

The Pirate's Secret

Teacher Resources, Week 2

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, Art and Drama Activities:** Fiction Express for Schools provides a brilliant springboard into writing and some ideas and inspiration are provided in this section. This section provides ideas for follow-up activities in the areas of art and drama.
- **Starter Vocabulary Lists:** Students might find these lists useful for their writing and drama exercises.
- **'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.
- **Puzzles:** This section contains puzzles for students to complete. Answers are also 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 2 Discovered!

1. What does Pierre call Arden when Arden tells him he is determined to sneak aboard the *Blue Parrot*? Does Arden understand everything he says?
2. Why does Arden refer to Pierre as a *poor man*? Go back to the story to find out.
3. Why do you think climbing into a barrel was a good way to get on board the *Blue Parrot*? What had the barrel been used for in the past?
4. How does Pierre trick the cook of the the *Blue Parrot* into taking the barrel on board his ship?
5. What does the word *haggling* mean? Why would the cook have been haggling?
6. Where does Arden expect the barrel to be put? Why would this have been a good place for him to be taken? What actually happens?
7. Arden says, *can you imagine my terror*? What is Arden most terrified of here?
8. Imagine how cramped it must have felt inside the barrel. Describe the physical sensations you would have had if you were Arden at this time?
9. What do the French words *au revoir* mean? What does Pierre really mean by this?
10. Why do you think the captain orders the barrel to be secured to the mast?
11. What two words does the author use to describe the movement of the sea? What effect does this have on Arden, still stuck inside the barrel?
12. What makes one of the pirates open the barrel?

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13. What does Arden notice about the face that peers down at him? Go back to the story to find out. How do you think you would feel if you were Arden at this moment?
14. What word does the author use to describe the colour of the captain's coat? What else do you remember about the captain's appearance?
15. What does the captain threaten to do to Arden?
16. How does Arden manage to prevent the captain from throwing him overboard? What does this tell us about the character of the captain?
17. Why do you think Arden calls himself Tom?
18. How does Arden find out that his father is being held as a prisoner below deck?
19. What sort of work does Arden do on board the ship? Does he do it well?
20. Who is suspicious of Tom/Arden?
21. What does Ebenezer Dag look like? Go back to the story to find out?
22. What do the crew of *The Blue Parrot* call Arden's father?
23. Why do you think the crew of *The Blue Parrot* are so keen to take a look at the green hills of Hispaniola?
24. In what condition does Arden find his father?
25. Who has followed Arden down the stairs and is coming towards the cabin?

Making the Choice and Voting

What happens next?

1. Arden and his father manage to overcome Dag, throw him out of the window and plan their escape?

How easy would this be? Dag is described as *tall and lean*. He is probably very fit. Arden's father would be very weak, after weeks of imprisonment, and therefore not much use in a fight. And he is chained to a bench. Remember, in a tussle there would be cries and shouts, unless Arden manages to hit Dag and knock him unconscious with one blow. If they did manage to throw Dag out of the window there would be a loud splash and unless Dag is unconscious or dead more cries and shouts would attract the attention of the crew and the captain!

2. Arden and his father persuade Dag to double cross Luggole so that Dag will get all the jewels for himself?

Do you think that Dag would be treacherous enough to do this? What did most pirates want to get from being a pirate? We have already seen that Arden has good skills of persuasion, but could he really trick Dag? Maybe Dag already thinks he will get a good reward for revealing to the captain that there is another traitor onboard the *Blue Parrot*.

3. Dag seizes Arden and drags him up on deck to face Luggole Spain?

This could be disastrous. Arden might immediately be thrown overboard for disobeying orders. If the captain finds out that Arden is the prisoner's son he might *throw him to the fishes* or, at best, wait until his father has shown them where the jewels are and then kill them both! But perhaps Arden can persuade Luggole that he just wanted to see what a traitor looked like, or that he thought Bill might give his secret to an innocent boy.

