

ENGLISH READERS EDELIVES



WACKY FAMILIES

# My Mum the Pirate

Jackie French  
Stephen Michael King



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Illustrations

Stephen Michael King

# before reading

1 **Look** at the picture on the front of the book. Can you find these things?

S \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ and c \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ (the pirate symbol)

S \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ (a pirate weapon)

B \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ (pirate headwear)

W \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ I \_ \_ \_ (pirate help!)

C \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ (pirate pet)

2 **Look** at the front cover again, then read the information on the back of the book. What can you **guess** about the boy in the picture?

I think his name is \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

I think his \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ is a pirate.

I think he \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ a pirate.

I think he likes \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

I think he doesn't like \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

3 What do you know about pirates? **Fill** in the chart.

	What I know about this...
Are pirates real or only in story books?	
Where do pirates live?	
What do pirates eat?	
What do pirates wear?	
What pets do pirates have?	
Do pirates go to school?	

4 **Cross out** the names of the pirates in this list who are not in the book.

- Tania the Terrible
- Jack Sparrow
- Filthy Frederick
- Ambrose One Arm
- Harry the Hook
- Blackbeard
- Anne Bonny
- Barnacle Bruce
- Putrid Percival
- Captain Hook
- Shark-eyed Pete
- Calico Jack

5 What book do you think Cecil is reading? **Guess** the titles of these famous pirate stories.

Caribbean Pan Island Secret Treasure Unicorn  
Pirates of of Peter the the the Hook

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6 Imagine your Mum is a pirate! What does she do every day? **Write** some things in her Pirate Diary.

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# during reading

## Chapters 1 to 4

- 1

Who says what? **Match** the people with what they said.
- “AAAAgh...Splash!”

Filthy Frederick
- “It’s difficult to concentrate with all this noise.”

Ambrose One Arm and Harry the Hook
- “Nine tankards of their best milk too.”

Slaver Captain
- “Snap!”

Putrid Percival
- “A pirate’s life is the way for me,”

Barnacle Bruce
- “Look at all this treasure!”

Snap
- “Do you know how to sail a ship?”

Cecil
- “Sea monster soup!”

Mum

- 2

Are you like Cecil? **Put** your information into the chart.

Cecil...	I...
...likes school.	
...likes football.	
...loves going to lessons.	
...loves reading books.	
...has a birthday cake in the shape of a pirate ship, with candles for cannons and chocolate slavers walking the plank into a blue jelly sea.	
...has a pirate ship in a bottle as a birthday present.	
...has a chest of books captured from the King of Spain.	
...doesn't like fighting.	
...doesn't like battles.	

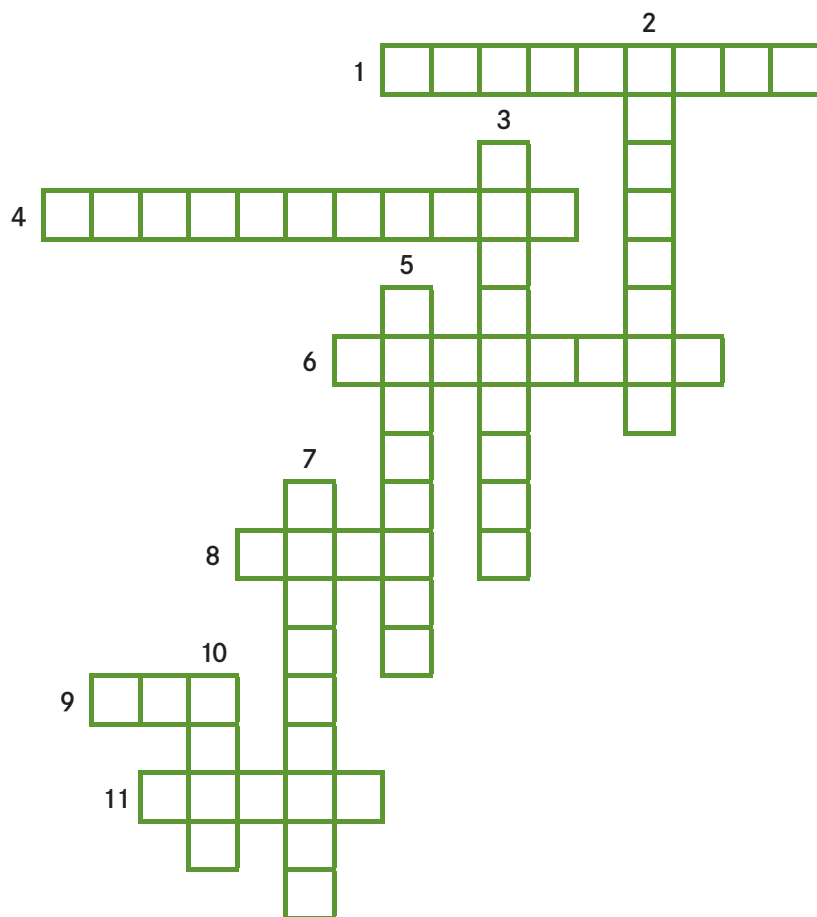
**3** Do the crossword with words from this chapter.

