

THE PIRATE MUMS

BY
JODIE
LANCET-GRANT
& LYDIA CORRY



ABOUT THE BOOK

'A sea-faring adventure deftly packed with humour and charm, The Pirate Mums is a heartfelt reminder that what makes your family different is what makes them special.' – Lauren Ace, author of *The Girls*

A story celebrating same-sex parents and inspiring empathy for all families—and a rollicking pirate-themed adventure.

Billy has two pirates for mums. They won't listen to NORMAL music. They love to sing sea shanties and dance jigs in the lounge. Their clothes are highly unusual, they have a rude parrot for a pet, and their taste in house design is, well . . . FISHY. Billy wishes his family could be more like everyone else's. Until a swashbuckling adventure changes everything!

Author Jodie Lancet-Grant says: 'I was moved to write *The Pirate Mums* after my wife and I searched for picture books featuring LGBTQ+ families to read to our twin daughters, wanting them to see their own experience reflected back at them. . . My wife challenged me to write a story for our girls, and *The Pirate Mums* was the result.'



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ABOUT THE AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR

Jodie Lancet-Grant is a Communications Director at Pan Macmillan, a publisher of non-fiction books for adults. When Jodie's twin daughters were three, they started noticing that their family, with two mums, was different from other people's. Jodie decided to write a book with two mums so that her daughters could see families like theirs in picture books.



🐦 @jodiemullish 📷 @jodielancetgrant

Lydia Corry graduated from The Royal College of Art in 2009. Her first book, *Eight Princesses and a Magic Mirror* by Natasha Farrant was nominated for the CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal 2021. She has illustrated several picture books, and currently lives and works in Hastings. Lydia has a daughter, who told her classmates that 'yes, mummies can marry mummies,' when someone said the opposite in the playground, 'because it says so in *The Pirate Mums*!'



www.lydiacorry.com 📷 @lydiacorryillustration

See also this piece from *The Bookseller* about Jodie, Lydia, and *The Pirate Mums*:

<https://www.thebookseller.com/profile/jodie-lancet-grant-it-s-vital-all-children-get-see-all-different-kinds-families-incidenta>



Activity pack for teachers, families, libraries, and bookshops

Created with support from Just Like Us, the LGBT+ young people's charity. <https://www.justlikeus.org/>

CHATTING ABOUT THE BOOK

This is a story about families, a pirate-style adventure, and a celebration of differences.

Here are some general questions and themes you could pick up on when you talk together about the book.

Most of these questions will be fine with children of any age—choose which ones work best for the children you are sharing the book with.

Talk about pirates, so that everyone knows something about them before reading the story.

After reading the book, find out children's reactions to the book and their feelings about it. This is a chance for them to think and talk about the book and listen to each other's reactions.

General questions

- What words would you use to tell people about this book?
- What words would you use to describe this book?
- What was your favourite part of the story?
- Who are your favourite characters in the book? Why do you like them?
- Were there any bits you didn't like?
- What was the thing you most liked finding out from the book?

Talking about the story

Chat about what you see on each page

- Cover and title page: Do you like the cover? What did it make you think the book would be about?
- Page 5: See the Families section below
- Page 8: What theme are Billy's mums using to decorate their house?
- Page 10: What do you think Mummy's favourite hat looks like? And what has Mama got in that box, for fixing a leak?
- Page 14: What does 'Anchors away' mean? Have you been on a boat?
- Page 20–21: Now there's a storm and the ship's captain is stuck in the toilet! What do you think might happen next?
- Page 23: What do Billy's mums want the coats for?
- Page 30–31: What's everyone doing in this picture?



Have a go at *The Pirate Mums* **Wordsearch** (you will find this at the end of the pack)—and then find all those words in the text and pictures. Talk some more about what they are and how they fit into the story.



THEMES FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTIVITIES

FAMILIES & SENSE OF SELF

Billy's family was not what you'd call ordinary.

Talk about the cover illustration and what this tells you about Billy's family.

Look at families—all the different kinds there can be—e.g. grandparents, single parents, adoptive parents, foster parents and carers, families with two mums or two dads.

Talk about what you especially like about your family. Do you think any family is ordinary?

Family activities

- Billy's mums like pirate things; what do the pictures show you that Billy likes? What are your favourite things to do?
- Billy's family has a pet parrot called Birdbrain. Talk about any pets you have—their names, what they are like, how you look after them. What pets would you like to have? Would you like to have a parrot?
- What does your family like to do together? Do you have picnics, or trips to favourite places?

Family portraits



Look at the pictures of Billy and his mums on Page 6, and draw all the people in your own family using the picture frames in the **Family Portraits** activity sheet (you will find it at the end of this pack).

There's one for a group portrait of the whole family, and one for you to draw a picture of yourself.

You could also add some words about each person—their name and something about what they are like, or what they like to do.

'Billy just wished his family was a little more like everyone else's.' [Page 5]

Talk about how Billy feels: do you feel like this sometimes? Why do you think he wants to feel the same?