Writing, Art and Drama Activities

Can you imagine Arden's voyage on the pirate ship? Remember it is a long voyage across the Atlantic Ocean to the islands of the Caribbean. Anything could go wrong. The ship might spring a leak or get deluged in a storm. The sea might be rough for days and some of the provisions might be washed overboard! You might see other ships, some friendly, some not. Strange birds might swoop through the air or large sea animals swim close to the ship. What do you eat and drink? What do you do all day on board ship? Now imagine that you are keeping a diary of your voyage across the ocean. Write your diary entries for the first five days of your trip. Illustrate your diary entry at the end of each day. (Vocabulary List A)

Using the comic strip template*, make a cartoon strip of chapter 2. You need to include all the main events and use speech bubbles and extended captions to explain what is going on. Make sure that each picture depicts an exciting and important moment in the story. Plan what you are going to put in each picture before you start.

Write a description of another member of the crew on board the *Blue Parrot*. We already have a description of the captain and the first mate, but what about the cook, the bosun, the quartermaster or an ordinary seaman. Choose one of these crew members, give them a pirate name, describe how they look, what sort of a person they are (they don't all have to be mean) and how they do their job on board the ship. There were female pirates, too, so they don't all have to be men. Then draw a picture of your pirate character to illustrate your writing. You can use the picture frames* if you want. (Vocabulary List B)

* Supplied with the teacher resources for chapter 1

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Imagine you are one of the seamen on the pirate ship, the *Blue Parrot*. Maybe you are the captain, the first mate, the bosun or the quartermaster. Maybe you are just the cook or the cabin boy. Find out what jobs these seamen did. Then practise miming the actions of each of these jobs. When you are happy with your mimes show one of them to some of your classmates and see if they can guess which member of the crew you are. Remember, with a mime you can only use actions, you cannot speak or make a noise.

Starter Vocabulary Lists

Vocabulary List A

shouting, banging, cursing, rough, creaking, sails, flapping, billowing, breeze, wind, calm, cloudless, still, stormy, rough, churning, heaving, pitching, rolling, tossing, soaked, drenched, chilled, hot, stifling, warm, fair, pleasant, brisk, albatrosses, gulls, terns, gannets, dolphins, sharks, whales, diving, jumping, provisions, cooking, cleaning, scrubbing, swabbing, sweeping, rum, wine, eggs, dried beans, salt beef, rotten, biscuits, steer, look out, horizon, card games, dice, drinking, drunk, sleeping, dreaming, weevils, scurvy, sweating

Vocabulary List B

pale, sunburned, weatherbeaten, ruddy, bearded, eye patch, dagger, pale, rough, cursing, bad tempered, violent, mad, fierce, scars, scarred, dirty, smelly, unwashed, evil, cunning, nasty, adventurous, roam, rich, black, smart, skillful, clever, loyal, hardworking, strong, determined, capable, able, earring, gold, curly, long, flowing, cutlass

'Find out for Yourself' Activity

Using the Internet, and books in your school library, find out what the following pirate-related words mean. Think of a situation where these words might be used, then choose five of your favourite words and write an exciting sentence for each of them.

ahoy!

plunder

buccaneer

scurvy

grog

corsair

maroon

landlubber

Davy Jones' locker

crow's nest

shanties

booty

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Activity Answers

ahoy! – hello there!

plunder – valuable stolen by pirates

buccaneer – a Caribbean pirate

scurvy – an illness that affected sailors due to a deficiency of vitamin c (fresh fruit and vegetables) in their diet

grog – an alcoholic drink, usually rum diluted with water

corsair – another, slightly better-sounding word for pirate

maroon – a punishment for pirates was to be left alone on a deserted island (marooned) or other uninhabited place with little in the way of food and drink

landlubber – someone who isn't a sailor (a land-lover)

