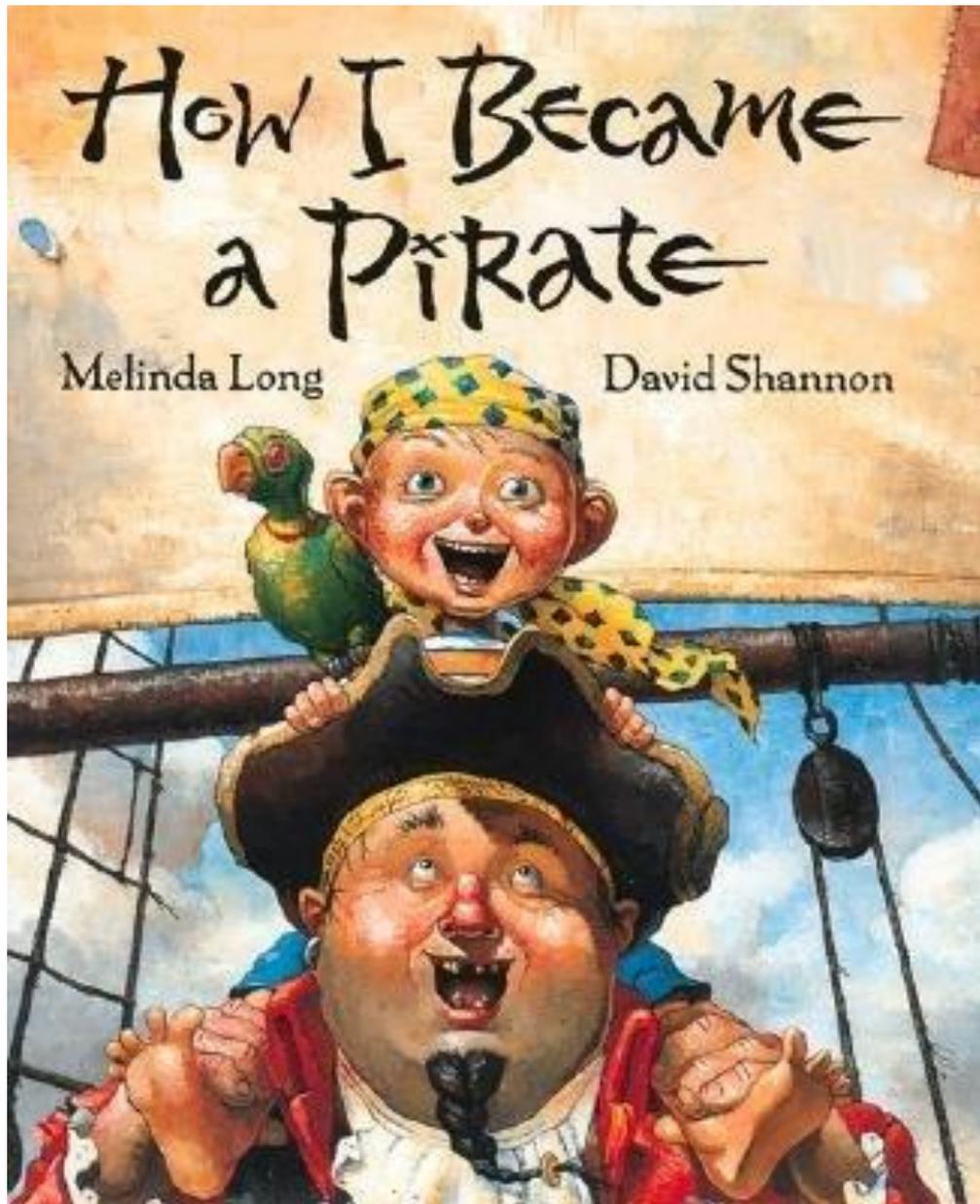




THEATRE AT THE **MOUNT**

STUDY GUIDE



Feel free contact us or send samples of your students' work to: Theatre at the Mount, 444 Green Street, Gardner, MA 01440



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ABOUT THEATRE AT THE MOUNT

For more than 38 years, Theatre at the Mount has been Central Massachusetts' premier regional theatre presenting high quality entertainment at affordable prices. TAM's season consists of five full-scale musicals and plays, a spring children's show for young people and a fall touring production performed at local elementary schools. Additionally, TAM offers Summer Drama Camp programs for children and teens and sponsors the TAMY award program, celebrating excellence in high school musicals. Season tickets packages, dinner theatre options and backstage tours for groups are also available.