**Across**

1. Throwing rubbish into the sea
4. These appeared when the wizard disappeared
6. Cecil's Mum has to share this with the queen and the slaves
8. Magic doesn't work on this metal
9. A wizard wears this on his head
11. A wizard does this

**Down**

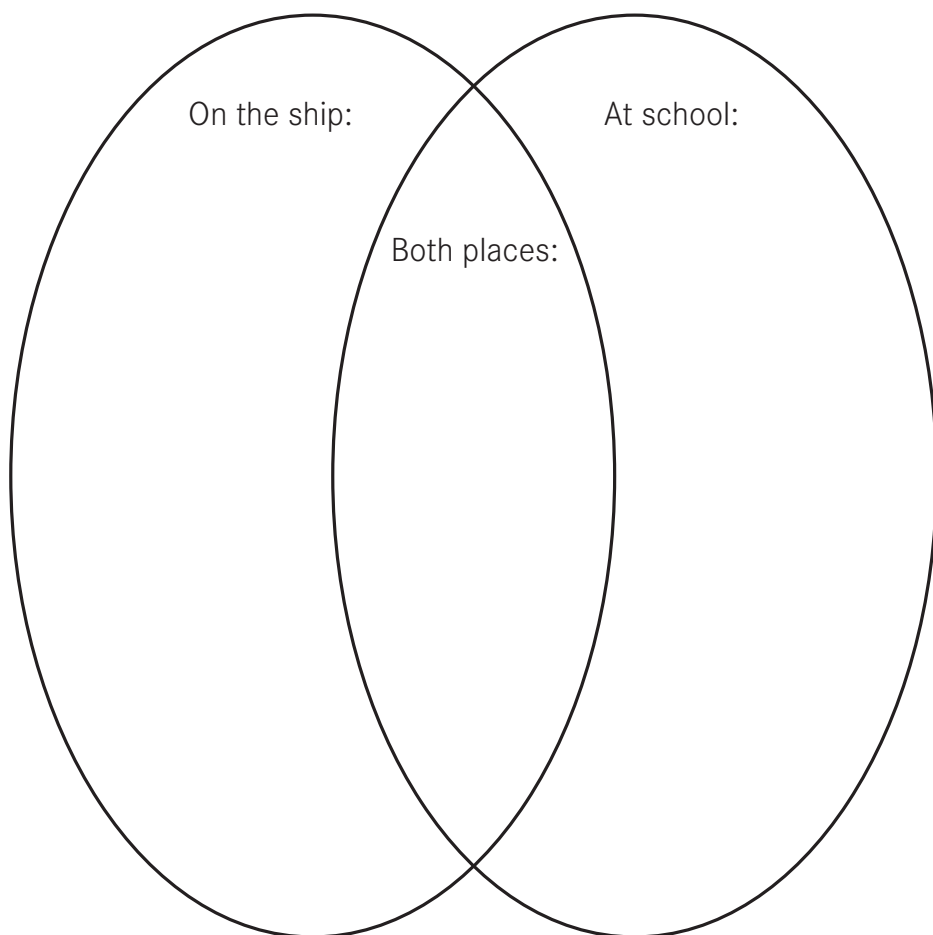
2. The magic door to the past or future
3. A pirate with permission from the queen
5. The wizard was one of these before the pirates attacked the slavers' ship
7. Snap is one of these
10. The wizard's pet



## Chapters 5 to 8

**1 Decide** which rules are for the ship and which for school. Are there any for both places?

- You can wear long black boots and a pirate hat.
- You have to sit in class all day.
- You can't have a sword or a dagger.
- You must tell the truth.
- You have to do your homework.
- You can make your enemies walk the plank.
- No parents are allowed.
- You can call yourself whatever name you like.