WHAT IS PRIDE?

You have pride when you feel proud of something.

You might feel proud when:

- You've done something really well
- You've achieved something
- You are pleased with yourself

You can be proud of yourself, and also proud of someone else. It can be used in a good way, and a bad way. Here, we're talking about a good way it can be used.

What are you
proud of?

What is Pride?

When we say Pride (with a capital P!) we don't mean an everyday feeling of pride, but a special feeling that people celebrate.

Pride is usually celebrated with parades and marches, and sometimes when people say 'Pride', that's what they mean!

June is the month we celebrate Pride, and usually that's when lots of fun things happen!

Who celebrates Pride?

Pride is a special celebration. We celebrate it to show that we like everyone, no matter who you love or whether you feel like a girl or a boy. Just like Billy has two Mums in *The Pirate Mums*!

In the past, not everyone was treated well because of who they loved or who they were. Pride is our way of showing love to everyone!

How can we celebrate Pride?

Together, think of as many ideas as you can about what you'd do to celebrate Pride! It could be baking, crafting, celebrating or reading!

You see lots of rainbows at Pride

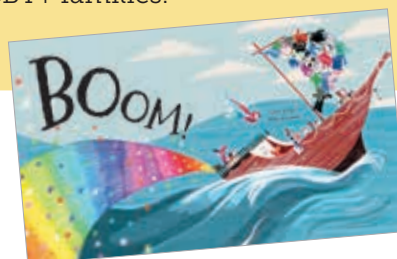
Rainbow flags are a symbol of Pride, and the different colours celebrate the special ways people are different from each other. The flag has been redesigned several times to ensure it represents everyone.



Make some **Rainbow bunting** together, colouring in the flags with different colours. You will find the bunting template at the end of the pack.

See the website of **Just Like Us**, the LGBT+ young people's charity for lots of age-appropriate free resources on celebrating different types of families, such as lesbian mums or gay dads, so that all young people know that being LGBT+ is something to be celebrated. They also organize Schools Diversity Week in June for primary schools, secondary schools and colleges to make your school safer, happier, and more welcoming for pupils who may be LGBT+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans) or have LGBT+ families.

www.justlikeus.org/school-diversity-week





PIRATES AND SAILING SHIP DAYS

Get together a collection of pirate books—stories and non-fiction—so you've got lots to refer to and share.

'The Pirate Mums'. What can you find in the pictures and the story which show you that Billy's mums like being pirates and doing pirate things?

'Bless Blackbeard's boots for your mums.' [Page 30] What is a pirate? Are there still pirates today? What do they do? Do you know who Blackbeard was?

Make a list of all the things people may think of when we say the word 'pirate': e.g. skull and crossbones, parrot, wooden leg. . .

Talk about how realistic all these things might be—e.g. some are fact, and some may not really be true but have come from a memorable image in a story like *Treasure Island*.



Have a go at the **Scrambled Up Pirate Things!** activity sheet at the end of this pack.

'He hid Mummy's favourite hat.' [Page 10]

You've probably guessed that this is a pirate hat!



Make your own pirate hat: At the end of this pack you will find a template you can use, with a skull and crossbones pattern to copy.

'Billy's mums insisted on using smelly old maps to find their ways on long car journeys.' [Page 7]

What do we usually use now, instead of maps, to get directions for a journey?

Talk about maps and explain how we use them to find out about a place, or to work out our route to get to somewhere.

Have a look at some maps, including one of where you live or the area around your school. Look for places and roads that you know

Draw your own map, showing your home and your school, and the journey you take between the two— or have a go at making a treasure map!

'Laaaurrrrggghhhh!' [Page 9] Talk like a pirate! There are lots of sea-faring words in the story—e.g. 'Shiver me timbers', 'me hearties', 'mateys', 'oh arr'. Pick them out and practise saying them out loud!





Pirate Pete's Talk Like a Pirate (by Kim Kennedy) is great for this.

And you can find a good list of phrases here too: <http://www.piratetreasurenow.com/pirate-phrases.htm>

Make your own pirate name

Write down a list of all the pirate-related words you can think of.

Here are some examples that work well:

Captain, Jolly, Peg Leg, Jack, Matey, Scallywag, Swashbuckler, Sparrow, Beard, Sea, Parrot, Cackle, Bloody, Stinky, Dead Man, Bones, Morgan, Sea Wolf

Put the words into a hat and invite some friends to pick out two or three to create their own pirate name—e.g. '*Jolly Sea Scallywag*'. They could then draw a picture of themselves as a pirate using their name for inspiration.

'Billy's two mums loved to dance jigs and sing sea shanties.' [Page 6]

You can see Billy and his friends dancing a jig on the ship's deck at the end of the story!

