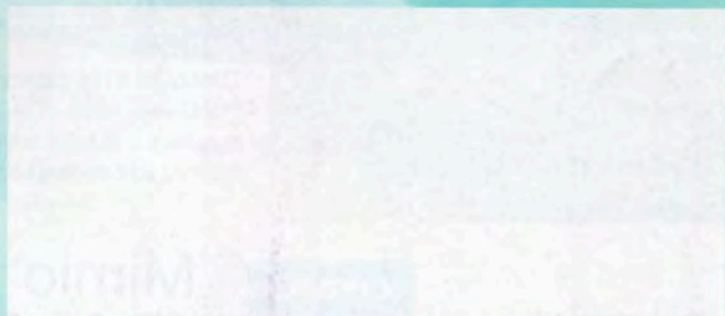


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Read Four Books

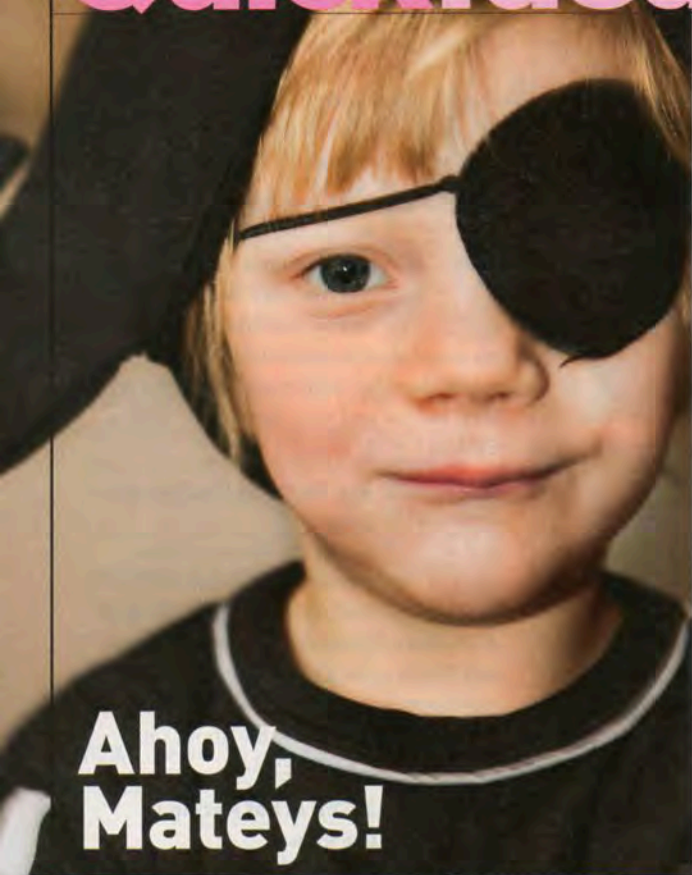
The proven cure for summer reading loss,
America's most fixable education problem. P. 27



**Cool End-of-Year
Projects**

**13 Tips for
Teaching Tweens**

**Get Inspired
With Ron Clark**



Ahoy, Mateys!

Celebrate kids' love for pirates with new books and activities.

Talk Like a Pirate.

Read *Pirate Pete's Talk Like a Pirate* by Kim Kennedy. Discuss why pirates use certain expressions featured in the book, and how talking in a certain way can be a way of identifying with a particular culture. (For instance, baseball players and fans know the meanings of specific expressions such as "around the horn.") With the help of parents, grandparents, friends, or neighbors, ask each student to develop a list of 10 unusual expressions or figures of speech used by a specific group of people—those who live in a particular geographic region, work in a particular profession, or play a particular sport. What phrases are unique to the South? To nurses? Give each student time to share some of their favorite expressions and their meanings.

Create a Model.

Give students time to read or skim books like *Pirateology*, by fictional author Captain William Lubber and editor Dugald A. Steer, which offer lots of facts and detail about the everyday life of pirates. Then ask students to work in teams to create models of working pirate ships: They can draw the plans on paper, like an architect's detailed drawing of a house, or they could build a ship out of wood, Legos, or other materials.

