

handout by Rhonda Gowler Greene, children's book author

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Talk Title: Reading and Writing and Pirates, Oh My!

Talk Synopsis: Ahoy landlubbers! In this session, learn: 1) How your students (lads and lassies) can think like a pirate and be amazin' blow-me-down writers! 2) The story behind the story of *No Pirates Allowed! Said Library Lou* (an ILA/CBC Children's Choice Book and Bank Street College Best Book) 3) A treasure chestful of ways to use the book in yer classroom!

Three main parts to the session:

- 1) Talk about the popularity of the topic of 'pirates' and tell the 'story behind the story' of *No Pirates Allowed! Said Library Lou*.
- 2) Discuss how students can 'think' and 'write' like a pirate to make their writing really strong. Show ways to use *No Pirates Allowed!* as a mentor text.
- 3) a) Give ways to use *No Pirates Allowed!* in the classroom (Common Core activity guide, Readers' Theatre, etc.)
b) Suggest many books (covers shown) to go with several topics that can be used with *No Pirates Allowed!*

September 19th — International Talk Like a Pirate Day

Teach Like a Pirate A book about creativity in the classroom and teaching with passion

There are many sites for pirate vocabulary. One is—

www.puzzlepirates.com/Vocabulary.xhtml

Honors for *No Pirates Allowed! Said Library Lou*

- ~ 2014-2015 Florida Reading Assoc. Book Award nominee
(awarded 2nd place; 50,000+ K-2nd grade students voted)
- ~ 2015-2016 Nebraska Golden Sower Award nominee
- ~ 2015-2016 Arkansas Diamond Primary Award nominee
- ~ 2016 Kansas Reading Assoc. Bill Martin, Jr. Award nominee
- ~ 2015-2016 MASL (MO Assoc. of School Librarians) Readers Award Nominee
(preliminary list)
- ~ 2014 ILA/CBC Children's Choice Book
- ~ 2014 Bank Street College Best Book
- ~ 2014 *Storytelling World* Resource Honor Book
- ~ 2014 Colorado Libraries Bell Award nominee
- ~ 2013 Dallas Reads! Book
- ~ In March 2015, the 17 legislators from Michigan's House Legislative Education

Committee went into schools and each read the book to at least 1,000 students.
~ 2014 Korean edition of the book was released

How to ‘think’ and ‘write’ like a pirate...

Books mentioned in powerpoint presentation- (in the following order)

Steal Like an Artist (by Austin Kleon)
The Writing Thief (by Ruth Culham)

(Picture books where another author cleverly “borrowed/stole” an idea)...

Stone Soup
Bone Soup

Goodnight Moon
Goodnight Goon
Goodnight iPad

The Runaway Bunny
The Runaway Mummy

There was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly
I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Pie
I Know and Old Lady Who Swallowed a Dreidel

Wheels on the Bus
Seals on the Bus

The House That Jack Built
The House That Drac Built
The House That George Built
(my/Rhonda’s books in a similar “House that Jack Built” format— *This is the Teacher*
The Very First Thanksgiving Day)

Old MacDonald Had a Woodshop
Old MacDonald Had a Dragon

The Three Little Pigs
The Three Ninja Pigs

Cowboy Bunnies (putting 2 things together that normally don’t go together— cowboys
+ bunnies)

(my/Rhonda's books, putting 2 things together...)

Firebears the Rescue Team (firemen + bears)

Mail Monkeys (mailmen + monkeys)

Polar Bear Pirates (polar bears + pirates)

Books to help teach writing craft

Mentor Texts

I can write like that!

The Art of Teaching Writing

Wondrous Words

Craft Lessons Teaching Writing K-8

Literature Based Mini Lessons to Teach Writing

Joining the Literacy Club

Students need to read like a writer.

The Pirates of Plagiarism

The importance of using details and super verbs

Example pages from *No Pirates Allowed!* Good writing craft/techniques to point out to students and using it as a mentor text

Live Writing (by Ralph Fletcher)– “golden” parts or phrases in books/writing...

— Strong verbs

— Surprising comparisons

a) Similes

b) Metaphors

‘Hook’ your reader with a good beginning.

—examples shown from handout from www.firstgradewow.blogspot.com/2012/11/hook-your-reader.html

Conflict is needed at the beginning of a story. Problems should grow. Main character should solve the problem/s, not someone else.

Good endings – is good to ‘circle’ back to the beginning somehow, or have a surprise ending.