How I Became a Pirate:

Performances – April 12, 13, 14, 15 at 9:30AM and 12Noon; April 16 at 2PM

PLOT SYNOPSIS

It is a beautiful day at North Beach, and young Jeremy Jacob is digging in the sand, when he sees a real Pirate ship quickly moving into shore. The pirates are looking for a digger to bury their treasure...and Jeremy is an expert digger! Jeremy Jacob accepts the invitation to come aboard their ship and soon realizes that life on shore is much different than the Pirates' life. Jeremy goes to school and has to do lots of homework, he plays video games, and sometimes even has to change his baby sister's dirty diapers. But the thing Jeremy loves to do most is play soccer. The Pirates have never heard of this game and can't understand how playing any game by the rules can be fun. A storm brews and the pirates quickly realize they need to secure the ship and bury the treasure. Jeremy Jacob knows the perfect place for buried treasure and even draws Braid Beard a map of where to find it. Will Jeremy Jacob make it back in time for soccer practice, or continue sailing the seven seas?

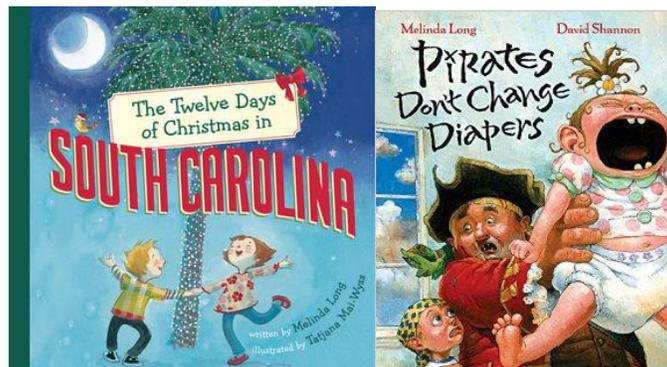


ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Melinda Long began her writing career on a rainy day when she was six. Her mother, tired of hearing how bored Melinda was, told her to write a story about Yogi Bear and friends. She even gave Melinda a typewriter to use. It was so much fun, Melinda just kept writing. Now it's one of her favorite things to do.



Melinda's career spans 23 years of teaching and multiple trips to the New York Times Bestseller list. Her third book, *How I Became a Pirate*, was chosen by Children's Book of the Month Club as a main selection for September 2003, and has also been translated into thirteen languages. Melinda's second pirate book, *Pirates Don't Change Diapers*, also illustrated by David Shannon, is a Booksense, Publisher's Weekly, and New York Times Best Seller. Just recently, Harcourt released the *Pirates Activity Book*, and in October, 2010, Sterling Publishing released Melinda's *The Twelve Days of Christmas in South Carolina*, illustrated by Tatjana Mai-Wyss. She graduated from Furman University and lives in Greenville, South Carolina — not far from two pirate hangouts. She enjoys reading, acting, and visiting schools to talk to kids about writing.



THEATRE ETIQUETTE



- ✚ Please stay in your seat during the show. If you must go to the restroom, you will only be allowed to re-enter the theatre during applause.
- ✚ Please do not have conversations with the people around during the show.
- ✚ Please do not eat or drink anything during the show.
- ✚ Please keep your hands, feet and belongings out of the aisles- actors sometimes move throughout theatre.
- ✚ Please turn off all cell phones, beepers, video games, etc.
- ✚ Taking photos during the show is not allowed.
- ✚ Feel free to laugh out loud if you think something that is happening in the show is funny, or to clap if you liked something that happened on stage. Feel free to stand and applaud at the end of the show if you really enjoyed the show. The actors on stage can hear you, and they love your support and encouragement!



BEFORE THE SHOW

A. Read the story HOW I BECAME A PIRATE together in class.

1. Identify the main topic and discuss key details in the text.
2. With prompting identify characters, settings and major events.

B. Have a brief discussion about the differences between reading a story and seeing it as a musical. The stage version of the story will be different, but all the themes and major events will stay the same.

