

The Pirate's Secret

Teacher Resources, Week 3

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. This section also provides ideas for follow-up activities in the area of art.
- **Drama and ICT Activities:** This section provides examples of follow-up activities in the areas of drama and ICT.
- **Starter Vocabulary List:** Students might find this list useful for their writing and drama exercises.
- **Worksheets:** This section provides printable worksheets for student use.
- **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 3 *Merciless!*

1. How do you think Dag knew that Arden was Bill Tregorey's son? What things might he have noticed about Tom/Arden?
2. Why do you think Arden's father calls Dag *my old shipmate*? What sort of voice does Bill Tregorey use? Go back to the story to find out. How does his voice seem to Arden?
3. Does Arden have a good aim? How do we know this? Who does have a very good aim?
4. What simile does the author use to describe the glint of the knife blade? Did you like this simile? What did you like about it? What was particularly appropriate about this simile? (Uses the word *jewel* - something pirates are very interested in!)
5. The author says that Arden sees Ebenezer Dag *fall to his knees and then pitch forward*. What does the word *pitch* mean here? What other meanings does this word have? Use a dictionary and find two different meanings for this word.
6. What phrase does the author use to describe the accuracy of Bill Tregorey's aim when he hurls the candlestick at Dag? What effect does this have on Dag?
7. Once Dag has been knocked out cold, what does Bill Tregorey want to do to him and why? Why doesn't Arden agree with his father?

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8. Why don't the other crew members hear Dag shouting for help when he is in the sea? Arden hopes that *would be the last we would ever see of Ebenezer Dag*. Did you think that Dag might turn up again?
9. What plan does Bill Tregorey have for getting away from the pirates and finding the treasure?
10. What does Arden/Tom have to tell Luggole? Do you think that Luggole would believe him? What will Luggole think Ebenezer Dag has been drinking to make him drunk? (Grog) Do you think this ever really happened to pirates?
11. After the boom of the cannon, the pirates all hurried to the gunwale. Do you know where on a ship the gunwale would be? Do you know how to say this word?
12. Who is Joshua Gilbert? What job is he doing for the Royal Navy?
13. What phrase does Luggole use to describe the crew of HMS *Merciless*? Why do you think he uses this phrase?
14. What happens to prevent the *Blue Parrot* from making its get away?
15. What plan does Luggole have for getting his men set free once they get to Port Royal in Jamaica? What did you think about this plan? How do the crew respond when they hear Luggole's plan? What does this tell us about the crew of the *Blue Parrot*?
16. What is the punishment for piracy?

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17. What does Captain Gilbert look like? Go back to the story to find out. Can you imagine how he looked in comparison with the pirates?
18. Were you surprised that Captain Gilbert didn't believe Bill Tregorey's story? Why? What does Captain Gilbert remember about the name 'Tregorey'?
19. How does Luggoles's plan backfire? What is different about the trial the pirates will get in Port-au-Prince?
20. What does Bill Tregorey tell his son about the McKinleys? What did Bill think he was going to do one day when he returned to the Caribbean? Do you believe him?
21. What sort of a place is Port-au-Prince? Go back to the story and find the author's description.
22. What does Arden get to eat and drink while he is in prison?
23. What happens on the fourth day of Arden's imprisonment? Did you realize as quickly as Arden who had *cut through the wall*?
24. What does the word *caterwauling* mean?
25. What orders have the sailors of the *Merciless* been given for when they find the runaway prisoners?
26. What does Arden notice about the prison when he is taken to see Captain Gilbert? What does he think about?

Making the choice and voting

What should Arden do?

1. Trust Captain Gilbert and tell him his father's story, including where the map is hidden?

This might work. Perhaps Arden could negotiate safe passage for himself and his father back to Bristol in exchange for helping Gilbert recover the treasure. They might even get a reward for their help. On the other hand, Gilbert might not be trustworthy. What if Arden were to give the secret away and then Gilbert handed him over to Magistrate Doat anyway?

2. Stay silent, and hope that his father comes back to rescue him?

Is it likely that his father will be able to get back to help Arden escape? Perhaps his father will insist that Luggole and Dag rescue Arden before he tells them where the treasure is buried. On the other hand, now that the Slashing Sam knows that Arden is the Traitor's son, prison life could be very difficult for him.

3. Make a dash for it into the forest?

This is the most risky choice for Arden. The forest is quite close by, but there might still be guards about. He doesn't know his way around the town or the island at all. What if he got lost in the forest? Perhaps this is a trap, set by Gilbert. The captain might already have set his men in the forest to follow Arden, hoping he will lead them to the escaped pirates and the treasure.

Think about which choice would make an exciting chapter 4.

Writing and Art Activities

The author uses lots of action words, or verbs, to bring excitement and drama to the story. Verbs like *loom*, *lurch*, and *dart*. Go back to the story and see how many other movement words you can find. Make a list of them, adding some words of your own. Then choose five words you particularly like and write your own exciting sentences using these words.

Go back to the story. Make a list of any words you found tricky to read or didn't understand. Using a dictionary, find out what the words mean. Practise saying the word. Then make your own picture dictionary. Write the word, then its meaning and then draw a small picture to illustrate what the word means. Don't forget to put your words in alphabetical order.