A good site with lesson plans about pirates that use mentor texts and are aligned to Common Core - <http://betterlesson.com/lesson/531093/aarr-matey-hoist-the-sails-and-read-closely-pirate-week-day-1-of-5>

A classroom site with lots of pirate writing activities/ideas...

www.fabulousinfirst.blogspot.com/2014_04_01_archive.html

And another one... www.rumaruru2013.blogspot.com/2013/11/ahoy-me-hearties.html

Picture books about writing a story...

The Best Story

Little Red Writing

Ralph Tells a Story (by Abby Hanlon And just an aside—A great(!) early chapter book by her is *Dory Fantasmagory* It's laugh-out-loud funny and wonderfully written!)

On my/Rhonda's website there is a Common Core guide to *No Pirates Allowed!*

There is also a Readers' Theatre. (Both are free to download.)

Too, there's a book trailer.

A "Rhyming Words and Reading Response" Activity packet that goes with the *No Pirates Allowed!* book is at www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/No-Pirates-Allowed-Rhyming-Words-and-Reading-Response-Activities-874163 for \$3.00

An idea from a Kindergarten teacher's class I visited— She wrapped pirate books in shiny, gold wrapping paper, kept them in a 'treasure chest,' and opened one to read each school day of the 'pirate-themed' month.

Where to find/buy a 'treasure chest'?

- 1) Home Goods stores
- 2) Michael's
- 3) Joann Fabrics (has small to large sizes that are unfinished)

Topics to use with *No Pirates Allowed!* Said Library Lou:

Pirates

Libraries

Books/Love of Reading

Strong female characters

Bullies

Manners

Alphabet

Nursery Rhymes

Books to go with each topic and also opinion writing questions that can be used:

PIRATES

How I Became a Pirate

Pirates Don't Change Diapers

Shiver Me Letters

Pirate Pete's Talk Like a Pirate

Henry & the Buccaneer Bunnies

Henry & the Crazy Chicken Pirates

Tough Boris

The Pirate Cruncher

Pirates (by C. Drew Lamm)

This Little Pirate

I Love My Pirate Papa

Pirate Princess

Pirates Go to School

Sheep on a Ship

Do Pirates Take Baths?

The Night Pirates

Victricia Malicia Book-Loving Buccaneer

Everything I Know about Pirates

P is for Pirate

There Was An Old Pirate Who Swallowed a Fish

Pirate Nap

Pirate Boy (Has same pattern as— *The Runaway Bunny* and *I Love You, Stinky Face*)

Pirate Mom (Step into Reading early chapter book)

Pirates (non-fiction— Magic Tree House Fact Tracker series)

Pirate writing topics:

— Would you like to be a pirate? Why, or why not?

— If you had to survive on the sea a long time, name 5 things you'd take with you and why.

LIBRARIES

Library Lion

The Library

Library Mouse

Library Mouse A Friend's Tale

Library Mouse A World to Explore

Library Mouse A Museum Adventure

Library Mouse Home Sweet Home

Bats at the Library

The Library Dragon
Homer The Library Cat
Dewey There's a Cat in the Library
Library Lil
Goldie Socks and the Three Libearians
Aunt Chip and the Great Triple Creek Dam Affair
A Library Book for Bear
The Midnight Library
That Book Woman
Tomas and the Library Lady
Librarian on the Roof! (non-fiction)
Thomas Jefferson Builds a Library (non-fiction)
Miss Dorothy and Her Bookmobile (non-fiction)

Library writing topics:

- Do you think we'll have printed hardback books in the future?
- Do you think there will be libraries in the future? If so, what do you think they'll be like?

Real libraries mentioned in talk and photos shown of them—

- 1) 'futuristic' Mansueto Library, University of Chicago
- 2) National Library of Belarus
- 3) "The Community Bookshelf" —the unique Central Parking Garage of the Kansas City Public Library
- 4) Geisel Library – Univ. of CA, San Diego Library (in honor of Audrey and Theodore Geisel (Dr. Seuss))

Who Was Dr. Seuss? (biography; early chapter book in Who Is...?/Who Was...? series)

BOOKS AND LOVE OF READING

Book! Book! Book!
Reading Makes You Feel Good
Otto The Book Bear
Book Fiesta!
Dog Loves Books
Miss Brooks Loves Books!
Miss Brooks' Story Nook
Red Knit Cap Girl and the Reading Tree
The Snatchabook
The Incredible Book Eating Boy
The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore
Miss Malarkey Leaves No Reader Behind

Mr. Putter & Tabby Turn the Page (easy reader)
The Right Word Roget And His Thesaurus (non-fiction)
Abe Lincoln The boy who loved books (non-fiction)

Books writing topics:

- Do you think that reading is important? Why, or why not?
- Do you agree with Pirate Pete that books are a treasure? Why, or why not?
- Is there something other than books that's more of a treasure to you? If so, what is it and why is it a treasure to you?

