

The Pirate's Secret

Teacher Resources, Week 5

This pdf contains:

- **Text Comprehension 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.
- **Writing Activities:** Fiction Express for Schools provides a brilliant springboard into writing and some ideas and inspiration are provided in this section.
- **Starter Vocabulary list:** Students might find this list useful for their writing and drama exercises.
- **Art, Drama and ICT Activities:** This section provides ideas for follow-up activities in the areas of art, drama and ICT.
- **Drama Activities:** This section provides examples of follow-up drama activities.
- **Picture Resources:** This section provides images to inspire student discussion. These images can be displayed on a whiteboard or printed.
- **Worksheets:** This section provides printable worksheets for student use.
- **Resources:** Here you will find a list of relevant books and websites that students might find useful.

Text Comprehension Questions

Chapter 5 - The Chase

1. What did you think of the last chapter of *The Pirate's Secret*? Did you find it exciting and surprising? Which parts of this chapter did you enjoy most?
2. What mistake have Arden and Pierre made that has put them into a very dangerous situation?
3. What animal does Arden feel like as the two pirates are pointing their pistols?
4. What word (adjective) does the author use to describe the sound of Luggole's voice?
5. How do you think Arden's father is feeling as Arden and Pierre are brought before Luggole. How do we know this? Go back to the story and find the clue in the description Arden gives of his father in the pit?
6. What had Bill Tregorey's spade struck that made Luggole think he had found the treasure?
7. What does Luggole do when he is angry? How does his face look? Find the simile the author uses to describe Luggole's face. Do you think this a good simile? Why? What does the author mean when he says, *the tempest passed as swiftly as it had arisen*? Go back to the story to find out.
8. As Arden is telling Luggole about the map and Father Benedicto, he *realized what must have happened*. Exactly what has Arden realized?
9. The author mentions that Luggole has a *pitted face*? Why do you think this is?

10. What did you think of Dag's reasons for not shooting Arden, Pierre and Bill Tregorey? Go back to the story and read this part again. How does the author tell us that Luggole is suspicious of Dag? Find the phrase that suggests this?
11. How does Arden free himself from the ropes binding his wrists? What is the main problem when they are trying to get out of the pit?
12. What has happened to Father Benedicto? What does this tell us about Luggole Spain? What was Father Benedicto going to do with the treasure?
13. In which part of the church has Luggole and the other pirates been hiding? What noise does Arden hear coming from this place?
14. What does Luggole threaten to do if Pierre doesn't carry the treasure chest?
15. What does Arden find when he takes the candle and looks in the crypt? What effect does this have on Arden? What does it make him do?
16. *The darkness was not the only reason I could not see clearly for a moment or two.* The author infers that something is preventing Arden from seeing in properly. What do you think this is? Go back to the story to find out.
17. How do we know that daylight has arrived when Arden reaches the harbour? Find the sentence that describes the moment just as the sun is beginning to rise? What is interesting about this description? Go back to the story to find out.

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18. What noise does the rigging of the boats make? What causes this noise? Go back to the story to find out. Where has the author used alliteration.
19. Were you surprised when Luggole pushed Pierre overboard? How did you feel at this point in the story? What does Arden remember that sends him rushing to the quay to find a boat?
20. Can you imagine your feelings if you had been Arden and had just seen Pierre pushed overboard and drowned? Jot down some emotion words that would describe these feelings.
21. What does, *I gained on my adversary* mean?
22. How do we know that Luggole is a good sailor?
23. What do you think of the climax of the story? Was there anything that you particularly liked about the way this passage was written?
24. How did you feel when Arden returns to the quay, *towing Luggole's upturned boat, with the dripping pirate clinging to its bottom?*
25. What did you feel about the treasure being lost at the bottom of the sea? Did you think it was a shame it was lost, or did you think it had already caused too much trouble and tragedy?
26. What do you think is going to happen to Luggole Spain now? What would you like to see happen to this character?
27. What do Arden and Bill name the small inn they are able to buy with the reward money? Did you find this a satisfying ending to this story?

Writing Activities

What do you think should be in a chest of buried treasure? What gold and jewels would you like to find there? Use the Internet and books to find out about real treasure chests lost at sea. Draw an open chest of treasure showing some of the contents. Write your own story about your treasure. Who did the treasure belong to? What was the most precious piece of treasure in your treasure chest? Was it stolen and by whom? Where was it going? What ocean did it have to cross? What ship did it travel in? What was the name of the ship's captain? Why did the ship become wrecked and sink to the bottom of the sea? What happened to the crew of the ship? Make your story as interesting and as entertaining as you can.

(see Starter Vocabulary List)

Did you like the end of the story? Did you want it to end in a different way? Think about alternative endings for this story. Write down some of your best ideas. Then have a go at writing your own ending.

Think up some questions based on the story of *The Pirate's Secret* that can be answered by the words 'true' or 'false'. Write down your questions and give them to a friend to answer. Make sure you have a record of the answers so that you can check to see how many questions they get right.

Write a simpler version of *The Pirate's Secret* for younger children. Then illustrate your story. Plan out your story before you write it to make sure you get the all main events in the correct order.

