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 “Arrrr!” Have the kids practice saying “Arrrr.” Share the following pirate riddle: “What’s a pirate’s favorite letter of the alphabet? Arrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr
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

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.”)
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”).

**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).
More Recorded Songs about Pirates


Web Sites

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

- Amazing Moms www.amazingmoms.com/htm/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