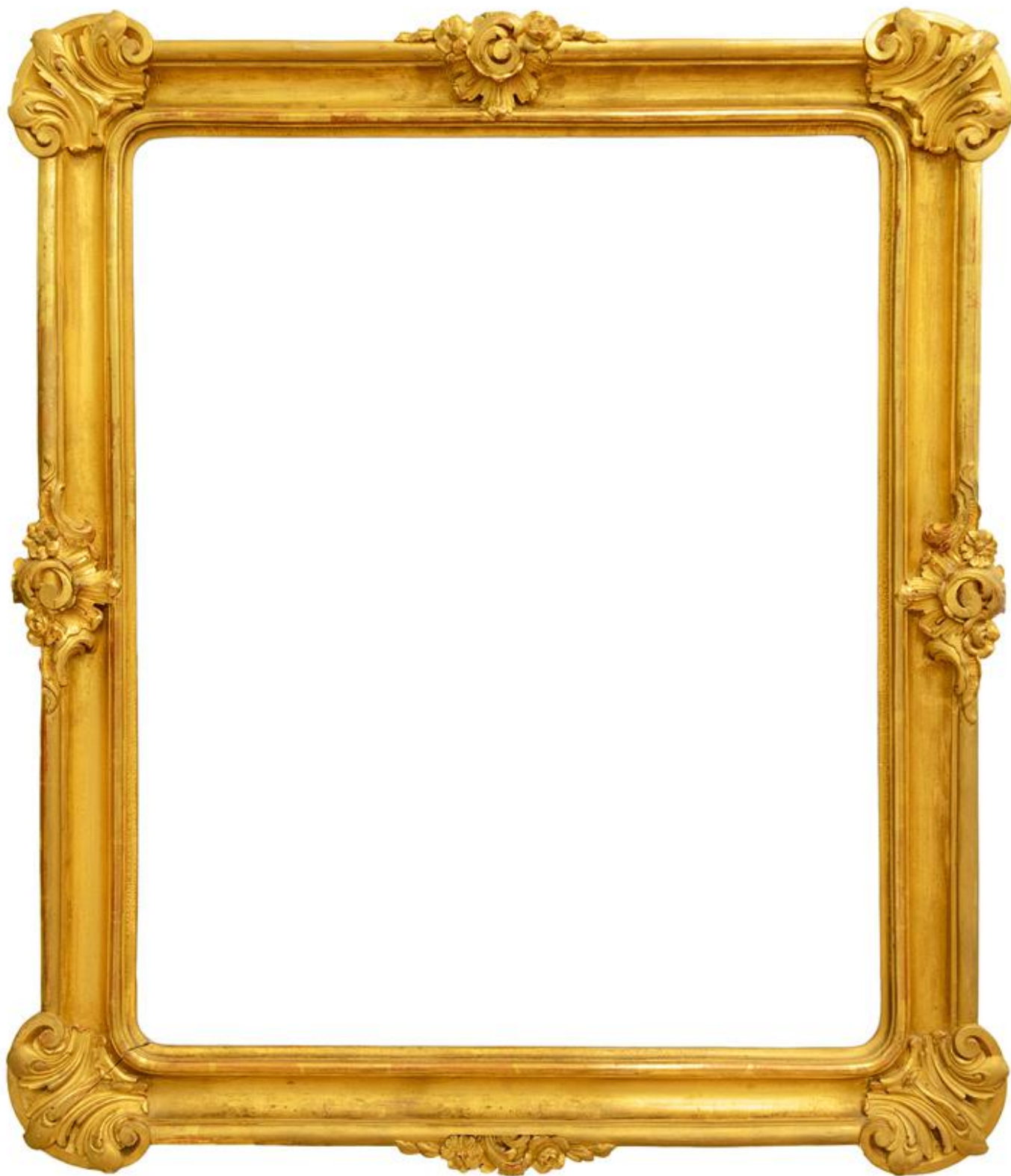
## Starter Vocabulary Lists

### Vocabulary List A

noise, shouting, banging, locked, thud, wrenched, forced, cursing, rough, scarred, angry, surging, surrounded, pulled, pushed, tied, bound, dragged, gagged, tight, hustled, bustled, trample, threatened, broke, crashed, swore, violent, scared, terrified, shaking, pounding, pleading, overpowered, overwhelmed, forced, escape.