**2** Add the verbs to the sentences.

invented    whispered    whispered    stopped  
laughed    shone    shook    shook

The conversation \_\_\_\_\_ as Mum walked into the school hall.

Mum's favourite ruby ring \_\_\_\_\_ on her finger.

"Who's that?" someone \_\_\_\_\_.

"It's CJ's mum," someone \_\_\_\_\_. "Maybe she's going to a party!"

Mum's ruby ring flashed as she \_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Farthingale's hand.

Tea is the best thing to be \_\_\_\_\_ by the Chinese since gunpowder.

Mr. Pootle \_\_\_\_\_ with fear as Mum waved her sword.

"Please," \_\_\_\_\_ Mr Pootle, "CJ can play. Please, put the sword away!"

**3** Cecil's Mum uses an old-fashioned expression which means you must do something right now because you can't stop time: "Time and tide wait for no man - or woman!"

**Match** these expressions using "Time" with their meanings.

Time's up!

Time passes quickly.

Kill time.

To have nothing to do and lots of free-time.

Time is money.

There is no more time to continue doing something, so you must stop.

Time flies.

To become rich and famous.

Behind the times.

You can't waste time because you will be wasting money.

Hit the big time.

To make time pass more quickly by doing something.

Have time on your hands.

To be old-fashioned.



## Chapters 9 to 12

- 1 Cecil was not happy when he woke up. **Finish** these negative words and expressions from chapter 9.

R \_ \_ \_ N

P \_ \_ \_ \_ IN MY N \_ \_ \_ \_

G \_ \_ \_ \_ SEA

G \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ O \_ \_ TO \_ \_ \_ S

G \_ \_ \_ \_ SKY

T \_ \_ \_ \_ L W \_ \_ \_ E

D \_ \_ \_ G \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ S

T \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ N

S \_ \_ \_ S \_ \_ \_ K



- 2 The sea was grey, the sky was grey and Cecil felt grey too. **Add** the right colours to these expressions.

If I told her the truth she would be sad, so I told her a little \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ lie.

The adventure was \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ hot! Very exciting!

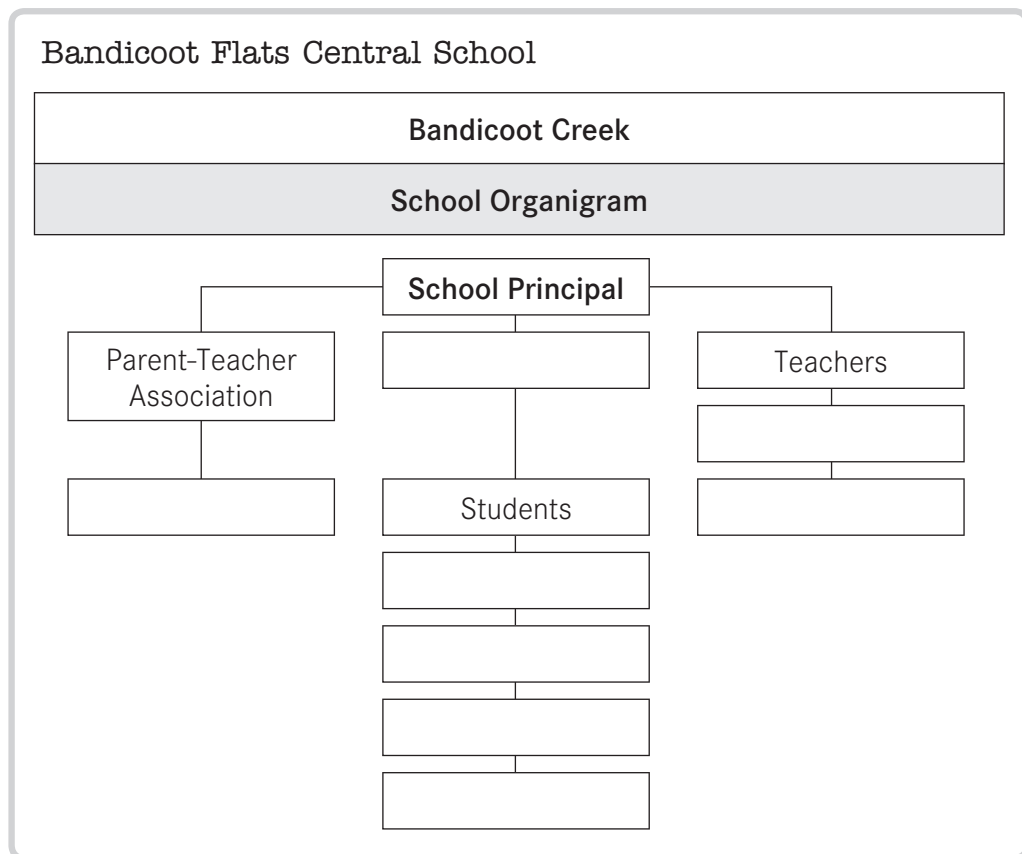
Think hard! Use your brain. Use your \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ matter!