Find the Math Treasure.

Divide the class into two teams and give each team a map of the school marked with an X in ten different locations. At each "X" location, leave a math word problem related to pirates. For instance: "Captain Jack has two deckhands, a cook, and three parrots on board his ship. Each day, deckhands drink three jars of water, cooks drink two jars of water, and parrots drink one jar of water. For a five-day voyage, how many jars of water will the captain need to pack on the ship?" Instruct the teams to find each X and solve the math problem at each location. The team who returns to your classroom first with the most correct answers wins the booty, a chest full of chocolate.

Create a Treasure Map of the Future.

As a class, read *Saltwater Taffy* by Eric DelaBarre. Instruct students to create treasure maps that depict the steps leading to their own ideal future. They should start by listing a few things they love to do. Next, students must choose a

specific goal they'd like to reach related to one of these passions. For instance, if a student enjoys surfing, his goal may be to become a professional surfer. If a student enjoys writing, her goal may be to write a children's book. Next, ask students to list the steps to reach their goal (1. Learn how to swim; 2. Buy a surfboard and wetsuit; 3. Take lessons and practice, practice, practice; 4. Enter my first surfing competition). On a large sheet of paper, have students graphically depict each step to reaching their goal, in the form of a treasure map. For instance, the surfer's map would start at his house, and X would mark his first surfing competition. When their maps are complete, students can tear the edges, stain them with wet tea bags, and crumple the maps. After drying overnight, each student will have his or her own treasure "map" to reaching an important goal. For more activities related to *Saltwater Taffy*, visit whatagreatbook.com/the-workbook.

Watch the Movies.

Pirates of the Caribbean 4 is scheduled to be released in May 2011. Arrange for students to attend a showing or, as a class, watch a recording of one of the previous installments of the trilogy. Ask students to choose a real-life pirate such as Blackbeard to research, and then make a list of similarities and differences between the movie's Captain Jack Sparrow and the real-life pirate they studied.

Solve the Pirate Problem.

Read an account of old-time pirates pillaging a town or swindling treasure, such as those found in *Blackbeard: The Pirate King*, by J. Patrick Lewis, or Moira Butterfield's *Pirates and Smugglers*. Then help students locate and read a few news accounts about modern-day pirates, such as the Somali pirates who have attacked ships in the Indian Ocean during the past few years. Discuss the international problems pirates represented then and represent now. Ask questions like: Do you think

our culture treats pirates as heroes? Do you think most children understand what pirates were really like? Do you think pirates like Blackbeard would be surprised at the way his memory is celebrated? Ask each student to write a paper answering one of the following questions: Should pirates be heroes? If you were a world leader, what would you do about modern-day pirates? If you were a pirate, how would you expect to be remembered?

Imagine a Day in the Life.

As a class, read several entries in Richard Platt's *Pirate Diary*. Talk about the format and purpose of a diary. Ask students to choose a historical figure or a person currently in the news and create three diary entries in the voice of that person, depicting his or her feelings on three important days of his or her life. —Nancy Mann Jackson □

Pick a Pirate Read

Dozens of new pirate stories are waiting on bookstore shelves.



Lilly and the Pirates
By Phyllis Root, illustrated by Rob Shepperson. \$16.95. A sweet adventure about a 10-year-old girl who transforms from a worrywart into a swashbuckler.



The Dagger Quick
By Brian Eames. \$15.99. The story of Christopher, a 12-year-old boy in 17th-century England who decides to trade barrel making for adventures at sea.



Pirate Vs. Pirate
By Mary Quattlebaum, illustrated by Alexandra Boiger. \$16.99. A humor-

ous picture book about two feuding pirates who end up (spoiler alert!) falling in love.



The Big Book of Pirates
By Joan and Albert Vinyoli, illustrated by Xosé Tomás. \$12.95. A fascinating collection of 13 stories examining some of history's most fearsome pirates.



Hurricane Dancers
By Margarita Engle. \$16.99. A novel in verse for older students that explores an actual Caribbean shipwreck and its aftermath through the eyes of a fictional boy enslaved on the ship.

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- Take one home to record a favorite book and share it with the class
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