



VOLUME 2 • SPRING, 2007 • NUMBER 1

Avast, Mateys!

Pirate Themes Sail Back from the Past

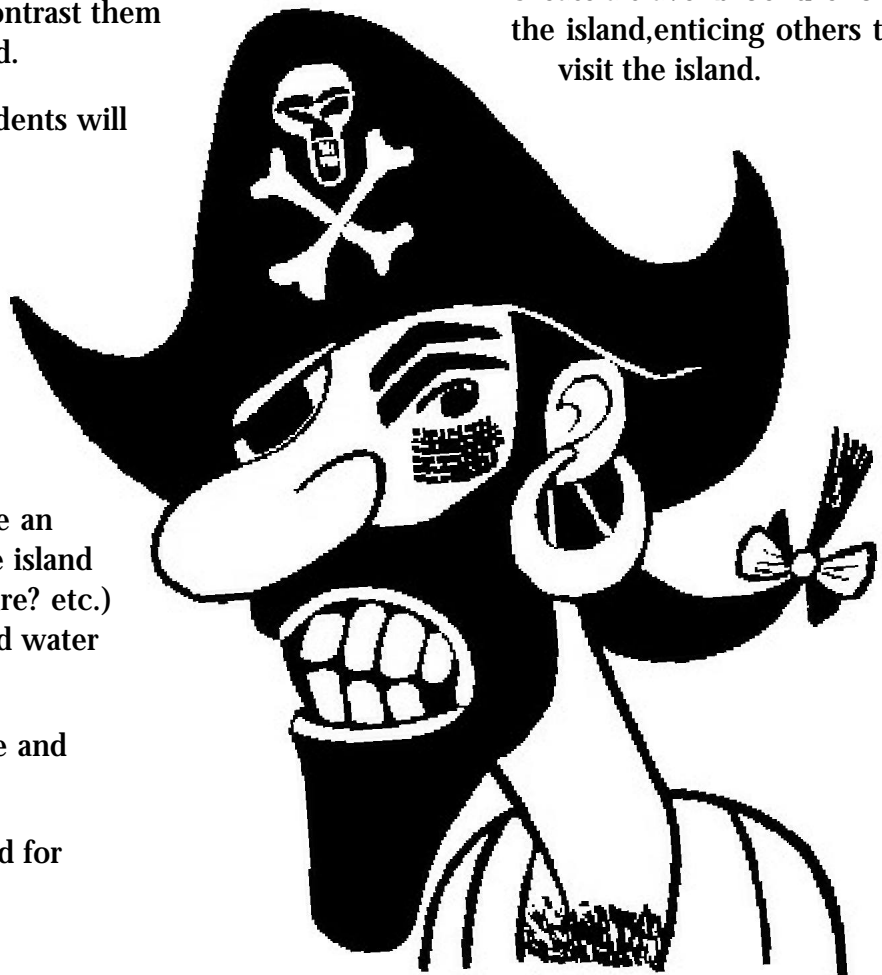
There has been a huge resurgent interest in pirates since the release of the first *"Pirates of the Caribbean"* movie. Why not capitalize on this and incorporate the study of pirates into your reading/literature study...

- Read a variety of Pirate books (a short bibliography is included on page 2).
- Compare and contrast different pirate stories
- Study some historical pirates and contrast them with the fictional stories you have read.
- Research modern pirates (some students will think that they don't exist).
- Create a wanted poster for a pirate character in one of the books read.
- Write a want ad for a "Pirate catcher". What characteristics would be important for this person to possess?
- Using a flour and water paste, create an island in a dishpan. Add features to the island (lakes, trees, shacks, hills, buried treasure? etc.) When the "land" has dried, you will add water to make it a "real" island.
- Map the your island, include latitude and longitude lines.
- Create a "treasure map" for the island for someone to find a buried treasure.

- In groups of three or four, draw an island on a large piece of paper. Place a variety of objects using construction materials on the island (Palm trees, shack, mine etc.)

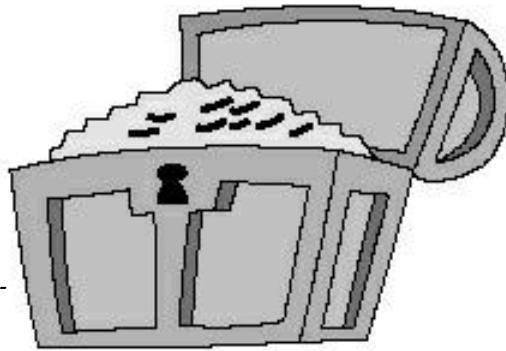


- Hide a treasure then write the directions for finding the treasure.
- Create a travel brochure for the island, enticing others to visit the island.



Here's a Treasure Trove of Books about Pirates!

Some are old, some are new, but they're all great ways to get a start on incorporating pirate themes into your curriculum right away!