His teacher, Mr. Pootle, was a boring, \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ man.

The astronomer was looking for \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ holes in outer space.

The cruel wizard practised \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ magic.

- 3 **Complete** the school organigram.



- 4 All these expressions mean that you are keeping a secret. **Underline** the correct word to complete them.

He kept it under his foot / hat.

She kept her teeth / lips sealed.

She was as quiet as a pig / mouse.

And all these expressions mean that you tell a secret. **Underline** the correct word to complete them.

He spilled the milk / beans.

She let the cat / mouse out of the bag.

He shouted the secret to the four winds / seas.

## Chapters 13 to 15

**1** **Number** these bits of the story from 1 to 10 and **decide** who said them.

- ☐ “There isn’t a boat round here big enough to carry all of us,” said \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ “What are you doing here, you crazy crocodile?” said \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ “The emergency services are sending school buses to collect everyone from school and take us to safety before the floodwaters get here.” said \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ “CJ, the water is rising fast!” said \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ “The creek! The water’s rising! Look Sir!” said \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ “Ahoy, me hearty!” said \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ “I want everyone up on the hall roof.” said \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ “Attention everyone! This is an emergency. Please go immediately to the hall!” said \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ “Now everyone get behind Jason or Shaun and pull like a tug-of-war. When I say heave, heave!” said \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ “Quickly! Take off your tracksuit trousers!” said \_\_\_\_\_.



2

**Choose** the right words to finish the description of how Mum beat the slavers and took *The Black Ship*.

First / Then they sailed back through the time warp at exactly the right moment to surprise *The Black Ship*. First / Then they threw buckets and buckets of stinking sea monster guts onto the enemy ship. Mum jumped over / on to fight with the captain and the other slavers ran out / down to help him. Suddenly Mum shouted “Jump!” and all the pirates and school kids jumped from *The Mermaid* onto *The Black Ship*. The enemy ship jumped / tilted and the slavers slipped on the guts and fell / jumped into the sea. The slavers were beaten / killed and the slaves were free!

3

Find the things pirates use on board *The Mermaid*.

\_\_\_\_\_ To hide in or sleep in.

\_\_\_\_\_ To make enemies walk along.

\_\_\_\_\_ To drink tea in.

\_\_\_\_\_ To make soup of or throw at your enemies.

\_\_\_\_\_ To cure seasickness.

\_\_\_\_\_ To be sick into or carry sea monster guts in.

\_\_\_\_\_ To go up and down stairs.

\_\_\_\_\_ To move the ship.

\_\_\_\_\_ To sleep in.

\_\_\_\_\_ To shoot at enemies with.

\_\_\_\_\_ To fight enemies with.

