



PIRATES LIKE PARROTS,  
but they're Not So  
FOND OF SEAGULLS.

**P**repare for some pirate revelry with **EVERYTHING I KNOW ABOUT PIRATES**, the funny and fantastical picture book by Tom Lichtenheld. It's a great launch-point for an exploration of pirates, maritime history, pirate literature, and adventures of the imagination.



#### WRITING TOOL

This book is often used to demonstrate the use of "voice," one of the Six Traits of Writing.

### Set the stage for Pirate Adventures!

- Decorate your walls with posters of sailing ships, sea scenes, and maps of the Atlantic coast, New England, and the Caribbean.
- Play sea shanties and other folk songs, or the soundtrack to Gilbert and Sullivan's "The Pirates of Penzance."
- Invite children to wear pirate attire.

### CAPTURED OFF THE COAST

geography activity

Coastal New England States, the Carolinas, Nova Scotia, and the Caribbean Islands were hotbeds of pirate activity. Ask children to choose a coastal city or island, then imagine they are passengers aboard a ship that has been taken over by pirates. The pirates steal the ship and leave the passengers at the chosen location. Using a map, atlas, and/or other resources, have children write short paragraphs describing what they and the other abandoned passengers see in the place where they have been left. Children should be sure to include the name of the locations, the rivers, mountains, trees, flowers, and other landmarks they see.

### TERRIFIC TREASURE MAPS

cartography/art activity

For this activity, you will need:

- White craft paper
- Pens, pencils or crayons
- A pitcher of warm water
- Tea bags – or brown watercolor paint and pieces of old sponge
- Twine

Place teabags or sponge pieces in the pitcher. Instruct your young pirates to imagine that they have just buried a treasure somewhere in the building, and then draw maps leading from the starting point to the treasure. When maps are completed, lightly rub teabags over the paper – or dip sponges lightly in brown paint and rub over the paper to create a water-stained effect. Cut or tear edges of paper to make the maps look even older. After they have dried, roll "aged" maps into tube shapes and tie with twine.

### WILD WORDS

vocabulary activity

Bounty	Map	Privateer
Buccaneer	Maroon	Silver
Cutlass	Mate	Spyglass
Galleon	Mutiny	Sunken
Gold	Pirate	Treasure
Loot	Plunder	Vessel

Ask your young pirates to note how many of the above words they can define and which words they would like to know more about (refer to glossary in **EVERYTHING I KNOW ABOUT PIRATES**). Distribute sheets of paper. Ask each pirate to write down the three most interesting words (or assign two to three words to each), look up their definitions in a dictionary, and write them beside the words. Beneath the real definitions, have children write down their own silly made-up definitions. Invite children to take turns reading aloud a chosen word and both definitions. Take a vote to see which definition most of the group believes is correct. Are young pirates ever fooled by the silly definitions?

Some pirates have long, curly mustaches. To keep them in shape they use ear wax.



### THE STARTLING STORY OF PIRATE SAL

creative writing activity

Have children use this title for their own short pirate adventure stories. Children must be sure to include five or more of the words from the list to the left. When the stories are finished, have children read them aloud or collect them to create a book entitled "The Startling Stories of Pirate Sal."

### WATERLOGGED WORDS

vocabulary activity

Have children unscramble these pirate words.

YTUMIN	SLAUCTS	RLPDNUE
ACUEBECNR	GELNOLA	EPAERRVIT
OGDL	RONAMO	SASGLSPY
TONYUB	TIREPA	

### OUTRAGEOUS EXPLANATIONS

creative writing/art activity

In the style of author/illustrator Tom Lichtenheld, invite each young pirate to choose an unfamiliar topic (such as knights, cowboys, or magicians) then create an informative poster as if he/she was an expert on the subject. Encourage children to use written paragraphs, drawings, diagrams, and labels on their extraordinary posters.

### TALLY UP THE TREASURE

creative math activity

Invite children to bring in costume jewelry, chocolate coins, small toys, and other "treasure" or cut coins, necklaces, and swords from construction paper. Assign a value to each object. Instead of dollars, value treasure in doubloons. Then:

- Ask pirates to tally up the cost of all the treasure.
- Have pirates organize the treasure from most to least valuable.
- Have pirates divide treasure into two or more piles of equal value.
- Give each pirate three items and ask them to give their total value. Children can then trade treasures for items of equal value.

