

Talk Like a Pirate

• Storytime •

Grades
K-2

by | Rob Reid

Sample Program

Pirates have been a fascinating topic for children, even before Disney released the first *Pirates of the Caribbean* movie (or theme-park ride, for that matter). As the children enter the story program area, play a recording of the song “A Pirate’s Life” by Cathy Fink and Marcy Marxer from their recording *Scat Like That* (Rounder, 2005).

Start the program by asking your audience how pirates dress and talk. Share several examples of pirate lingo and have the kids repeat them after you.

- “Ahoy”
- “Avast”
- “Aye, matey”
- “Blimey”
- “I’ll be hornswaggled”
- “Me bucko”
- “Me hearties”
- “Shiver me timbers”
- “Walk the plank”

Point out that many pirates in books say “Arrr!” Have the kids practice saying “Arrrr.” Share the following pirate riddle: “What’s a pirate’s favorite letter of the alphabet? Arrrrr!”

Sprinkle your program with other pirate riddles, such as:

- What’s a pirate’s favorite movie? *Starrrrr Warrrrs.*
- What’s a pirate’s favorite store? *Tarrrrrget.*
- What kind of socks do pirates wear? *Arrrrrrgyle.*

If you have a parrot puppet, place it on your shoulder explaining to your audience that sometimes pirates have parrots perched on their shoulders. What do parrots do? They repeat things that people say. Ask the children to pretend that they are parrots and repeat what you (or your parrot puppet) say. Hello (*Hello*)



Squawk (*Squawk*)

How are you? (*How are you?*)

Tweet (*Tweet*)

I like books. (*I like books.*)

I like pirates. (*I like pirates.*)

Whistle (*Whistle*)

Let’s read books about pirates. (*Let’s read books about pirates.*)

Squawk! (*Squawk!*)

Picture Book

How I Became a Pirate by Melinda Long. Harcourt, 2003. A young boy is building a sand castle on the beach when a pirate ship sails into view. The pirates figure the boy is a good digger and take him away on their boat to help them bury their treasure. The boy goes along willingly (“I didn’t

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think Mom and Dad would mind, as long as I got back in time for soccer practice ...”). And that’s how he became a pirate. After several adventures, the boy buries the treasure in his backyard. He returns in time to practice with his soccer team—the Pirates. Have fun reading the head pirate’s dialogue. “Ahoy thar, matey! Be this the Spanish Main?” The sequel, *Pirates Don’t Change Diapers*, was released in spring 2007 and is just as fun.

Movement Activity

“I Am a Pirate” by Susan M. Dailey
Permission granted by Susan M. Dailey and the Storytime Year Home Page www.susanmdailey.com.

I am a pirate, it’s true. (*Point to self, nod.*)
I’ve sailed the ocean blue.
(*Move hand in waving motion.*)
With a parrot on my shoulder, (*Point to shoulder.*)
No one could be bolder. (*Hook thumbs through shirt.*)
With a patch over my eye, (*Place hand over eye.*)
No one’s as mean as I. (*Make mad face.*)
So if you see me coming,
(*Place hand over eye, look around.*)
You’d better start running! (*Slap hands against legs.*)

Picture Book

Pirate Girl by Cornelia Funke. Scholastic, 2005.
Molly is kidnapped by pirates. She warns them that they will be in big trouble. “If I told you my mother’s name, you’d be so scared, you’d cry like a baby!” The pirates are amused and put Molly to hard labor. She secretly sends messages in bottles that she drops overboard. Molly’s mother, the fierce pirate Barbarous Bertha, and her crew come to the rescue and make the mean pirates do the chores.

Musical Activity

“Going over the Sea” (Traditional)
Here’s an old camp song that’s fun to share.

When I was one, I had some fun
(*Hold up one finger.*)
Going over the sea.
I climbed aboard a pirate ship,
(*Make climbing motions.*)
And the captain said to me,
Going over (*Move hands overhead.*)
Going under (*Move hands low to the ground.*)

Stand at attention like a soldier
(*Stand at attention and salute.*)
With a one, two, three.
(*Hold up three fingers one at a time.*)

2. When I was two, I joined the crew ...
(*Hold up two fingers and wave.*)
3. When I was three, I drank some tea ...
(*Hold up three fingers and mime drinking.*)
4. When I was four, I swabbed the floor ...
(*Hold up four fingers and mime mopping.*)
5. When I was five, I learned to dive ...
(*Hold up five fingers and mime diving.*)
6. When I was six, I picked up sticks ...
(*Hold up six fingers and mime picking up.*)
7. When I was seven, I counted to eleven ... (*Hold up seven fingers, pause, and quickly count to eleven.*)
8. When I was eight, I was first mate ...
(*Hold up eight fingers and point proudly to self.*)
9. When I was nine, I fell on my behind ...
(*Hold up nine fingers and gently sit down.*)
10. When I was ten, I started again ... (*Hold up ten fingers and shake head as if to say “no, not really.”*)





Slightly different versions of this song with the melody can be found on the following recordings:

- *Everybody Sing* by Sharon, Lois and Bram. Casablanca Kids, 2002.
- *Sing It! Say It! Stamp It! Sway It! Volume 2* by Peter and Ellen Allard. 80-Z Music, 1999.