1. Has anyone seen a play or musical before?
2. Discuss expectations and theatre etiquette.

C. Relating to the Character

1. Jeremy loves to play soccer. He is a very good soccer player and always plays by the rules. What games do you like playing with your friend and what are the rules of the game?
2. At bedtime, Jeremy likes to have his parents tuck him into bed and read him a bedtime story. What do you do to get ready for bed at night?
3. Jeremy likes to pretend he's a pirate and go on make-believe pirate adventures. Do you play pretend? Who do you pretend to be and what make-believe adventures do you go on?

D. Fun Pirate Facts – here are some fun pirate facts to help the students understand the true nature of pirates for further discussions.

1. A pirate is anyone who attacks and robs a ship.
2. Pirates took merchant ships and warships and streamlined them for speed. A strong, fast ship was what a pirate needed.
3. A pirate ship might carry as many as 40 cannons.

4. Most pirates have been men, but there have been some famous female pirates.
5. Pirates usually ignore laws, but many pirate bands had “codes” of laws they made up for themselves.
6. Pirates were violent criminals, like modern gangsters. They usually made their money stealing, smuggling, and holding captives for ransom. Just like modern gangsters, most pirates had hard lives and didn't make much money, though some pirates became rich and famous.
7. The most common kind of modern piracy is pirating movies, games or music. The use of the word “pirate” as a verb means to use other's work without permission.
8. Pirates believed that wearing pierced earrings would improve their eyesight.
9. Pirates believed that having women on board their ship was bad luck. They also believed that whistling on a ship would cause the weather to turn stormy (as in ‘to whistle up a storm’).

CHARACTERS

Jeremy Jacob - A boy of about 10 or thereabouts

Braid Beard - The pirate captain- a man of girth with a “braided beard” on his chin

Swill The Pirate - Slight build with wire-rim eyeglasses, philosophical, intellectual, gets blamed for everything that goes wrong

Sharktooth The Pirate - Foreboding, scowling grin, wears a patch on eye but yet... he's a sensitive guy

Pirate Pierre - Talks with a French accent, the ship's cook, enjoys fine French cuisine

Max The Pirate - Wears a stuffed parrot on his shoulder (“he's only a studded, plush Parrot but we don't have the heart to tell 'im 'ees not real”)

Pirate Seymour Braunschwagger - A typical pirate first mate

Pirate Scurvy Dog - A typical pirate second mate, with a tendency to “bark”

HOW TO TALK LIKE A PIRATE

In *How I Became a Pirate*, Jeremy Jacob has to learn how to talk like a pirate. Use the following tips to talk like a pirate too! And remember to scowl, mutter and growl a lot – that’s what pirates do.



Aaaarrrrgggghhhh! – The sound you make when you sit on a tack; exhortation of discontent or disgust

Ahoy! - “Hello!”

Avast! - Stop and give attention.
“Whoa! Get a load of that!”

Aye! – “Why yes, I agree most heartily with everything you just said or did.”

Aye aye! – “I’ll get right on that sir, as soon as break is over.”

Arr! – Often confused with “aaaarrrrgggghhhh;” “yes,” “I agree,” “I’m happy.”

Batten down the hatches – put everything away on the ship and tie everything down because a storm is brewing

Blimey! – An exclamation of surprise

Booty – Treasure

Brigantine (also brig) – a two masted sailing ship, square rigged on both masts

Crow’s Nest – Small platform atop the mast where the lookout stands

Dog – insult or term of endearment – it’s all the same to pirates!

Doubloon – Spanish gold coin worth sixteen Pieces of Eight, or eight Escudos

Grub – Food

Hearties – shipmates or friends

Heave Ho – Give it some muscle and push it

Ho – used to express surprise or joy, to attract attention to something sighted, or to urge onward

Hoist the colors! – To raise the Pirate flag before attacking. Also a rallying cry for pirates before they go into battle

Hornswaggle – to cheat or defraud, often of money or belongings

Lubber – (or Landlubber) – an old English word for a big, slow, clumsy person; this term was aimed at those persons on ship who were not very skilled or at ease with ship life

Matey – a piratical way to address someone in a cheerful, of not necessarily friendly, fashion

Picaroon – a scoundrel

Pieces of Eight – money

Salt or Sea Dog – experienced sailor or pirate

Sallywag – a villainous or mischievous person

Shiver me timbers! – An expression of surprise or disbelief, believed to come from the sound the ship made when 'shocked' by a cannon blast

Smartly – quickly

Swab – to clean the deck of a ship; or, a disrespectful term for a seaman

Thar she blows! – Whale sighting

Walk the Plank – walk off the end of a plank into the sea to drown. Perhaps more famous than historically practiced. History suggest that this might have happened only once that can be documented.