STRONG FEMALE CHARACTERS (the first 8 mentioned below are non-fiction)

Miss Moore Thought Otherwise How Anne Carroll Moore Created Libraries for Children

Who Says Women Can't be Doctors? The Story of Elizabeth Blackwell

Brave Girl Clara and the Shirtwaist Makers' Strike of 1909

Elizabeth Leads the Way Elizabeth Stanton and the Right to Vote

Emma's Poem The Voice of the Statue of Liberty

Mrs. Harkness and the Panda

Who Was Rosa Parks?

Who Was Eleanor Roosevelt?

Rosie Revere, Engineer

My Name is not Isabella

Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon

Miss Rumphius (writing topic question to go with this book— What could you do to make the world a better place?)

[March is Women's History Month a good website: www.womenshistorymonth.gov]

Strong female characters writing topic:

- Do you think girls can do the same kinds of jobs that boys can? Why, or why not?

[Good resource books, especially for lists of non-fiction books to use in the classroom—

~ *The Common Core in Grades K-3* (Classroom Go-To Guides)

~ *The Common Core in Grades 4-6* (Classroom Go-To Guides)]

BULLIES

Enemy Pie

The Recess Queen

Bully (by Laura Vaccaro Seeger)

llama llama and the bully goat

Bully (by Patricia Polacco) - for upper el and middle school grades

Each Kindness

A good resource for ‘bullying’ is at www.teachervision.com/bullying/pledge-play-nice-childrens-literature-activities (includes packet of activities regarding ‘bullying’ called “Pledge to Play Nice”)

Bully writing topic:

What sh/would you do if someone bullies you?

MANNERS

Do Unto Otters A Book About Manners

Mind Your Manners, B.B. Wolf

Manners writing topic:

— Do you think it’s important to have good manners? Why, or why not?

ALPHABET

Shiver Me Letters

P is for Pirate

Into the A, B, Sea

E-MERGENCY!

NURSERY RHYMES

Nursery Rhyme Comics

Students could make up their own ‘pirate’ nursery rhymes.

Example I came up with (based on Old King Cole)...

Pirate Pete was a mean ol’ soul,
and a mean, ol’ soul was he.
He stormed in Seabreezy lookin’ for gold
as loud as he could be.

But, Library Lou knew what to do
though Pete gave scary looks.
She helped him learn to read and find
the *real* gold is in—BOOKS!

3 poetry books to go with *No Pirates Allowed!*

- 1) *Shiver me Timbers! Pirate Poems & Paintings*
- 2) *Please Bury Me in the Library*
- 3) *BookSpeak Poems About Books*

Frog and Toad books (which are mentioned in *No Pirates Allowed!*) - Students could compare the following books, write about which they like best, and/or compare the characters of Frog and Toad.

Days With Frog and Toad
Frog and Toad Are Friends

Frog and Toad All Year
Frog and Toad Together

In *No Pirates Allowed!*, Pirate Pete and Library Lou stood up to one another and ‘doggedly dared,’ neither wanting to back down. Two books that have that similar idea—

“Versus” books

Shark vs. Train

123 versus ABC

Students could take two characters, or even inanimate objects, and write about which is stronger, better, more clever, etc., and write a ‘versus’ story.

Library Lou asks Pirate Pete to change his underwear (is stinky!). A very fun ‘counting and sharing’ book with ‘underwear’ in it is— *One Big Pair of Underwear*

Miscellaneous activities...

—Compare the pirate talk in *No Pirates Allowed!* to other pirate books, such as in *How I Became a Pirate*.

—Teacher could say a word or phrase and students find matching pirate vocabulary on card/‘bingo’ sheet.