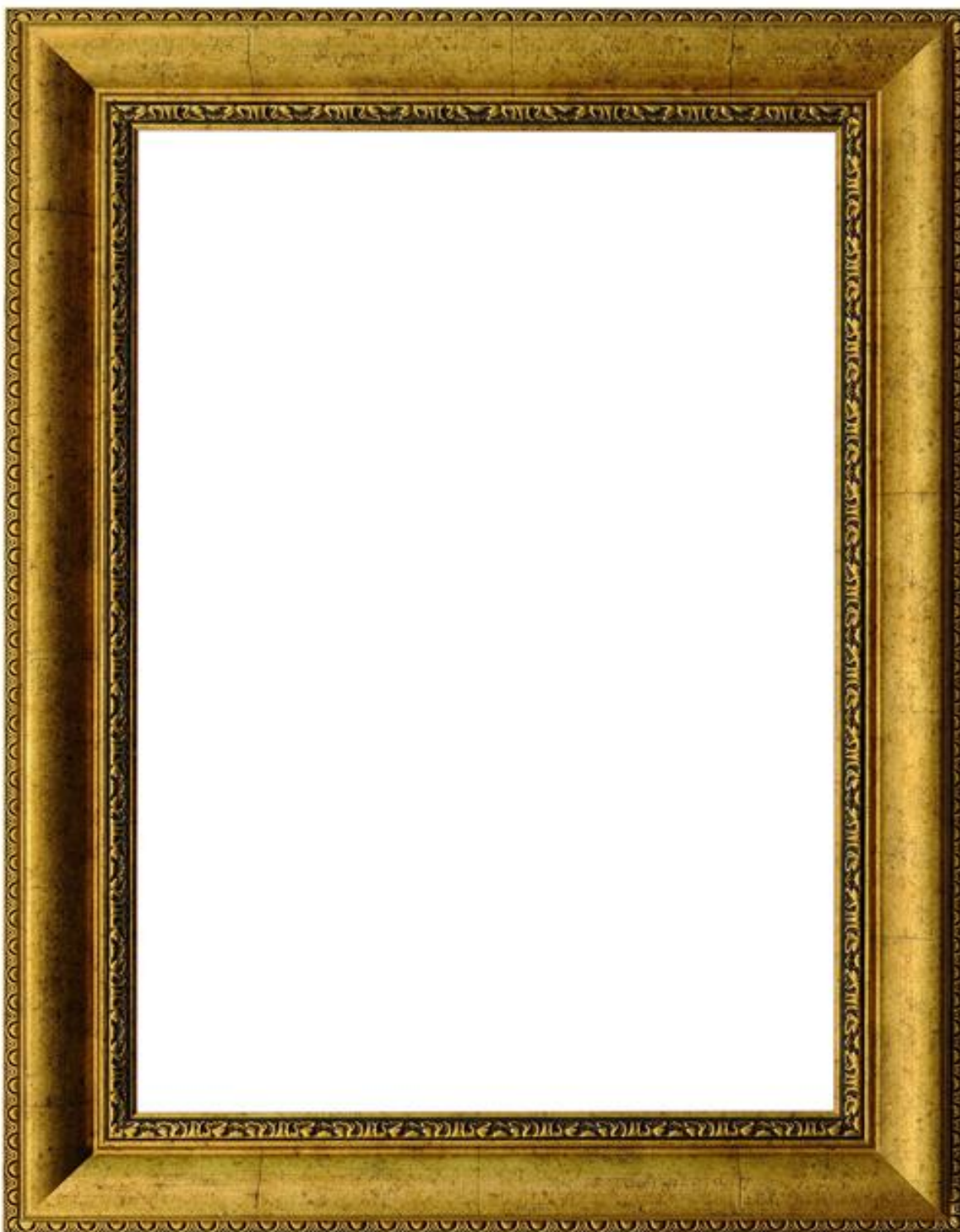
The Pirate's Secret by Stewart Ross

**Templates: Picture Frame 1**





**Templates: Picture frame 2**



**Templates: Picture frame 3**

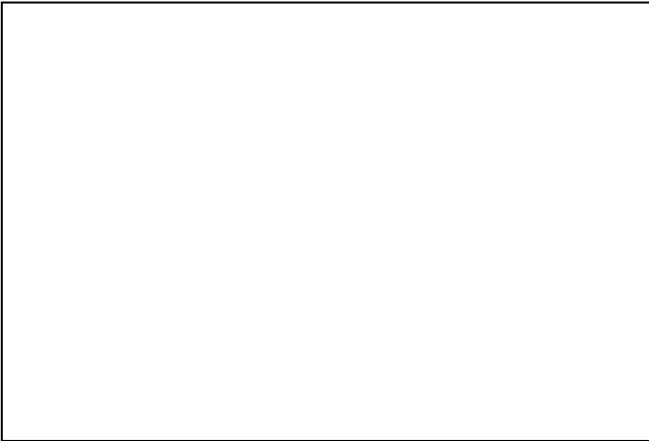