Weigh anchor – to haul the anchor up; more generally, to leave port

Yo ho ho! – Pirate laughter

AFTER THE SHOW

A. Is a Pirate's Life for Me?

- Pirate Life vs. Jeremy's Life: create a Venn diagram comparing pirate Life with Jeremy's Life.
- Pirate Life vs. Your Life: The pirates live by their own set of "rules." Compare and contrast a pirate's code of conduct versus your classroom rules.
- Discuss why countries have rules and laws and what happens to people who choose not to obey.

B. Stanger Danger

- Discuss Stranger Danger – would it be a good idea to go off with a group of pirates without Mom and Dad's permission.

C. Discussion Questions

- The Pirates teach Jeremy how to speak like a Pirate. What Pirate phrases do you remember from the production? Can you remember how to say "hello" to a friend in Pirate Speak? Try to hold a conversation with a family member or friend in Pirate Speak.
- Captain Braid Beard and his crew form a family, and each member of this Pirate family has a special quality or skill. Who makes up your family, and what is special about each of these family members?
- If you were asked to help a band of Pirates bury a chest filled with treasure, where would you bury it? What about this place would make it the perfect location to bury a secret treasure?
- If you were asked to join the crew of a Pirate ship, what would you like best about being a Pirate? What would you dislike the most about being a Pirate?

FUN WITH SCIENCE

Ask A Pirate -- One Eye Or Two?

If both of your eyes do the same thing, why do we need two instead of one?



Materials needed:

- 5 inch X 5inch piece of cardboard with holes punched around the edges
- Shoelace
- Eye patch or strip of material to cover one eye

Directions:

Put the eye patch or strip of material over one of your eyes. If you have one eye that is weaker than the other, you could take turns with which eye to cover up.

Ask someone to time you while you thread the shoelace through all the holes around the cardboard. How long did it take? Once you are finished, you may unthread the shoelace.

Take the eye patch off. Ask someone to time you while you thread the shoelace through the holes of the cardboard again ... without the patch. How long did it take you this time? If you took turns covering each eye, which eye were you able to thread the fastest with? How fast could you do it with both eyes?

What happens?

It takes more time to thread the shoelace through the holes when you only use one eye.

MAP SKILLS

Objectives: Students will be able to define maps, explain the need for maps, construct their own maps, develop map skills, and appreciate the value of hard work in constructing their own maps.

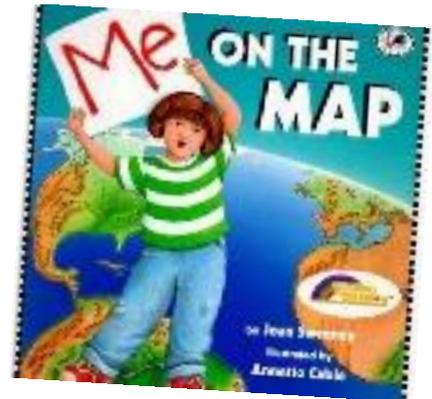
A. Ask the students to point to the objects that you name.

For example: Where is the blackboard? Where is the teacher's desk? Where are the windows? Why do we need to know where things are located in the classroom? What if we close our eyes, do we still know where the windows are? Point to them. Now have the students gather in front of you on the floor.

B. Read a story about locating objects or about maps.

For example, use ***Me on the Map*** by Joan Sweeney.

Ask questions about the cover of the book. Pause as you are reading the book and ask questions about what they see or just heard.



C. Discuss the main points and pictures in the book.

Pause as you are reading the book and ask questions about what they see or just heard.

D. Group the children in groups of three or four.

Explain that they will be constructing their own maps of the classroom. Discuss the concept of “a symbol” and a “map key.” Show them where the map key would be located on a map. (Usually in a corner)

E. Have them construct a map of the classroom.

Complete with coloring their objects and labeling the objects they have drawn. These objects could include the blackboard, the door, the bookshelves, student desks, etc. To add an oral language component, you can have the students present their maps to their classmates and explaining how they constructed their maps.

FUN FOR ALL!