Sailors' jigs are often called **hornpipes**. This is a dance which began around the 16th century on English sailing vessels. Here's how you do it, with just three main movements:

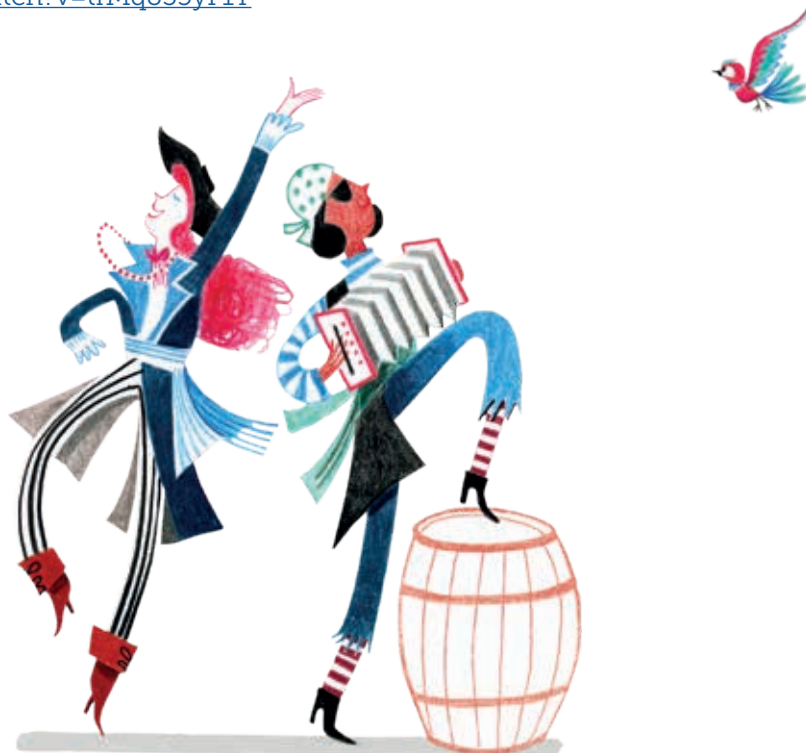
- "looking out to sea" with the right hand to the forehead, then the left
- Lurching from side to side as in heavy weather
- Giving the occasional rhythmic tug to your trousers!

And Billy's mums probably like singing the **sea shanty** called *What Shall We Do with the Drunken Sailor?*

A shanty is a song that was sung by sailors—including pirates!—to get the crew working together in a rhythm on all the heavy tasks involved in sailing a large ship, including lots of pulling of ropes to hoist the sails up and get them down.

Here's a YouTube video of the *Drunken Sailor*, to sing along to:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=trMq835yF1Y>





UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD—COAST AND SEA

Have a look at the picture on Page 15, and talk about the coast and the sea—what is the sea? And what is the horizon?

What kind of things do you see and do when you go to the seaside?

Anchors away!

What do you know about going on a boat?

What's happening to Mr Smart in the picture on Page 17?

Talk about the different parts of a boat—e.g. the deck, the mast, the sails, the cabins, the bow, and the stern. You could draw a picture of a boat—or copy the one on Page 15—and label it.

Ship safety: talk about lifebelts, life jackets, and flares

...pointing at the quicksilver fish shimmering in the water.

Look at the pictures in the story which show elements of the coast and the sea—e.g. harbour, lighthouse, seabirds, waves, cliffs.

Make a group picture:

- Find pictures of different fish, birds, and other creatures you might find in the sea and on the beach.
- Draw them and cut them out.
- Make a large background sheet, showing the land and the sea, and stick the creatures onto the picture, showing them in their particular environment.

All at once the wind picked up speed. The waves grew into giants. Thunder rumbled.

Have you been in a storm? Make a collage picture of the wildest, scariest storm at sea! Collect together some words as well, to get you going—e.g. dark clouds, great waves, lightning flashes. . .

Use lots of different materials—e.g. scraps of material, silver & coloured foil, cellophane, old greetings cards, tissue paper, glitter, stars, card, paints, glue, felt tips. Make one big storm together with some friends, or each person could create their own picture.

LANGUAGE

Collect words that are new to you—e.g. buccaneer, scurvy, horizon, makeshift. Talk about their meanings and make up sentences together using these words.

Also: Wordsearch, Scrambled up Pirate Things, Talk like a pirate





ACTIVITY SHEETS

The Pirate Mums Wordsearch

These are all things from the story, in the text or in the pictures.
 Look for these words in the squares – across, down, up, and from right to left.
 When you've found them, talk about them and how they fit into the story.