32 Pirate vocabulary words or phrases in *No Pirates Allowed!* Said Library Lou:

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Shiver me timbers! | Whar be (where is) |
| treasure | X marks this spot |
| Loot | Arrgh! |
| Thar (there) | Walk the plank |
| Saucy lass | Blow-me-down |
| Treasure map | Matey |
| Landlubber | Sink me! |
| ’Tis (for it is or it’s) true! | Aye! |
| Lassie | Sweet gold |
| Ahoy | Blimey |
| Me (I or my) | Treasure chest |
| Poop deck | Fer (for) |
| Swashbucklin’ | Buccaneer |
| Ye (you) | Me-self (myself) |
| Avast | |

Thar's whar she be! (That's where it is!)
 Good ones to boot (good ones besides (or too))!
 Be ('is' and/or 'are')

Strong verbs in *No Pirates Allowed! Said Library Lou*:

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------|------------------------|
| Stormed (in) | Squawked | Muttered |
| Ventured | Dashed | Thundered (for yelled) |
| Flared | Dared | Scrubbed |
| <i>Swwwish</i> | Burst | Grabbed |
| Scowled | Exclaimed | Sneered |
| Practiced | Bragged | Barked (for yelled) |
| Stared | Snatched | Scoured |
| Popped up (in bed) | Tiptoed | Spied |
| Whispered | | |

Strong vocabulary words and phrases (good word choice) in the book:

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Sky was blue-bright | Let loose with a |
| Chills ran down spines | Disgusting! Phhhew! |
| Unruly | Commotion |
| A pinch of a frown | Tough, ruffian |
| Talk and squawk | Stood his ground |
| Snarl | Oh, my! |
| Stood head to head | Doggedly dared |
| Glare (mean look) | Smallish |
| A good scrubbin' | Funky P.U. |
| Perplexed | Witty-wise grin |
| Brilliant | It be torture no less! |
| Kissin' a fat treasure chest! | Confused |
| Riches untold | Hard-workin' gluttons for gold |
| Impatient | Trinket or treasure |
| Sublime | Tickled his fancy |
| Easy readers | Classics |
| Tales of the sea | Stumped |
| Gangway | Non-fiction |
| Luscious | Fancy-free |
| Factual | Stink bugs |
| Surfing | Mummies |
| Electric guitars | Rusty (not adept at something) |

Details used in *No Pirates Allowed! Said Library Lou*:

specific names—Seabreezy Library; Pirate Pete; his parrot, Igor; Library Lou
 Thirteen layers of dirt
 Fresh, soapy scent (Or, it could even be more detailed—What was the scent?)
 Grabbed his picks and his axe and his shovel (specific tools)
 Me'd rather be kissin' a fat treasure chest!
 W's? H's? S's? and Q's? A's, E's, I's, O's and U's?
 Up on the poop deck (a specific part of the boat)
 ...not small words, but BIG—Swashbucklin' ...buccaneer ...thingamajig
Mother Goose Dr. Seuss
 Easy readers *Frog and Toad*
Treasure Island
 Non-fiction—stink bugs, baseball, surfing, Mars, dinosaurs, mummies, electric guitars
 Picks, axe, shovel (specific tools used again)—got dusty
 Aisle four hundred four (in Seabreezy Library)

Alliteration used in the book—

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Pirate Pete | Let loose | Library Lou |
| Doggedly dared | 'Tis true | Through the sea sailed... |
| Soapy scent | Lassie! The loot! | Witty-wise |
| Trinket or treasure | Luscious loot | Pete's picks |
| Pete picked up | Pete popped up | |

Onomatopoeia used in the book—

SQUAWK-AW-AWK!
 Arrgh!
 Phhhew!
 Shhh!
 (sniff!)
 Swwwish

Rhyme and rhythm in the story (can set the 'mood' of a story)

~ Does it make the story seem serious, or funny?
 ~ Why do you think school reports aren't written in rhyme?

What do these phrases mean?

you could hear a pin drop
 doggedly dared

Rhonda's newest and forthcoming books—

- ~ *Push! Dig! Scoop! A Construction Counting Rhyme* illus. by Daniel Kirk
(Bloomsbury, 2016) available in hardcover and also board book
- ~ *Baa! Oink! Moo! God Made the Animals* illus. by David Walker
(Zonderkidz, January 2017)

forthcoming...

- ~ *Let's Go! ABC* illus. by Daniel Kirk (a transportation alphabet book)
(Bloomsbury, May 2018)
- ~ *This is the Train* (tentative title) illus. by Daniel Kirk
(Bloomsbury, release date TBA)
- ~ *Here We Come, Construction Fun!* (tentative title) illustrator TBA
(Zonderkidz, release date TBA)
- ~ *The First Men Who Went to the Moon* illustrator TBA
(Sleeping Bear Press, 2019 – to coincide with the 50th anniversary of Apollo 11
and the first moon landing)