B D B J C Z R P L L I W S
P X X X G S V H J K H K Y
S P I H S X G O P T X A B
R U O M Y E S Z O Z N J P
K U C M E G T O R R A P B
Y M E R E J T G Y H R Y F
X H Y B U K P D F C K V Y
R V J Z R N X C E P V R K
O Q C A S N H D R I I U X
H X H E B M R Y R R I C J
C S G N A A O H E A D S A
N C I X E H Y H I T Z A X
A I K B A F C R P E F J O

**Ahoy
Anchor
Beard**

**Jeremy
Max
Pierre**

**Pirate
Scurvy
Seymour**

**Sharktooth
Parrot
Swill**



FUN IN THE KITCHEN!



Recipe: Mom's Island Treasures

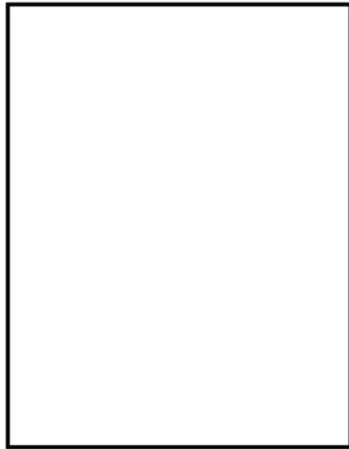
Ingredients:

- 1 2/3 cups all-purpose flour
- 3/4 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 7/8 cup butter, softened
- 3/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/3 cup white sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1 cup white chocolate chips
- 1 cup flaked coconut
- 1 cup chopped pecans

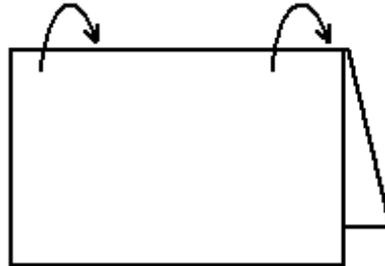
Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C). Sift together the flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt; set aside.
2. In a large bowl, cream together the butter, brown sugar and white sugar. Beat in the egg then stir in the vanilla. Gradually mix in the dry ingredients. Mix in the white chocolate chips, coconut and pecans. Roll dough into 1 inch balls and place the cookies 2 inches apart onto ungreased cookie sheets.
3. Bake for 8 to 10 minutes in the preheated oven. Allow cookies to cool on baking sheet for 2 minutes before removing to a wire rack to cool completely.

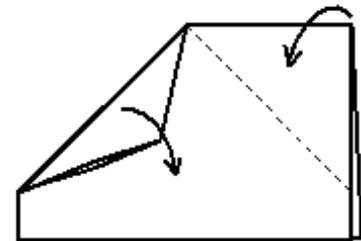
MAKE YOUR OWN PIRATE HAT!



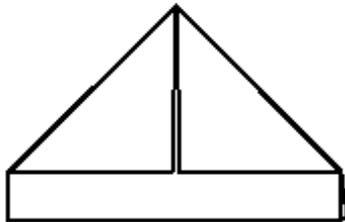
Start with a piece of paper.
(A sheet of newspaper makes a nice, big hat!)



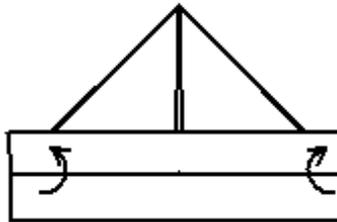
Fold the sheet of paper in half.



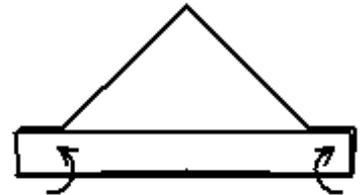
Fold the top corners down towards the center of the page.



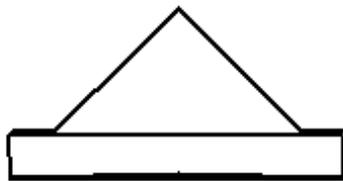
Your paper should look like this.



Lift the front bottom flap and fold it up.



Flip the paper over, then lift the bottom flap and fold it up.



Your pirate hat is complete!

DECORATE – use crayons, markers, or paint to make your hat unique!

SUGGESTED READING

Pirates Don't Change Diapers by Melinda Long, David Shannon

Roger, the Jolly Pirate by Brett Helquist

The Pirates of Pensacola by Keith Thompson

Black Beard America's Most Notorious Pirate
by Angus Konstam

Will Eisner's Hawks of the Seas by Will Eisner

The Pirate Primer by George Choundas
Pirate Mom by Deborah Underwood



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