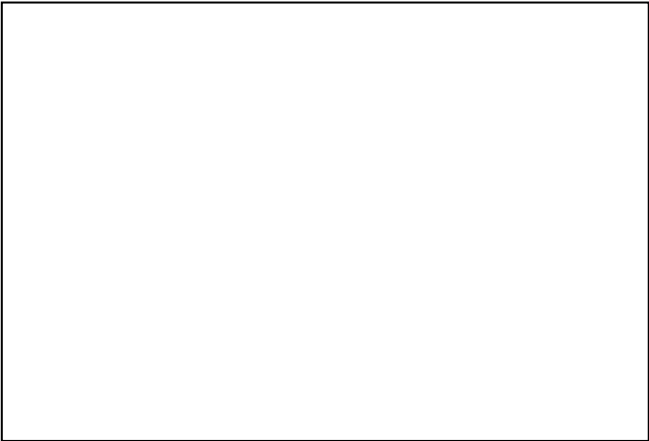
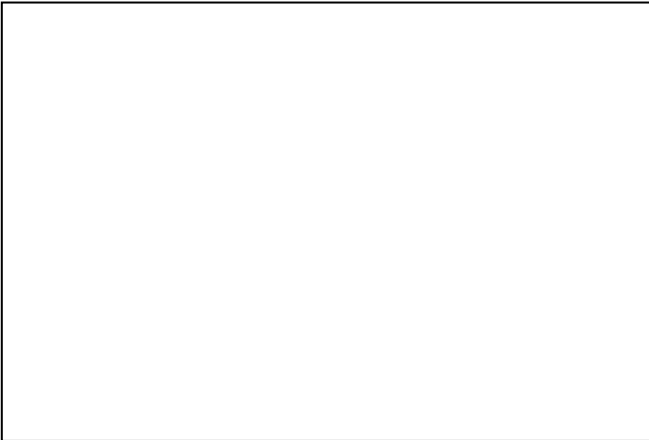
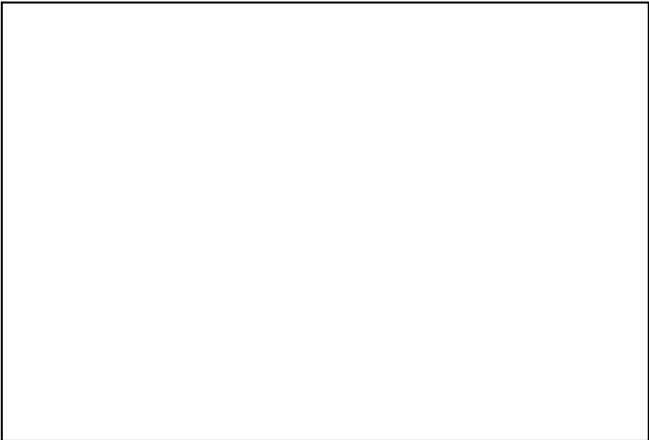
# The Pirate's Secret by Stewart Ross