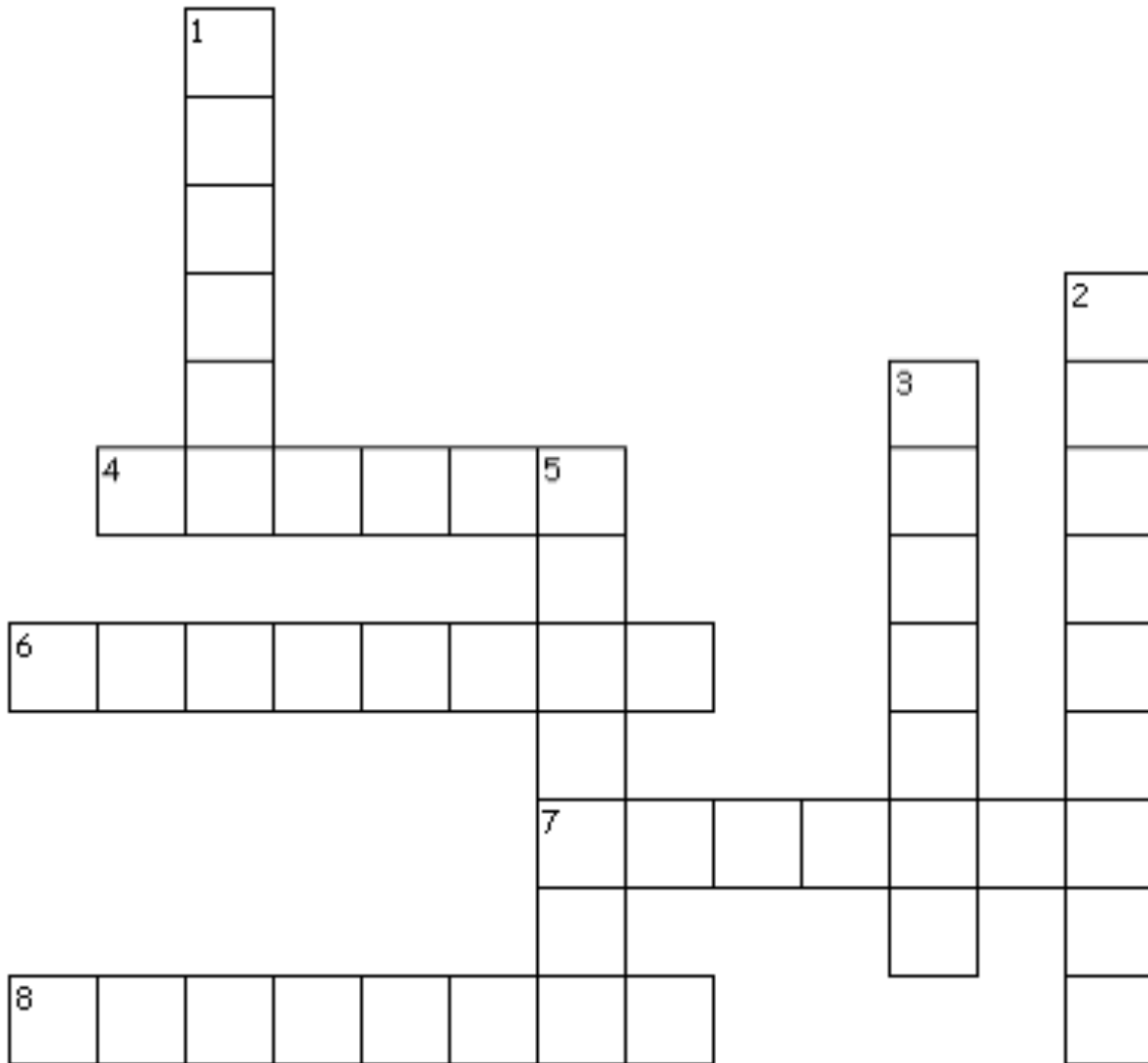
Davy Jones' Locker – the bottom of the sea

crow's nest – a platform near the top of a mast where a lookout could watch for other ships or for a sight of land