Picture Book

Captain Flinn and the Pirate Dinosaurs by Giles Andreae. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2005. What a great idea to combine pirates and dinosaurs—both extremely popular topics with children. Flinn, who loves to draw dinosaurs, helps a pirate retrieve his ship from pirate dinosaurs! There's a pirate diplodocus, a pirate triceratops, and, of course, a "Great ... Big ... Pirate Tyrannosaurus Rex!"

Activity

"Going on a Treasure Hunt"

Before the program begins, create a treasure map by drawing different aspects of a treasure island that represent the parts of a library (see example

on pages 54, and a blank template on page 55). In my old library, our bookshelves were shown as mountains, the plants represented a jungle, the drinking fountain was drawn as a waterfall, and the reference desk represented an old fort. Put an X to show where you have "buried the treasure" and tell your audience that "we're going to leave the story program area to hunt for treasure."

We wove in and out of the "mountains," past the "waterfall," and the "jungle." We got on our hands and knees past the fort so we wouldn't be seen (to the amusement of our co-workers). We eventually found the spot marked with an X (a table covered with a tablecloth). The treasure (a small chest filled with stickers and gold-foil chocolate coins) was underneath the table. You can fill your treasure with just about anything that will make kids happy.

Craft Idea

Be sure to include paper and drawing materials (crayons, markers, etc.) as part of your treasure. You can pretend to find another "treasure chest" (paper bag) if there's no more room in the first chest. Take the treasure back to the story program area and let the kids draw their own version of pirates or pirate dragons, as Flinn did in *Captain Flinn and the Pirate Dinosaurs*.

More Fun Picture Books Featuring Pirates that Are Fun to Read Aloud

Bubble Bath Pirates by Jarrett J. Krosoczka. Viking, 2003. A "pirate mother" insists that her "little pirates" walk the plank into the bathtub. After they are clean, they pull the plug ("prepare the cannons") and hunt for their treasure ("chocolate fudge ice cream").

Captain Barnacle's Aquarium by Edward Miller. H. N. Abrams, 2006. While he describes his thrilling hunt for treasure, Captain Barnacle shows off his aquarium and teaches his visitors all about sea life.

Edward and the Pirates by David McPhail. Little, Brown and Company, 1997. Edward dreams that pirates have invaded his bedroom. They demand his book but Edward is rescued by his parents. When Edward realizes the pirates can't read, he shares his book with them.

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Fluffy, Scourge of the Sea by Teresa Bateman. Charlesbridge, 2005. Fluffy, a poodle, convinces a gang of pirates that he's tough enough to take over their ship. He wins over the crew and teaches them to be good (and clean).

Olive's Pirate Party by Roberta Baker. Little, Brown and Company, 2005. Olive is having a pirate-themed birthday party. She worries that it will be ruined because her family has to host the party at old Aunt Tiffany's house, which is full of breakables.

The Night Pirates by Peter Harris. Scholastic, 2006. A bunch of girl pirates borrow the front of Tom's home to disguise their ship. They invite Tom to join them as they raid treasure from another group of pirates.

Pirate Bob by Kathryn Lasky. Charlesbridge, 2006. Pirate Bob has a long scar that runs from the tip of his nose to his ear. He and his shipmates loot a ship, and Bob wonders if he'll be happy remaining a pirate or not.

Pirate PiggyWiggy by Christyan and Diane Fox. Handprint Books, 2003. PiggyWiggy wonders what it would be like to wear a pirate outfit, sail on a ship, walk the plank, sing shanties around a fire, and search for treasure. The best treasure turns out to be a picnic basket full of food.

Nonfiction Books about Pirates

There are several, high-quality, recently published nonfiction books about pirates on the market. They are great sources for more ideas—and kids love to pore over them.

- *Everything I Know About Pirates* by Tom Lichtenheld. Simon & Schuster, 2000.
- *How to Be a Pirate* by John Malam. National Geographic, 2005.
- *Pirateology: The Pirate Hunter's Companion*. Candlewick Press, 2006.
- *Piratepedia*. DK Publishing, 2006.
- *Pirates* by John Matthews. Atheneum, 2006.
- *Pirate's Handbook* by Sam Taplin. EDC Publishing, 2007.

