

## ELA activities for HOW I BECAME A PIRATE

By Melinda Long, Ill. David Shannon.

Parents, please use these resources to help your child become a better writer. Some children may be able to read and complete these activities independently. However, you may wish to read each question with your child and allow them to respond. A response can be oral, drawn, or written. If you don't have an available copy of this book, I plan to put a read-aloud on this website. It should be available soon. There are also multiple versions already on YouTube. These activities are specific to my book, but many can be adapted to any book. Please feel free to use them that way. Finally, this document has a parent page and a student page that contains the same information without the parent info so that you'll have a less confusing document to use with your child.

Hope you find this helpful.

Kindergarten- grade 1, parent page

1. HOW I BECAME A PIRATE has a beginning, a middle, and an end. Can you tell the beginning, middle, and end of this story?

*Parent note: In the beginning, Jeremy Jacob goes off with the pirates.*

*In the middle, he learns pirate manners and tries to teach the pirates to play soccer.*

*In the end, there is a storm and Jeremy Jacob helps the pirates bury the treasure in his backyard.*

2. What would you write for an ending instead?
3. Use back of this page to write or draw your own story about a small moment in your life. Make sure it has a beginning, a middle and an end. Every good story needs a title. Give your story a title.  
*Parents note: Make sure your child stays on topic and uses a logical sequence of events. Encourage them to use descriptive adjectives.*
4. What changes can you make in your story? What should you add?
5. If you drew pictures, label parts of your drawing.
6. What was your favorite part of the story?
7. What would you try to teach the pirates to do instead of play soccer?
8. Where would you bury the treasure? Draw a map below to show where you would bury the treasure? Label it

Kindergarten- grade 1, student page

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Grades 2-3, parent page

1. Tell this story as if you were one of the pirates. How would your story be different? How would it be the same? Write this in a journal format if you like. *Parent note: Talk to your child about journaling. Here are a couple of links to get you started.* <https://www.scholastic.com/parents/books-and-reading/raise-a-reader-blog/how-journaling-benefits-your-child.html>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/list/show/3717.Diaries\\_and\\_Journals\\_in\\_Childr  
en\\_s\\_Literature](https://www.goodreads.com/list/show/3717.Diaries_and_Journals_in_Childrens_Literature)
2. Which character was your favorite? Describe him or her. Make up a story about that character that happens before or after this story. Write it on the back of this page. Give your story a title. Give good details about your character. What does he or she look like? Sound like? *Parent note: Make sure the story follows a logical sequence and give descriptive detail.*
3. What can you add to your story? What edits should you make? Are there any misspellings or grammatical errors to fix?
4. Research famous pirates and retell the story of a real pirate? Do you think pirates were friendly like the pirates in this book? Explain.
5. What kind of great adventure would you like to have? Tell about it and explain why you would want to do it. Would you be scared? Excited? Both? *Parents note: Talk to your child about the differences in Jeremy Jacob's choice to go with the pirates and the choices we make in real life.*



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6. Tell this story as if you were one of the pirates. How would your story be different? How would it be the same? Write this in a journal format if you like.

Grades 4-5, parent page

1. Do you think there are other adventures that Jeremy Jacob might have with the pirates? Use the back of this page to tell that story. Give it a title and illustrate it. Make sure to use good details. Edit and revise your story and then share it with someone. *Parent note: Assist your child in editing and revising.*
2. Do you think there are others who may want to join the crew? Describe the new crew member in great detail.
3. How do you think Jeremy felt when no one had time to sit with him and make him feel better? Have you ever felt that way? Tell about it in a story.
4. Research female pirates like Anne Bonney and Mary Read. Share five new things you learned about these real pirates. Why do you think there weren't as many female pirates as male pirates? How have things changed for women since their day?
5. If you could bury treasure, what would you bury? Write a paragraph about it. Tell why it's a special treasure and draw a map so that someone else can find it. *Parent note: Help your child by looking at different kinds of maps.*
6. Make your own treasure box. Imagine what someone from the future might say if they found your treasure box. Tell about it in a story.

Grades 4-5, student page

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*Parent note: Your child may not be in the mood for adventure. As an alternative to the above projects, older children may wish to write a journal about what's happening to them right now. Classes are being canceled, sports events and performances put on hold. The unknown can be frightening. Your child can express his or her feelings and expound on the fears they're experiencing during this tumultuous time. Writing is good therapy for children as well as adults. Younger children may wish to do a drawing journal with only minimal writing. They can still explain their ideas aloud.*