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

- MAMA
- MUMMY
- BIRDBRAIN
- SCURVY
- HIGH SEAS
- TELESCOPE
- HARBOUR
- SAIL
- MAST
- LIFEBELT
- FLARE
- CANNON
- SEA LEGS
- BUCCANEER
- HORIZON
- SCALLYWAGS



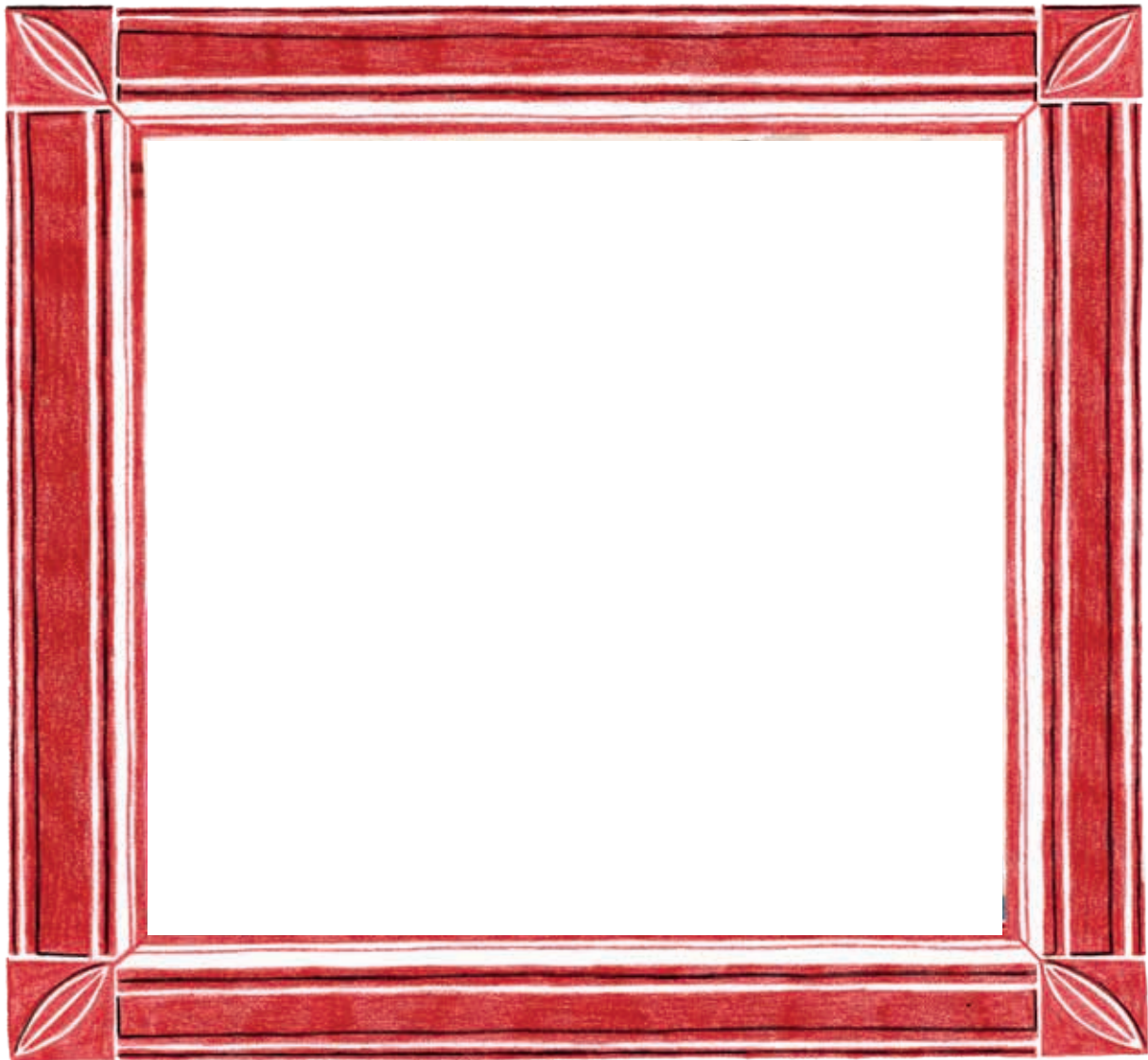


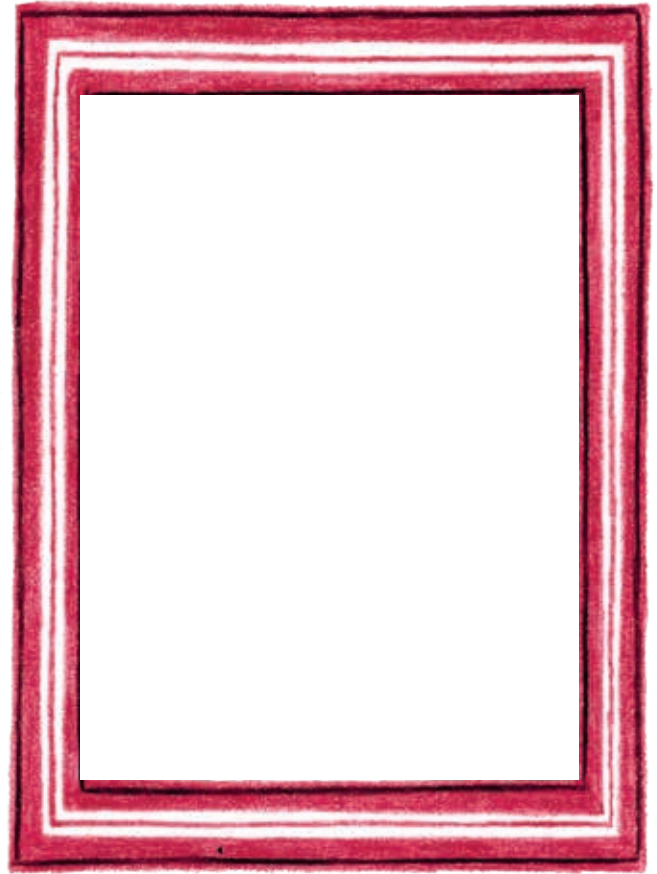
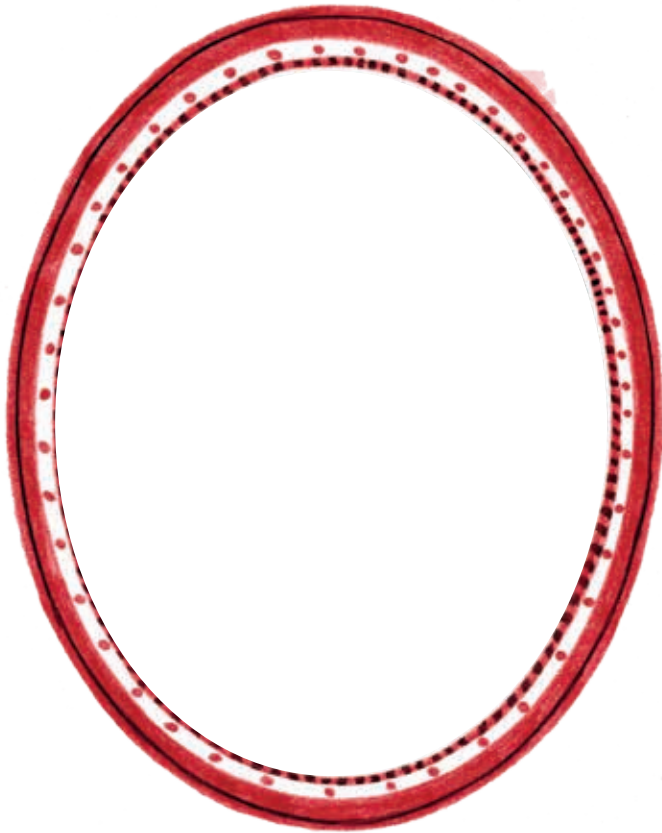
My Family Portraits

Here are some picture frames. Draw a group portrait of your family, a portrait of yourself, and a picture of pet or a pet you would like to have inspired by *The Pirate Mums*. Don't forget to say who everyone is, and maybe something about them!



Here's an example of a family portrait of Billy and his mums from *The Pirate Mums*. The illustrator of the book Lydia Corry created this portrait!





About the people in my portrait

Artwork © Lydia Corry



Share your portrait with us using the hashtag **#ThePirateMums!**



Make rainbow bunting, inspired by *The Pirate Mums*

You will need:

- a triangle-shaped piece of white card for cutting out your bunting flags—you can use the template below
- pencils
- scissors
- hole-punch
- string or ribbon

Colour in your bunting with the colours of the rainbow or draw your own family portrait.





Scrambled up Pirate Things!

These words are all to do with pirates and sea-faring. The letters of each word have all been mixed up – can you unscramble them to see what they are?

ELECTPOSE

You look through this to see things far away

— — — — — (9)

PHISHPEAS

In good order, neat and tidy

— — — — — (9)

ROLYJOGLER

The flag on a pirate ship

— — — — — (10)

SULLK & SOBERSCONS

The picture on a pirate flag

— — — — — (5) & — — — — — (10)

CAMPSOS

A round thing with a pointer that shows you which direction is North

— — — — — (7)

SUCSALT

A short, curved sword which was used by sailors

— — — — — (7)

PINHOPER

A sailors' dance

— — — — — (8)

RAPORT

A brightly coloured bird that can often talk

— — — — — (6)

NONCAN

A large gun which was used on ships in the old days

— — — — — (6)