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Starter Vocabulary List

emeralds, pearls, jewels, gold, ingots, gold doubloons, swords, watches, precious gems, pieces of eight, earrings, rings, necklaces, silver, diamonds, sapphires, rubies, Spanish, Portuguese, hurricanes, rocks, storms, damaged, sunk, Atlantic, Caribbean, South America, battle, attack, drowned, rescued, survived, island, waves, seabed

Art, Drama and ICT Activities

Look at the front cover of *The Pirate's Secret* on the website. Design a new front cover for the book. Make it as colourful and as exciting as you can. Remember to add the title of the book and the author's name. Then design the back cover. Make sure you include some information about the story (the blurb) that will make others eager to read it.

If pirates hated their captains they sometimes got together and planned a mutiny. They would take over the ship and often leave the captain on a desert island. Write a script for four or five pirates planning a mutiny on board a pirate ship. Your script is the conversation between the pirates making their devious plans. Your script should explain why you want to mutiny and how you plan to persuade other pirates on board the ship to join you. Finally you need to discuss your plans for what to do with the captain! With your friends or class mates, practise reading your script and then perform your script in front of the rest of the class. Don't forget you need to talk like pirates!

The *Mary Rose* is a famous 16th-century Tudor warship that was sunk near the Isle of Wight in 1545. The wreck was discovered in 1971 and recovered from the seabed in 1982. Using the Internet and/or library books, find out more about the *Mary Rose*. Write a report about what has happened to the ship since its recovery from the sea. What artifacts have been discovered inside the wreck? What has been done to preserve or restore the ship?

There are many wrecked ships lying on the ocean floor. Who knows what treasure is still to be found in these wrecks? The following is a list of known ships that were wrecked and have sunk to the bottom of the sea.

The Flor de la Mar

The Merchant Royal

San Jose

Nuestra Senora de Atocha

Notre Dame de la Deliverance

Using the Internet, find out all you can about one of these wrecks. Who owned the ship? Where was it going before it was wrecked? What treasure was it carrying on board? When and where did it sink? What caused it to be wrecked and the treasure to be lost? Has the wreck ever been discovered or located? Write a short report on what you find out.

Design an information leaflet called *The Story of the Mary Rose* to explain to visitors about this famous ship. It might be the leaflet given to tourists coming to see the ship in the museum in Portsmouth. Illustrate your leaflet to make it eye-catching and interesting.

The author mentions that Luggole Spain had a *pitted face*. Why do you think this was? Using the Internet, try to find out about the disease that probably disfigured Luggole's face in this way. Make some notes on what you find out and then tell a friend or classmate about this terrible disease.

Picture Resources

This is a pistol of the sort that Luggole Spain might have used. It is called a flintlock pistol.



Find out how flintlock pistols worked. What was the flint for?

How were the pistols loaded? Why couldn't Luggole sail the cutter and load his pistols at the same time?

Who first used flints to make fire?

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Picture Resources

Here is a picture of a chest full of treasure.



Is it what you thought the McKinley's treasure might have looked like?

What precious metal is used to make the items in the chest?

What do you think the green and blue jewels might be?

Picture Resources

Here is a picture of a pirate flag.



What was this sort of flag called?

What does it show?

Not all pirate flags were black and white. What did a red and white pirate flag signify?

What effect did a pirate flag have on the crew of a nearby merchant ship?

Worksheet – Adjectives

The author of *The Pirate's Secret* has used a lot of adjectives to make his story more descriptive.

Below are some sentences from chapter 5. The adjectives have been left out. Choose the correct adjective from the following list and put it back in the right place.

blue, sleepy, rasping, pitted, gnarled, handsome, moonlight, watery, unfortunate, brass-bound

1. A dog opened one _____ eye as we crept by.
2. Luggole's _____ voice floated up from the bottom of the ravine.
3. From his _____ fingers a lantern swung slowly back and forth.
4. The pirate and the _____ chest toppled into the sea.
5. I climbed slowly to the bottom of the _____ ravine.
6. The pirate's _____ eyes narrowed.
7. The expression on his _____ face told me that he had been thinking along the same lines himself.
8. We learned that a _____ reward had been offered for the capture of Luggole Spain, dead or alive.
9. You will find two more _____ villains in the crypt.

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Here are a few more adjectives. Make an interesting sentence for each of them.

Tumbling: _____

Withered: _____

Shimmering: _____

Gentle: _____

Juicy: _____

Crooked: _____

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Purple: _____

Sweet: _____

Think of 4 great adjectives OR swap 4 adjectives with a friend or classmate. Make up a sentence using each adjective.

Adjective	Sentence

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Worksheet ANSWERS

Activity 1

1. The dog opened one sleepy eye as we crept by.
2. Luggole's rasping voice floated up from the bottom of the ravine.
3. From his gnarled fingers a lantern swung slowly back and forth.
4. The pirate and the brass-bound chest toppled into the sea.
5. I climbed to the bottom of the moonlit ravine.
6. The pirate's watery blue eyes narrowed.
7. The expression on his pitted face told me that he had been thinking along the same lines himself.
8. We learned that a handsome reward had been offered for the capture of Luggole Spain, dead or alive.
9. You will find two more unfortunate villains in the crypt.

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Resources

<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.

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

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.