



Pirate Island Treasure

Marilyn Helmer

illustrated by David Parkins

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About the Book

Charlotte and her brother, Jacob, are thrilled to be heading off on an adventure in their grandpa's boat, *The Seawind*. As they set sail for Pirate Island, they look forward to a day of beachcombing, playing pirates and storytelling. There are plenty of great treasures to be found, but Charlotte, who can be very bossy, is having trouble sharing with Jacob. When Charlotte accidentally loses one of Jacob's best finds, it is the final straw for Jacob. Feeling terrible about upsetting her brother, Charlotte is determined to find a way to set things right.

About the Author

Marilyn Helmer was born in St. John's, Newfoundland, grew up in Montreal and now lives with her husband near Belwood, Ontario. She is the author of many children's books including picture books, early readers, novels, riddle books and retold tales. *Pirate Island Treasure* is Marilyn's sixth book with Orca and her fifth book in the Orca Echoes series. For more information, please visit www.marilynhelmer.com.

About the Writing

Marilyn has many hobbies and interests, and beachcombing and storytelling are high on her list of favorites. Any time Marilyn is near the ocean there is nothing she enjoys more than walking along the beach looking for whatever treasures she can find. Treasure, like beauty, is in the eyes of the beholder. In Marilyn's eyes, pieces of sea-polished glass, shells, stones, driftwood and an old bottle become pirate treasure. Add a bit of imagination and the joy of spinning a tale and the pirate treasure turns into an exciting story of discovery and adventure.

Teaching Ideas—Curriculum Connections

Prereading Ideas

- Do you know someone who is bossy? What are some ways you can deal with a bossy person?
- There is a saying, “One man’s trash is another man’s treasure.” In other words, things one person might think of as junk, another person may think of as treasure. Can you think of some examples of junk that could be treasure? Have you ever gone treasure hunting? Where did you go and what did you find?
- If someone borrowed something belonging to you, something that was very special to you, how would you react if they lost it? Would you eventually forgive the person?
- Have you ever felt jealous of a lucky find someone else has made?
- If you say or do something that upsets someone, do you find it easy to apologize? What if someone was upset with you and was expecting an apology for something you did not think you were guilty of? How would you deal with a situation like that?

Classroom Discussion Questions

1. Charlotte likes to be in control and have things done her way. How can you deal with someone like that so that you get to have a say in what is going on too?
2. Jacob and Charlotte sometimes settled their arguments by playing Rock, Paper, Scissors. What are some other ways you can settle an argument peacefully?
3. Have you ever done something mean to get even with someone the way Jacob did when he found and kept Charlotte’s holed stone. Was getting even with the person really satisfying?
4. When Charlotte upsets Jacob with her bossiness, Jacob does not complain to Grandpa. Is it best to try to settle a problem yourself without getting a grownup involved? Can you think of situations when you should go to a grownup for help?
5. Who is your favorite character in the book? Which characteristics of that person do you particularly like? Do you and your favorite character have some characteristics in common?

Suggested Activities

1. There are some excellent opportunities for storytelling in *Pirate Island Treasure*. In small groups, students could research folktales and legends about Sea Glass, Mermaid’s Purses or Holed Stones. They could also write their own folktales or stories and share them with the class.
2. Have the students look up Rock, Paper, Scissors and learn how to play the game. They could make a poster similar to the one at en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rock-paper-scissors showing the different hand movements and what they mean. They could play Rock, Paper, Scissors with their classmates and have a championship round.

3. Working in small groups or individually, students can pretend that they are on an island. Have them list interesting things they might find on the island such as an old hut, a cave or lost treasure on the beach. They can give the island a name and draw a map of it locating any treasure or points of interest they find.
4. As a science project, students could research the lifecycle of the skate fish and the sand dollar. They could make a poster with the information on it illustrated with pictures or their own drawings.
5. Have the students do a research unit on pirates. There are a number of excellent websites and books on the subject, including the ones mentioned under Other Titles and Websites of Interest.
6. Authors have to think up names and descriptions of their characters, their pets, the towns or cities the characters live in including streets, stores, restaurants and schools as well as places they visit. What names would you use? Is there a particular reason you chose those names?
7. In pairs, take turns telling the pirate story Charlotte and Jacob made up (ch. 13).
8. Look up the following difficult words: *ruddy* (ch. 2), *dinghy* (ch. 3), *flotsam and jetsam* (ch. 4), *barnacles* (ch. 7), *amethyst* (ch. 8).
9. There are several excellent websites (Google “pirate crafts”) with simple but very attractive pirate crafts the students could make. Having students make a pirate hat, mask, spyglass, treasure chest, map, etc. would add to the fun of any of the above suggested activities.

Other Titles and Websites of Interest

1. *Everything I Know About Pirates* (Simon & Schuster, 2003) by Tom Lichtenheld.
2. *How I Became a Pirate* (Harcourt, 2003) by Melinda Long.
3. *I Wonder Why Pirates Wore Earrings: and other questions about pirates* (Kingfisher, 2012) by Pat Jacobs.
4. www.rochedalss.eq.edu.au/pirates/pirate.htm
5. www.teacherfiles.com/4t/famous_pirates_info.htm

Other Books by the Author from Orca Book Publishers

Adventures at Camp Lots-o-Fun (Orca Echoes)
Dinosaurs on the Beach (Orca Young Reader)
The Fossil Hunters (Orca Echoes)
The Great Garage Sale (Orca Echoes)
Sharing Snowy (Orca Echoes)

Reviews

The Great Garage Sale

“This Orca Echoes chapter book is written with flair and pizzazz which is sure to entertain young readers!”

—JacketFlap.com

“Many readers, and their parents, will connect with the adventures of DJ, an irrepressible ball of energy who tries desperately to do the right thing.”

—*CM Magazine*

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