ARE PIRATES POLITE?
TEACHING GUIDE

PIRATES!
POETRY!
POLITENESS!

Discussion Questions
Classroom Activities
Art Contest
And Much More Inside!

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Created exclusively for you by Scholastic Reading Club
**DISCUSSION GUIDE**

This delightful picture book touches on the three “Ps”— Pirates, Poetry, and Politeness! Through clever rhymes and illustrations, children learn many ways of being polite.

Here are some questions to ask before, during, and after reading this book to your class.

**CCSS ELA-Literacy RL.1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.7**

**Before reading the text aloud:**

- What do you think this book will be about after hearing the title and seeing the cover?
- Do you think this book is fiction or nonfiction? Why?
- Where do you think this story will take place?
- Write a question you have about how pirates are polite.
- What do you think these words mean: plunder, duty, booty, equal, measure, treasure, squawking, scallywags, feast, rapscallion, duel, and chowder. (Write down ideas on the whiteboard or chart paper and adjust as students learn the meanings from the context clues.)

**During reading:**

- Who are the characters in the story, and where is the story taking place?
- What is this illustration helping us understand?
- Why did the illustrator include this picture?
- Is there anything unusual about this illustration?
- How do the pirates feel in this illustration?

**After reading the text aloud:**

- Looking closely at the illustrations, what do pirates like to do for fun?
- When do pirates knock on doors?
- When do pirates say “please” and “thank you”?
- Looking closely at the illustrations, why do pirates say “excuse me”?
- Why did the author write this book?
- What was your question from before we read the story? Did the author answer it?
SWASHBUCKLING STORY STARTERS

First and foremost, this is a book about pirates! Get your students’ imaginations working by asking them to share their ideas with the class using one of the following story starters.

If I Were a Pirate…
On My Voyage on a Pirate Ship…
In My Treasure Chest You Will Find…
As a Pirate I Wear…

YO HO, YO HO DID YOU KNOW?

1. There were women pirates too. Mary Read and Ann Bonny are two of the most famous. They had their own ships just like male pirate captains.

2. Pirates did often wear eye patches. One theory is that they wanted to keep one eye adjusted to night vision so they could quickly see belowdecks.

3. They did not make people walk the plank. That’s a myth that’s become accepted as fact.

4. A pirate’s treasure wasn’t always silver, gold, and gems. More often than not, it included food, lumber, cloth, and animal hides.

5. Each pirate ship had its own unique code and rules. One of the most common rules was no fighting on the ship. If two pirates wanted to fight, they usually had to wait until they were on land.
ARE YOU POLITE LIKE A PIRATE?

Circle the pirate manners that you use in school:

1. Say please.
2. Use your inside voice.
3. Say “thank you.”
4. Share.
5. Don’t interrupt.
6. Knock before you enter.
7. Show respect.
8. Wait in line.
9. Eat with your mouth shut.
10. Say “excuse me.”
11. Say “I’m sorry.”
12. Be a good sport.

CCSS ELA–Literacy RL.1.2

Now choose one of the good manners and draw a picture of yourself acting it out:

MANNER: ____________________________

TEACHER: Please photocopy this activity worksheet and distribute to your students.
Rhyming and words are important ways in which this book conveys its message.

Rhyme Time

Pirates like to rhyme! Write the letter on the line to match words that rhyme.

1. _______ fight  A. food
2. _______ gold  B. burp
3. _______ hair  C. way
4. _______ fine  D. sports
5. _______ rude  E. polite
6. _______ slurp  F. hold
7. _______ say  G. stare
8. _______ sorts  H. line

Wonderful Words

Pirate words sound so fun! Choose two to illustrate, not just one! If you wish, write a sentence with the word.

PIRATE WORD BANK: BOOTY, HOLD, MEASURE, TREASURE, SQUAWKING, SCALLYWAGS, FEAST, RASCALLION, CHOWDER

WORD: ___________________________  WORD: ___________________________

Teacher: Please photocopy this activity worksheet and distribute to your students.
WRITE YOUR OWN PIRATE POEM!

Ahoy, boys and girls! What have you learned about pirates, being polite, and poetry? Let’s write a pirate poem. No need to rhyme. Not this time! Use the beginning letter to write a word or more about a pirate who you knew (from the story)!

P ____________________________________________________________
I ____________________________________________________________
R ____________________________________________________________
A ____________________________________________________________
T ____________________________________________________________
E ____________________________________________________________

Now think of some words or phrases to describe manners.

M ____________________________________________________________
A ____________________________________________________________
N ____________________________________________________________
N ____________________________________________________________
E ____________________________________________________________
R ____________________________________________________________
S ____________________________________________________________

TEACHER: Please photocopy this activity worksheet and distribute to your students.