RANCHO

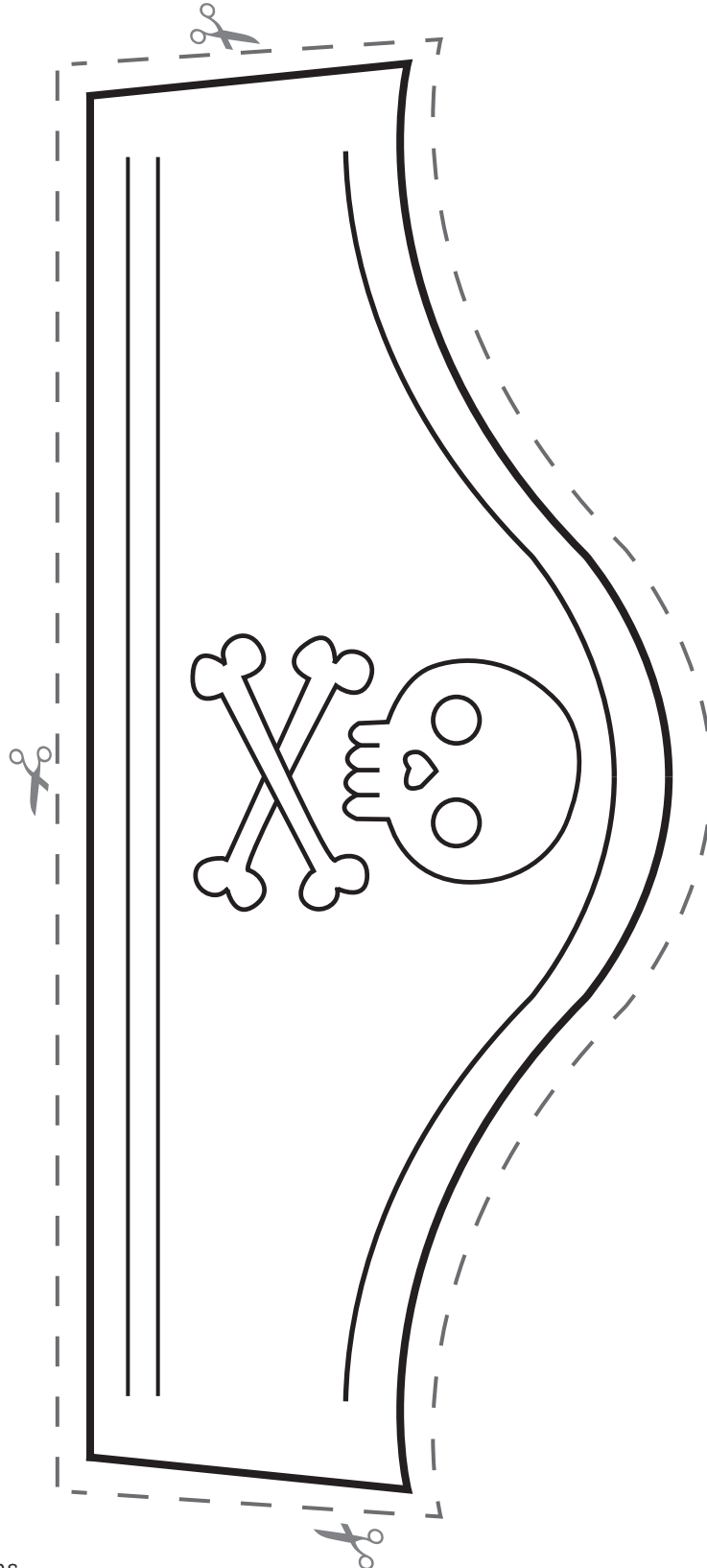
This is attached by a chain to a ship, and sailors use it to connect the ship to the sea bed

— — — — — (6)



Make a Pirate Hat

Print out two copies of the template below and cut around the outline. You can then decorate your hat with colouring-in pencils, paint, or collage. Use sellotape to fit them together and make your hat.





Make a Treasure Map

In pirate stories there is often buried treasure—and a map to show where the treasure is buried! Look at pictures of treasure island maps in picture books, and then have a go at drawing your own.

Think about what features you could include—e.g. mountains, forests, mountains, forests, swamps, rivers, or deserts.