# The Pirate's Secret by Stewart Ross



## Templates: Comic Strip



### Things you might like to add:



Thought bubbles



Speech bubbles



Sound effects

# The Pirate's Secret by Stewart Ross



## Worksheet (1 of 3)

### 1. Put the correct word in the gaps below.

**lagoons, battered, dragged, anchored, screeched, shipwrecks, ruffians**

He spoke of his days as a seafarer, of \_\_\_\_\_ and golden

sands, of \_\_\_\_\_ and adventures.

They had grabbed my father, and \_\_\_\_\_ him away.

A gang of six \_\_\_\_\_ smashed their way into the workroom.

As I grew close, gulls \_\_\_\_\_ overhead.

He nodded towards a \_\_\_\_\_ but seaworthy brigantine

\_\_\_\_\_ some distance from the quayside.

### 2. Answer the following questions. Write your answers as complete sentences.

Why wouldn't Bill Tregorey tell his son the golden secret?

# The Pirate's Secret by Stewart Ross



## Worksheet (2 of 3)

What was the most important thing that Bill Tregorey had ever done when he was a seafarer?

What promise does Bill Tregorey make to his son?

Had Arden Tregorey been to the port of Bristol before?

Where did Arden find the gold coins?

What does Pierre Marchand think will happen to Arden if he tries to get aboard the *Blue Parrot*?

# The Pirate's Secret by Stewart Ross



## Worksheet (3 of 3)

### 3. Who said what?

Write the name of the speaking character in the spaces below

“So tell me all.” \_\_\_\_\_

“Lambert Spain. But to us seafarers he was always known as ‘Luggole Spain’.”

\_\_\_\_\_

“They were all scars and battlemarks – `sperienced fighters.”

\_\_\_\_\_

“Never seen such an evil-lookin’ villain in all my days!”

\_\_\_\_\_

“Well, mon petit ami” \_\_\_\_\_

“I could try and sneak on board the *Blue Parrot* `afore she sails.”

\_\_\_\_\_

**4. Here is a list of words from chapter 3. Using a thesaurus, find another word, that means the same thing (synonym) for each of the words in the list below.**

Begged \_\_\_\_\_

Chuckled \_\_\_\_\_

Talked \_\_\_\_\_

Boasted \_\_\_\_\_

Danger \_\_\_\_\_

Bravely \_\_\_\_\_

## Worksheet ANSWERS

### Activity 1

He spoke of his days as a seafarer, of deep lagoons and golden sands, of shipwrecks and adventures.

They had grabbed my father, and dragged him away.

A gang of six ruffians smashed their way into the workroom.

As I grew close, gulls screeched overhead.

He nodded towards a battered but seaworthy brigantine anchored some distance from the quayside.

### Activity 2

Bill Tregorey wouldn't tell his son the golden secret because he thought he was too young to hear it.

The most important thing that Bill Tregorey had ever done was to outwit the most dastardly pirate in the Caribbean.

Bill Tregorey promised to tell Arden the secret one day and then to set sail so they could uncover the secret for themselves.

Arden Tregorey had been to the port of Bristol several times before.

Arden found the gold coins hidden beneath a floorboard in the workshop.

Pierre Marchand thinks that Arden will get killed if he tries to get aboard the *Blue Parrot*.