**PIRATE TREASURE COLLAGE**  
social studies/art activity

Before beginning this activity, have a discussion about what type of treasure children would most value. Consider money, health, happiness, beauty, time with family and friends, and other “treasures.” Then invite young pirates to make their own treasure chests. For this activity, children will need:

- Old magazines
- Safety scissors
- White paper
- Glue sticks

Have children look through the magazines and cut out the treasure of their choosing. Glue cut out images onto white paper, making sure edges overlap. Mount the collages for a class treasure display, or decorate a cardboard box “treasure chest” and place the collages inside.

**UNSUNKEN TREASURE**  
community service

Invite young pirates to bring in nonperishable foods to fill a “treasure chest” for a local food bank.

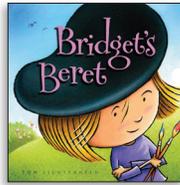
**PIRATE BY DESIGN**  
a quick activity

Inspired by the illustrations in the book, draw a picture of yourself as a pirate. What kind of hat, shirt, pants, and expression would you wear? When your picture is finished, think of a cool pirate name and write it beneath the drawing (see “Pirate Name Chart” in EVERYTHING I KNOW ABOUT PIRATES).

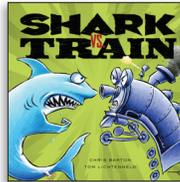


PIRATES DON'T WALK—  
THEY SWAGGER.

children's books by  
**Tom Lichtenheld**  
AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR



**BRIDGET'S BERET**  
A Junior Library Guild Selection



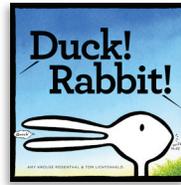
**SHARK vs. TRAIN**  
A Junior Library Guild Selection

**THE OK BOOK**

**WHAT'S WITH THIS ROOM?**

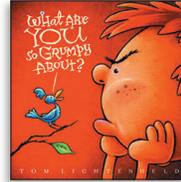
**IT'S NOT FAIR!**

**EVERYTHING I KNOW ABOUT PIRATES**



**DUCK!RABBIT!**

- A New York Times bestseller
- A Time Magazine best book of 2009
- Publishers Weekly starred review



**WHAT ARE YOU SO GRUMPY ABOUT?**

- A Child Magazine Best Book of 2003
- Kirkus Reviews starred review

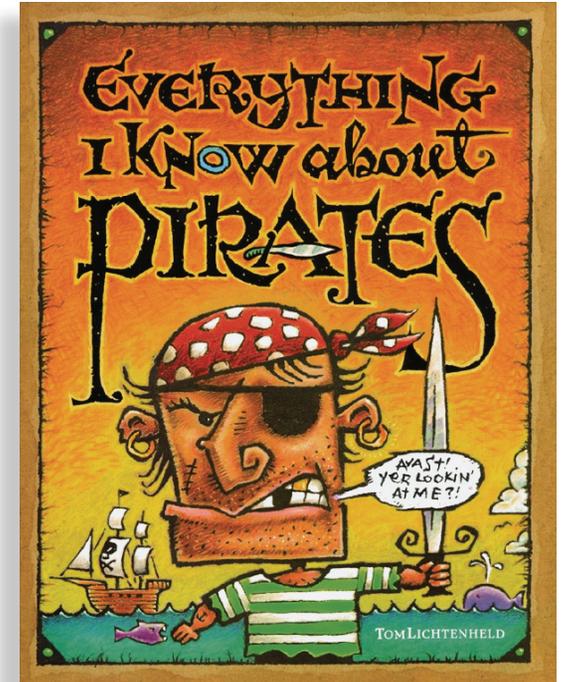
**EVERYTHING I KNOW ABOUT CARS**

**EVERYTHING I KNOW ABOUT MONSTERS**

**YES DAY!**

**ACTIVITY GUIDE**

BASED ON THE BOOK



by Tom Lichtenheld

FOR SCHOOLS, LIBRARIES AND BOOKSTORES



**Tom's books are also featured in:**

- Literature for Lively Lessons** by Sheila Edwards
- Becoming a Literacy Leader** by Jennifer Allen
- How to Develop Curriculum for Your Writing Workshop** by Katie Wood Ray