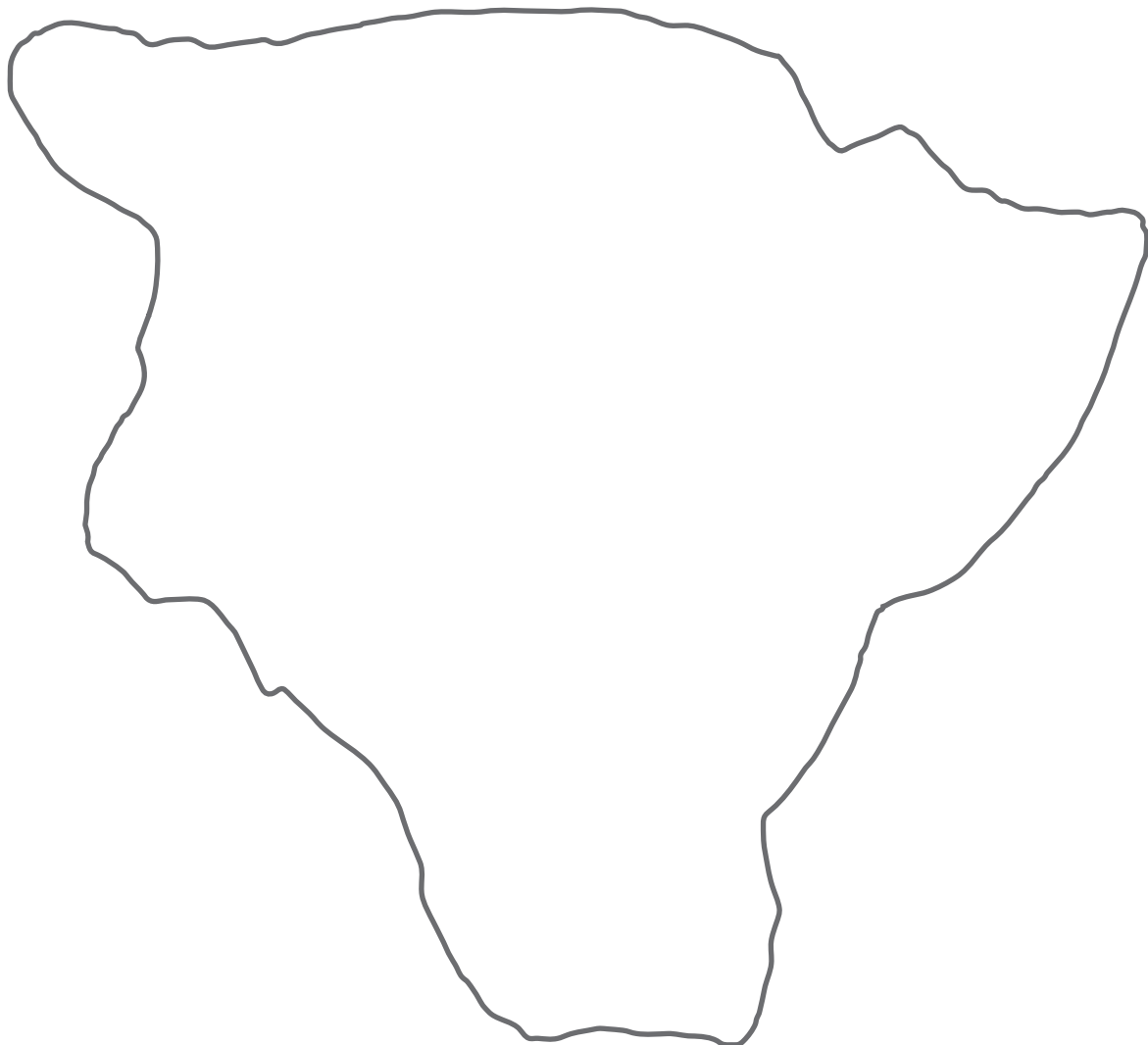
Give names to the features—e.g. 'Whirlpool Cove'—and to the island itself!

Decide where the treasure is hidden and mark the spot with an X!

To make your maps look old and crinkly:

- Wipe a wet teabag over both sides of a sheet of paper to give it a brown effect. Let this dry before drawing your map.
- Tear the edges to make the map look even more worn and aged. And after drawing and writing on the map, it helps to make the ink look old by crumpling the paper.

You could use this shape for your island.

