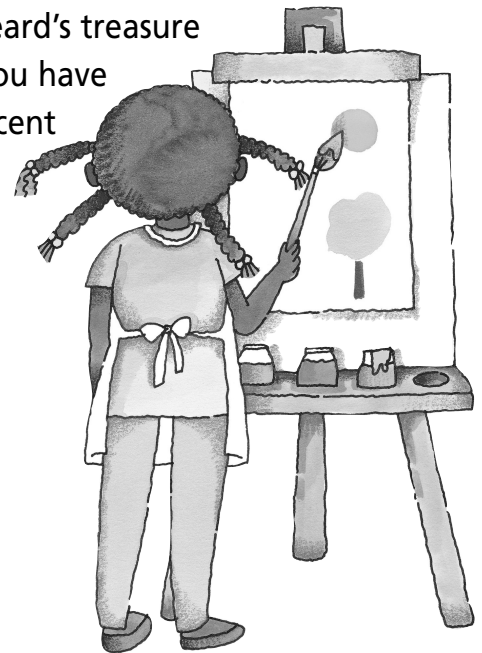


Online Book Club

The Mystery of Blackbeard the Pirate

Bring It To Life!

1. Make a pirate ship! The whole book club group can work together on this project. First, get a big box from a place that sells appliances. Paint your ship, write the name on the side, and add blue waves crashing against your ship. You might want to put some angry sharks in the water! Then, add a pirate flag (a broomstick handle and a piece cut from an old sheet will work) and a treasure chest full of coins made from aluminum foil or construction paper. Ahoy, Mates!
2. Have a pirate party! Wear pirate hats, striped shirts, shorts, and of course, an eye patch! Serve some punch as your "grog," and decorate cupcakes with "treasures"—like small candy pieces or sprinkles. Make up names for each other like "One-legged Larry," or "Belinda Bones!" Play some games like "Swab the Deck," where two pirates compete to see who can sweep five lively ping-pong balls across the room first! AAAAAARRRRRRRGGGGGHHHHH!
3. Do the math! Break the club into small groups to tackle a "piratical" math problem! If gold sells for \$250 per ounce, and Blackbeard's treasure totaled 25 pounds of gold, how much money would you have if you found his buried loot? If you had to pay 40 percent tax on this treasure, what would you have left to keep?



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The Mystery of Blackbeard the Pirate

Talk About It!

1. Who was your favorite character? Why?
2. What was your favorite part of the book? Why?
3. Do you like to read stories about pirates? Why or why not?
4. When the author described Blackbeard's head, were you able to picture it in your mind? Talk about how we all visualize things in our mind every day, in many situations.
5. What was the scariest thing that happened in the book?
6. Would you ever want to live the life of a pirate? What would be good about it, and what would be not-so-good?
7. How do pirates of the past compare to the terrorists of today? How are piracy and terrorism similar and different?
8. Did you miss the characters when you finished the book? What do you think they might do next?





Fact

or

Fiction

The Mystery of Blackbeard the Pirate

Write Fact or Fiction next to each sentence below.

- _____ 1. Michele and Michael were happy when their mother told them they would be spending about six weeks in Bath during the summer.
- _____ 2. Michele's dream was to have a career doing something in the theater.
- _____ 3. Blackbeard's real name was Robert Brown.
- _____ 4. Michele bought some art supplies to make a replacement Blackbeard head so the play could still take place.
- _____ 5. Fuzzbucket is a cat that lives at the motel in Bath.
- _____ 6. The children found the first mystery clue in a bottle that washed ashore near the motel.
- _____ 7. Michael knew exactly what an outhouse was used for when Brian showed him an old one behind the Bonner House.
- _____ 8. Mr. Tankard was very upset when he realized the ticket money was missing from his metal box.
- _____ 9. Many people were late for the opening night performance because someone changed a road sign and caused people to follow the wrong road.
- _____ 10. The children got to Plum Point by riding in a beautiful blue sailboat.