Imagine a tropical desert island. Jot down your ideas about what it would look like. Think about the tropical plants you might find there. (See picture resources) Think about the animals that might live on the island and the birds that might visit it. Imagine the sea which surrounds it. Imagine the weather – the wind and the storms, the sun and the heat. Write a vivid description of your imaginary island. Illustrate your description.

(Vocabulary List)

Imagine you have been marooned on a tropical desert island. You find a little fresh water and there are some trees and bushes. It is very hot. You have a knife, a book and a pen. With a partner or in a group, discuss how you might survive on the island until you were rescued? How would you make a shelter? What would you eat? How would you cook? How would you try to attract the attention of any passing vessels. Imagine you have to spend six days on this island before you are rescued. Now write your diary

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for each evening of those six days. Don't forget to write about your feelings on each of these days.

Vocabulary List

sand, dry, warm, palm trees, exotic, shade, leaves, rustling, sparkling, dazzling, clear, crystal, azure, silver, golden, fruits, coconuts, bananas, flowers, turtles, seagulls, sea birds, paradise, sunset, cloudless, heavy, humid, thunder, lightning, storm, dark, clouds, butterflies, lizards

Drama and ICT activities

With a partner discuss what you would do if you were marooned together on a desert island. Imagine the things you would need to do to keep yourselves alive. Practise miming out some of these actions. Put your different mimes together to make a story. Perform your mime to the rest of your class. Can they guess what is happening in the story you are miming for them?

Using the Internet, find out all you can about the city of Port-au-Prince, and what it is like today. Which country is it the capital city of? What language is spoken there? Are the people who live there mainly rich or poor? What are the houses like? What happened there a few years ago that caused the city so much damage? (See picture resources) Is the city recovering from this catastrophe? When you have answered these questions write a short report about this city.

Using the Internet, find out about the village of Port Royal in Jamaica.

Then answer the following questions.

What sort of people came to Port Royal in the 17th century?

When did the British capture it from the Spanish?

What happened in 1692?

Why is it now one of the most important underwater sites in the world. Why would people want to go diving there?

Using the Internet, find out all you can about 28-gun frigates, the type of ship that Joshua Gilbert was captain of. Draw a picture of one and label it.

Worksheet 1

Read the following sentences and fill in the gaps with the correct words from the list below.

misery, startled, flung, cursing, hoist, searched, heave,

1. I _____ the candlestick at him with all my strength.
2. With a _____, I thrust the chair at him and darted to the left.
3. The pirates were _____ and hurried to the gunwale.
4. Luggole ordered the crew to _____ as much sail as the *Blue Parrot* could bear.
5. Inside the hold the pirates sat around in groups, _____ and swearing. I kept to myself, overcome with _____.
6. Once inside the prison, we were _____ and thrown, six at a time, into dingy, damp cells.

Worksheet 2: Finding adverbs

In the following phrases, the words in italics are all adverbs.

Sophie dances *gracefully*.

Tom *quickly* ran to the door.

My mother cooks *beautifully*.

I shut the door *quietly*.

The snow fell *softly*.

Adverbs describe the way something happens. Using adverbs in your writing makes it more interesting. Many adverbs end in *ly*.

The author of *The Pirate's Secret* uses adverbs. Can you put the right adverb in the right place?

firmly, closely, finally, warmly, quickly,

Ebenezer Dag watched me very _____.

I clutched the candlestick _____ in my right hand.

The plan _____ fell apart.

We grasped each other _____.

I _____ understood what was going on.

Now write some sentences of your own using adverbs from the list below or adverbs of your own.

bravely, carefully, neatly, patiently, quickly, clumsily, angrily, eagerly

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Answers

1. I flung the candlestick at him with all my strength.
2. With a heave, I thrust the chair at him and darted to the left.
3. The pirates were startled and hurried to the gunwale.
4. Luggole ordered the crew to hoist as much sail as the *Blue Parrot* could bear.
5. Inside the hold the pirates sat around in groups, cursing and swearing. I kept to myself, overcome with misery.
6. Once inside the prison, we were searched and thrown, six at a time, into dingy, damp cells.

Ebenezer Dag watched me very closely.

I clutched the candlestick firmly in my right hand.

The plan quickly fell apart.

We grasped each other warmly.

I finally understood what was going on.

Picture Resources

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Picture 1

This is a map of Hispaniola around the time that Arden and his father were on the island. The town of Port-au-Prince is not even marked on this map, though it did exist at the time.

1. Can you find an area with the word 'Prince' in it on the map?
2. Why is all the writing in the map in French?
3. What do the little illustrations around the side of map show?
4. Look at a modern map of the countries of Haiti and the Dominican Republic. How accurate is this old map, compared to the modern one? If it is not very accurate, why do you think this is?
5. How has the artist drawn hills and mountains on this map?

Picture 2

This picture shows the forests of Haiti. This is the sort of forest that Arden was thinking of fleeing to.

1. Would you like to visit a forest like this?
2. How would it feel to be running away from someone through this forest?
3. Why would it be difficult to run very fast through this forest?
4. What animals might be hiding in the forest?
5. What would you do when it got dark?

Picture 3

This picture shows a church in Haiti in 2012.

1. What happened in Haiti in that year?
2. What has happened to this church?
3. What would you do in an earthquake when buildings were falling down?
4. How do you think the people of Haiti felt when their church was destroyed?

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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.

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