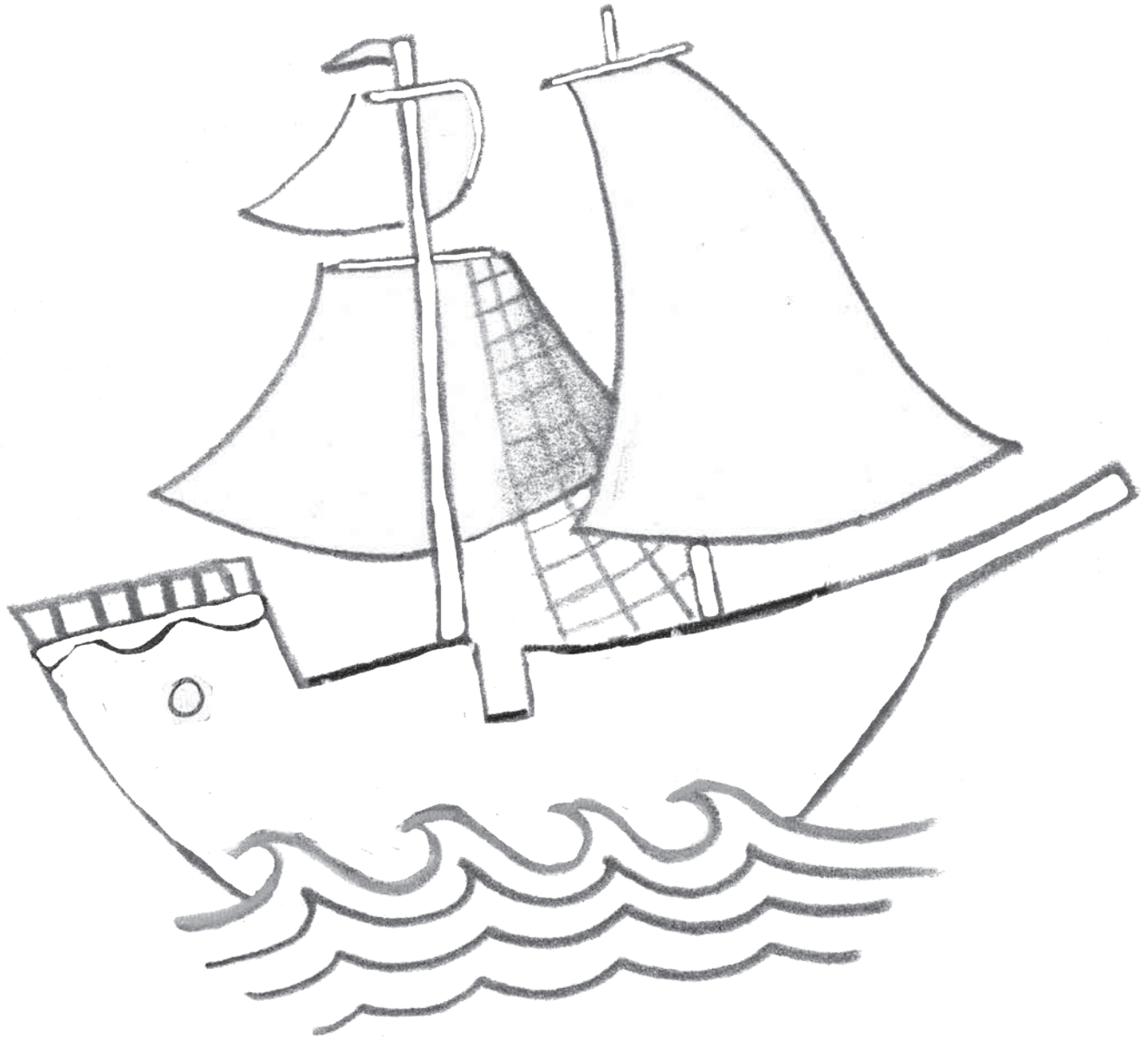




Colouring sheet

Colour in these pictures of Billy and his Pirate Mums, and their boat.





Artwork © Lydia Corry



ANSWERS

Wordsearch

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

Scrambled up Pirate Things!

TELESCOPE, SHIPSHAPE, JOLLY ROGER, SKULL & CROSSBONES,
COMPASS, CUTLASS, HORNPIPE, PARROT, CANNON, ANCHOR



MORE TO READ

Some suggestions

AUTHOR	TITLE	PUBLISHER	ISBN
SENSE OF SELF, and ALL KINDS OF FAMILIES			
Lauren Ace, Jenny Løvlie	<i>The Girls</i>	Caterpillar Books	978-1848577190
Felicity Brooks, Mar Ferrero	<i>All About Families</i>	Usborne	978-1474949071
Chris Higgins, Lee Wildish	<i>My Funny Family</i> (series)	Hodder	978-0340989845
Mary Hoffman, Ros Asquith	<i>The Great Big Book of Families</i>	Lincoln	978-1847805874
Jessica Love	<i>Julian is a Mermaid</i>	Walker Books	978-1406386424
Gareth Peter, Garry Parsons	<i>My Daddies!</i>	Puffin	978-0241405772
Shannon Olsen, Sandie Sonke	<i>Our Class is a Family</i>	Shannon Olsen	978-0578629094
PIRATES			
Peter Bently, Helen Oxenbury	<i>Captain Jack and the Pirates</i>	Puffin	978-0723269298
Cressida Cowell	<i>How to Be a Pirate</i> (for <i>How to Train Your Dragon</i> fans)	Hodder	978-0340999080
Margaret Mahy, Margaret Chamberlain	<i>The Man Whose Mother was a Pirate</i>	Orion	978-1444009255
Val McDermid, Arthur Robins	<i>My Granny is a Pirate</i>	Orchard	978-1408309278
DK	<i>DKfindout! Pirates</i>	DK Children	978-0241282816
ENVIRONMENT			
Jane Bingham, Colin King	<i>The Story of Ships</i>	Usborne	978-0746080955
Suzy Lee	<i>Wave</i>	Chronicle	978-0811859240



The Pirate Mums

This book links in to the following curriculum themes

Early Years Foundation Stage

Language development

See all themes above

- Communication and language
- Literacy
- Opinions, speaking, listening

Sense of self

Select from Families & Sense of Self [Page 3]

Understanding the World [Page 7]

- Families—place in family
- Empathy, friendships, relationships
- Personal/social/emotional
- Understanding the world
- Diversity

Literacy

*See discussion suggestions [Pages 2–5, 7],
Language [Page 7], and More to Read [p18]*

- Different formats
- Explore, predict, come up with own ideas

Understanding the world

Select from Understanding the World [Page 7]

- Explore physical environment
- Community

Art and creativity: expressive arts and design

*See suggested art and craft activities [Pages
9–11, 13–16], also hornpipes and sea shanties
[Page 6]*

- Drawing, painting, making
- Music, singing
- Dancing



Key Stage 1

PHSE

See Families & Sense of Self [Page 3]

- Families, differences in families
- Sense of self
- Diversity

Human and Physical Geography

See Understanding the World [Page 7]

- Environment: sea, ocean, beach, coast, cliffs

English

*See discussion suggestions [Pages
2–5, 7], Language [Page 7], and More
to Read [p18]*

- Different formats
- Explore, predict, come up with own ideas
- Reading, comprehension