TITLE	AUTHOR	ISBN
Pirates	John Matthew	1416927344
Puzzle Island	Paul Adshead	0859534022
Sunken Treasure	Gail Gibbons	0064460975
Pirates Robbers of the High Seas	Gail Gibbons	0316306606
Pirateology: The Pirate Hunter's Companion	William Captain Lubber	0763631434
How I Became a Pirate	Melinda Long	0152018484
Maggie and the Pirate	Ezra Jack Keats	0590448528
Henry and the Buccaneer Bunnies	Carolyn Crimi	0763624497
Pirate Island Adventure	Peggy Parish	0440473942
The Not so Jolly Roger	Jon Scieska	0140346848
Do Pirates Take Baths?	Kathy Tucker	080751697X
Pirate School	Cathy East Dubowski	0448411326
Night Pirates	Peter Harris	0439799597
Pirate Girl	Cornelia Funke	1904442498
How to Be a Pirate	Cressida Cowell	0316155985
Pirates Past Noon	Mary Pope Osborne	0679824251
Everything I know About Pirates	Tom Lichtenheld	0689860099
Treasure Island	Robert Louis Stevenson	0451527046
Kidnapped	Robert Louis Stevenson	0140434011

Let's Have a Parade!

Use wagons, AV carts, Baby Buggies, strollers or whatever has wheels to make floats to show off your favorite book.



Each class or group of students should choose a favorite book and design a float that tells about the book. The student or students pulling or pushing the float can dress up as a character also.

Use your imagination. Choose a "Grand Marshall" to lead the parade and play music as the floats travel throughout the school



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The Oregon Reading Association is a 4000-member, non-profit professional organization for teachers, administrators, parents, specialists and others who are interested in reading instruction and promotion of lifetime reading habits.

It is the state affiliate of the International Reading Association (IRA).

Setting Goals, Keeping Track...

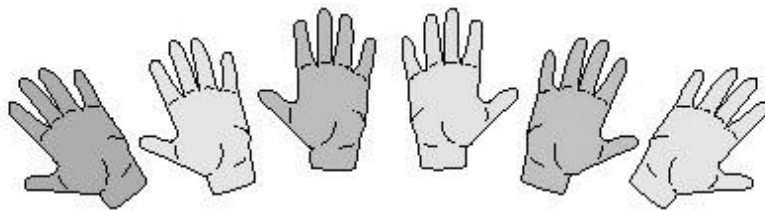


Create a Hallway Graph: Using red and white stripes make “Cat in the Hat” graphs. Each stripe could represent a number of minutes/pages/books etc. Each hat may represent a class or grade level.

Students can see visual representation of how much students/classes/grade levels are reading.

Reading Hands around the school:

Each student can trace around their hand and list their favorite book and the author. Be sure the students sign these hands so others may question them about the book.



Creative Reporting/Summarizing

Create a Graphic Novel:

Have students turn their favorite story or novel into a “graphic novel”.

(There are lots of these currently being published to use as examples; in the ‘old days’, we called them comic books.)



Birthday Parties:

Invite students to design a birthday party for their favorite story character.

The party should be “themed” to represent the character and the story.

(With time and parent help, students could take turns hosting these birthday parties throughout the year.)

Book Review:

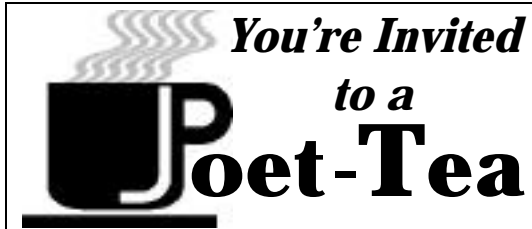
Invite your class to create a book of book reviews and recommendations of the books that they read.

Each time students read a book, they write a short summary (being careful not to give away the ending!)

Have students include why they do or do not recommend the book and who might enjoy this type of story.

With technology, you could include a picture of the cover of the book as well.

Poetry! - Words that Bloom in the Spring.



Do a spring Poetry Study and hold a culminating "Poet-Tea".

Invite parents and special guests.

At this "Poet-Tea" have students perform, singly and in groups their favorite poems.

Students can then serve cookies and Tea to their guests!

Following a Poetry Study, hold a "Mad Hatter's Tea Party"

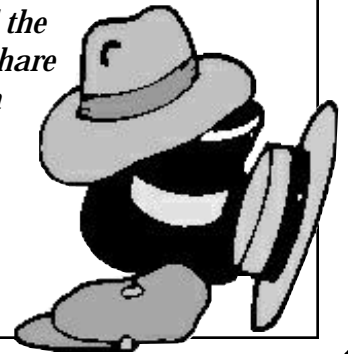
Each student needs to wear a hat and have at least five riddles and/or poems ready to read.

Each room may have their own tea party, or grade levels in a large, common area could do it.

Use colored butcher paper as the table or tables on the floor.

Students may sit around the tables and ask riddles and share poems as they have their tea and cookies.

Hats could be decorated with items that tell about a favorite book.



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