More Recorded Songs about Pirates

- "Captain T" by Brian Kinder. *One More Time*. Brian Kinder, 2004.
- "Don't Shake Hands with a One-Eyed Pirate" by Gunnar Madsen. *Ants in My Pants! G-Spot Records*, 2001.
- "Pirate Song" by Linda Arnold. *Happiness Cake*. Rounder, 2005.
- "Pirate Song" by Bill Harley. *Big Big World*. Round River, 1995. (Also on *One More Time* by Bill Harley. Empyrean Records, 2005.)
- "The Pirate Song" by Steve Songs. *Little Superman*. Steve Songs, 2003.
- "Pirates" by Milkshake. *Play! Milkshake Music*, 2007.
- "Three Pirates" by Nancy Raven. *Hop Skip, & Sing / Singing in a Circle & Activity Songs*. Lizard's Rock, 2003.
- "Tropeo the Pirate" by Monty Harper. *Take Me to Your Library*. Monty Harper Productions, 2003.

Web Sites

Pirate craft ideas, games, coloring pages, and more can be found on the following Web sites:

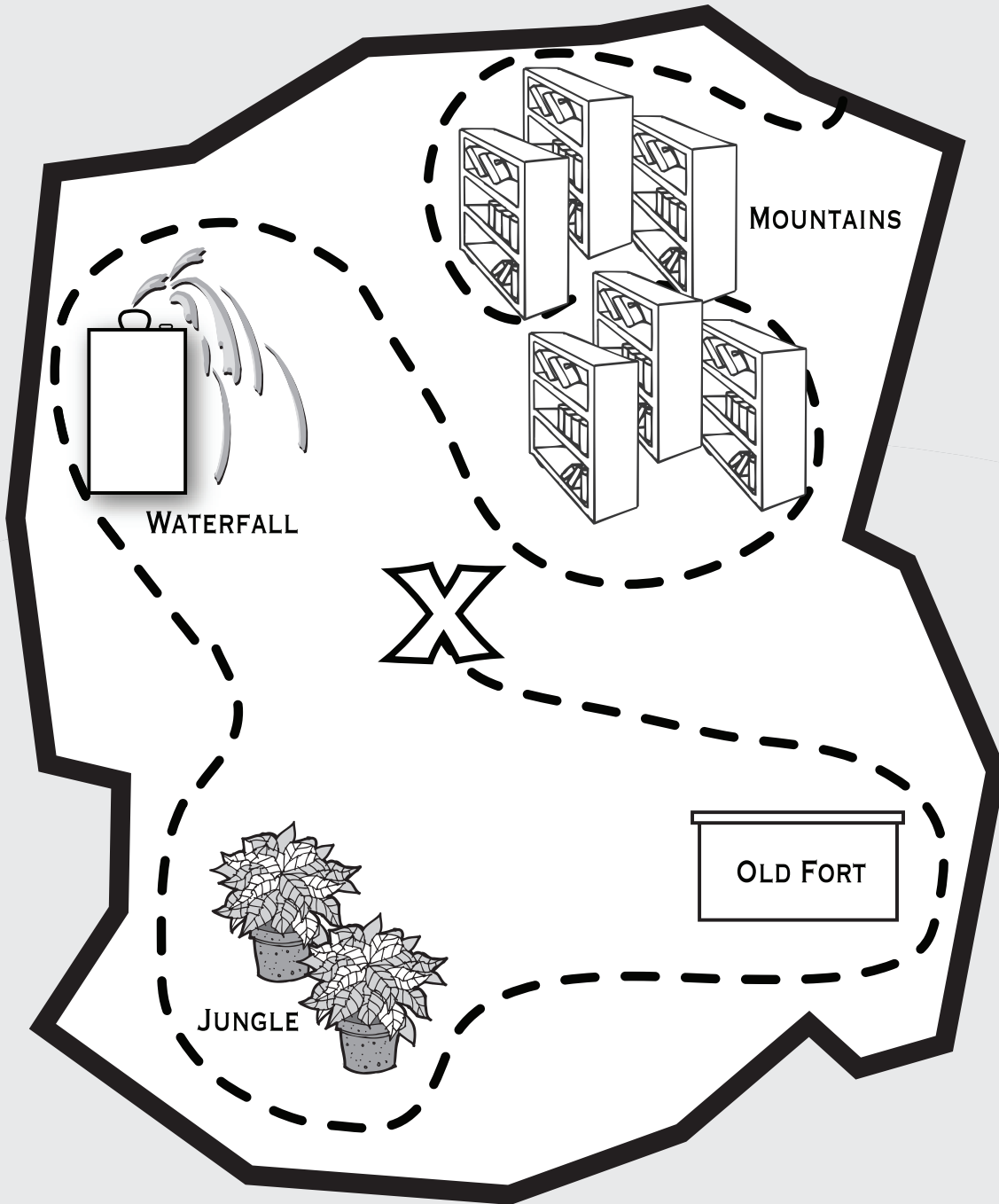
- Amazing Moms
www.amazingmoms.com/html/party.pirate.htm
- A to Z Kids Stuff
www.atozkidsstuff.com/pirates.html
- DLTK's Crafts for Kids
www.dltk-kids.com/crafts/pirates
- Talk Like a Pirate Day's Teacher Page
www.talklikeapirate.com/teachers.html

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Library Treasure Map



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