shanties – songs about the sea sung by sailors

booty - valuable stolen goods or loot

Puzzle: Crossword



Clues

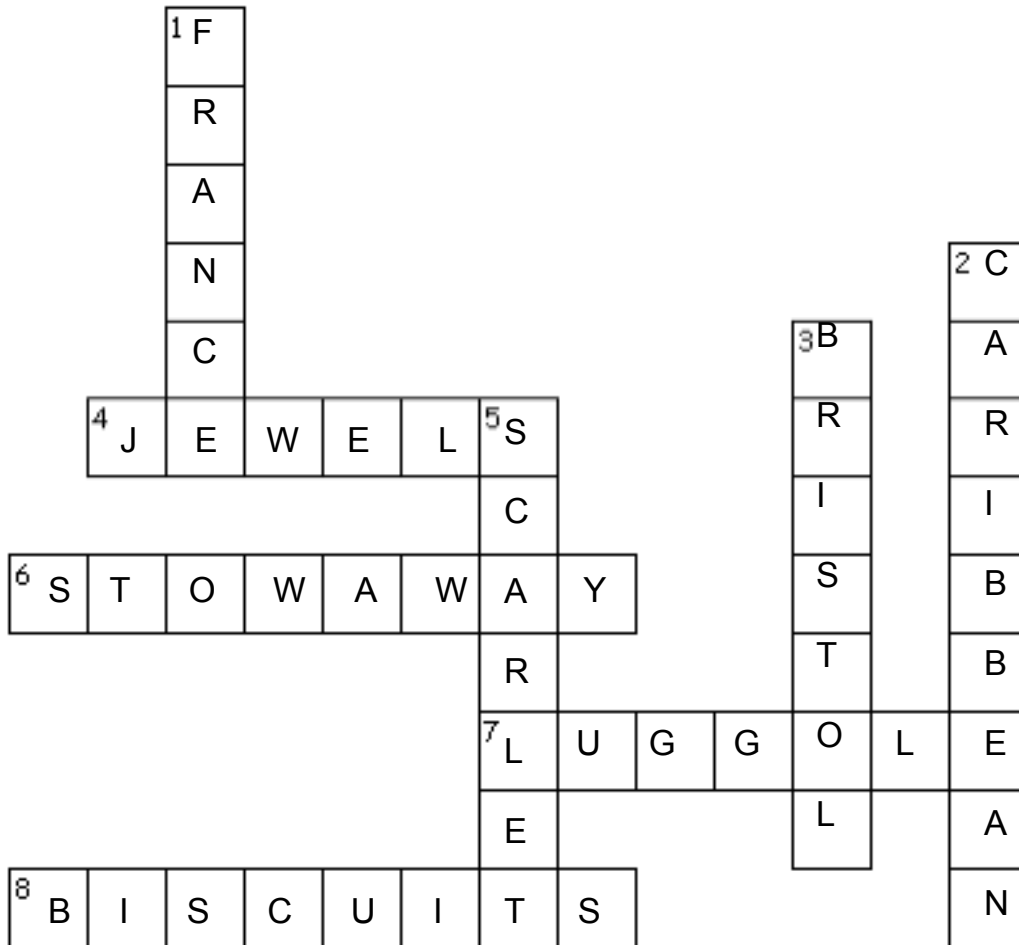
Across

- 4. What is Tregorey's hidden treasure?
- 6. Someone who secretly boards a ship so they can travel for free
- 7. Lambert Spain's nickname
- 8. What the cook thinks are in the barrel

Down

- 1. Where Pierre was born
- 2. Hispaniola is an island in the _____ Sea?
- 3. The city the Blue Parrot sets sail from
- 5. The colour of Luggole Spain's coat

Puzzle Answers



Clues

Across

4. What is Tregorey's hidden treasure? JEWELS
6. Someone who secretly boards a ship so they can travel for free STOWAWAY
7. Lambert Spain's nickname LUGGOLE
8. What the cook thinks are in the barrel BISCUITS

Down

1. Where Pierre was born FRANCE
2. Hispaniola is an island in the _____ Sea? CARIBBEAN
3. The city the Blue Parrot sets sail from BRISTOL
5. The colour of Luggole Spain's coat SCARLET

Picture Resources

This picture shows some barrels about to be loaded onto an old-fashioned ship.



1. Are these what you thought the barrel Arden hid in might have looked like?
2. How would you feel if you were squashed inside a barrel like one of these?
3. What are the barrels made from and what do you think the bands around them are for?
4. How were the barrels moved from place to place?
5. What are barrels like these sometimes used for today?

Picture Resources

This picture shows a man dressed up as a pirate today.



1. Is this what you think Lambert 'Luggole' Spain might have looked like?
2. What is this pirate wearing that Luggole wasn't?
3. What weapons is this pirate carrying?
4. Where do you think pirate captains got their fancy clothes from?

Picture Resources

This picture shows an old-fashioned ship near a tropical island.



1. Is this what you think Hispaniola might have looked liked to the pirates in the story?
2. Would it be easy to get to shore on this part of the island?
3. How do you think the pirates would have felt when they saw land after many dangerous weeks at sea?
4. What would the pirates want to stock up with when they got ashore?

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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.

There are also some great sea shanties available on the Internet but teachers should be aware that some of the lyrics can be a little graphic.

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