# The Pirate's Secret by Stewart Ross



## Worksheet ANSWERS (continued)

### Activity 3

Arden Tregorey

Bill Tregorey

Gabriel Tunn

Mrs Willerby

Pierre Marchand

Arden Tregorey

### Activity 4

begged (pleaded, asked, entreated, beseeched)

chuckled (giggled, cackled, chortled)

talked over (discussed)

boasted (bragged)

danger (hazard, trouble, peril)

bravely (courageously, fearlessly)



# The Pirate's Secret by Stewart Ross



## 'Find out for yourself' Activity

Using the Internet, and books in your school library, try to find the answers to the following questions.

1. Arden and his father are sitting in front of a *seacoal fire*. What is seacoal?
2. Which very famous pirate was born in Bristol? What was his real name and his pirate name?
3. Why do you think three ships at Bristol docks were all going to the Caribbean? What trade did Britain have with the Caribbean at this time?
4. What did pirates do in the 18th century?
5. Why did some seaman become pirates?
6. Find the country of Jamaica in an atlas. Make a list of the islands and countries that are nearest to it.
7. Which great explorer was the first European to sail to Jamaica?
8. Where is the island of Hispaniola? What is this island called today?
9. What is the name of the people that were living on the island of Hispaniola at the time when Europeans first sailed there?

**'Find out for yourself' Activity ANSWERS**

1. Coal brought by sea, or coal from seams exposed by the sea on the coast.
2. Edward Teach (Blackbeard)
3. Trade with the Caribbean islands included tobacco, coffee, sugar, cotton and slaves
4. Pirates were sea robbers that tried to capture other ships and steal their cargoes.
5. Life for an ordinary sailor on a merchant ship was harsh and conditions were awful. Therefore becoming a pirate seemed more attractive as the crew was treated much better than normal sailors and prize money was shared out equally. Most seamen became pirates because they hoped to become rich on plunders of treasure and cargo ships.
6. Cuba, Haiti, Dominican Republic, USA, Honduras, Nicaragua, Mexico
7. Christopher Columbus, in 1494.
8. Haiti, Dominican Republic
9. The Taíno, these are one of the indigenous Arawak peoples.

# The Pirate's Secret by Stewart Ross

## Picture Resources

This picture shows the port of Bristol around the time that Arden was there.



This picture shows the port of Bristol today.



# The Pirate's Secret by Stewart Ross



1. Can you see that some of the buildings are the same in both pictures?
2. What has changed about the church in the two pictures?
3. What buildings have disappeared in picture 2?
4. What new buildings have been built since Arden's day?

**Picture 3**

This is a picture of a pirate ship.



1. Is this what you think the *Blue Parrot* might have looked like?
2. How do you know that this picture was taken in modern times?
3. Can you see the gunports where the cannons are fired from?
4. What can you see on this ship that would not have been found on the *Blue Parrot*?
5. What can you see at the very front of the ship? Do you know what this is called?

# The Pirate's Secret by Stewart Ross



## Resources

### Websites

<http://www.rochedalss.eq.edu.au/pirates/pirate6.htm>

This website has lots of information about pirates as well as some pirate stories and games.

<http://www.thekidswindow.co.uk/News/Pirates.htm>

This website has some information about pirates and a pirate song.

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.co.uk/kids/games/puzzlesquizzes/quizyournoodle-pirates/>

This website has a great pirate quiz.

Note to teachers: Every effort has been made by the Publishers to ensure that these websites are suitable for children, that they are of the highest educational value, and that they contain no inappropriate or offensive material. However, because of the nature of the Internet, it is impossible to guarantee that the content of these sites will not be altered. We strongly advise that Internet access is supervised by a responsible adult.

### Books

*It's Amazing: Pirates* by Annabel Savery, Franklin Watts, 2011

*Pirate Puzzles* (Usborne Young Puzzles) by Susannah Leigh and Brenda Haw, Usborne Publishing, 2011

*Pirates* (Up Close) by Paul Harrison, Franklin Watts, 2010