## Chapters 16 to Epilogue

**1** Complete the list of the things you remember from *The Black Ship's* treasure. (Add the vowels!)

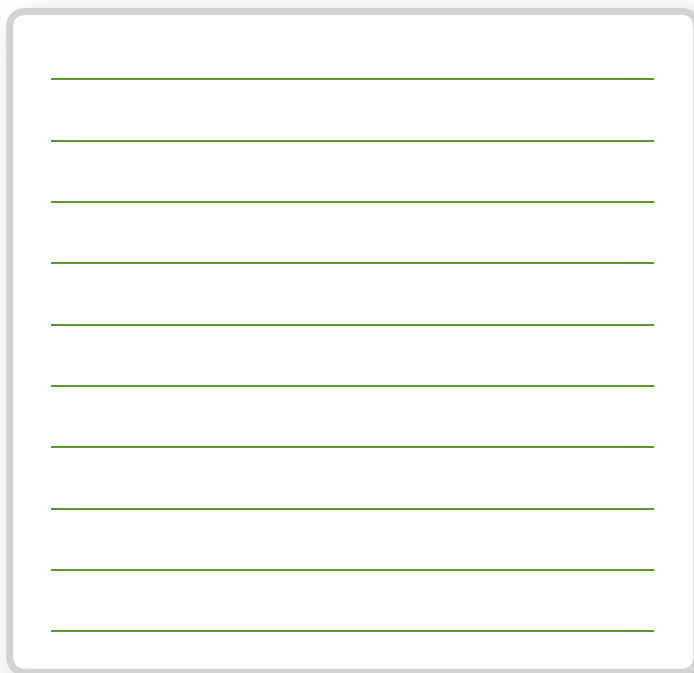
- \_\_\_ ght ch\_\_\_sts of j\_\_\_w\_\_\_ls
- Tw\_\_\_ h\_\_\_ndr\_\_\_d and f\_\_\_rty g\_\_\_ld b\_\_\_rs
- \_\_\_n\_\_\_ h\_\_\_ndr\_\_\_d and s\_\_\_xty r\_\_\_lls of Ch\_\_\_n\_\_\_s\_\_\_ s\_\_\_lk
- S\_\_\_xt\_\_\_ \_\_\_n ch\_\_\_sts of p\_\_\_pp\_\_\_r
- P\_\_\_l\_\_\_s of \_\_\_m\_\_\_r\_\_\_lds and r\_\_\_b\_\_\_ \_\_\_s
- R\_\_\_ngs
- D\_\_\_gg\_\_\_rs
- G\_\_\_ld c\_\_\_ps
- G\_\_\_ld b\_\_\_tt\_\_\_ns
- G\_\_\_ld b\_\_\_lls
- Sm\_\_\_ll m\_\_\_s\_\_\_c\_\_\_l b\_\_\_x\_\_\_s made of p\_\_\_r\_\_\_ls and s\_\_\_lv\_\_\_r
- J\_\_\_w\_\_\_l-c\_\_\_v\_\_\_r\_\_\_d b\_\_\_rds that sang when you pressed their g\_\_\_ld\_\_\_n t\_\_\_lls.



**2** Read these statements and **circle** True or False.

- |  |              |
|--|--------------|
| The pirates like having the kids on their ship.      | True / False |
| Cecil doesn't like Mr. Farthingale.                  | True / False |
| Mr. Farthingale doesn't like CJ's Mum.               | True / False |
| Big Bernie apologises to CJ.                         | True / False |
| Bernie, Shaun, Jason and CJ are going to be friends. | True / False |
| The boys all see the dolphins.                       | True / False |
| The boys all see the mermaid.                        | True / False |

- 3 **Make a poster** showing all the activities you can do on Wednesday afternoon at Bandicoot Flats Central School.



- 4 **Match** these words (from the story) with their definitions.

Crew	very, very smelly
Slaver	a pirate with permission from the Queen
Flea	a typical word pirates use to talk about their friends
Lad	a very small insect that usually lives in animals' (or pirates') hair
Filthy	very, very dirty
Stinking	a person who captures people and sells them as slaves
Matey	the people who work on a ship
Privateer	a boy, or a typical way pirates address each other

# after reading

- 1 What do you know about pirates after reading the story? **Fill** in the chart.



Are pirates real or only in story books?	
Where do pirates live?	
What do pirates eat?	
What do pirates wear?	
What pets do pirates have?	
Do pirates go to school?	

- 2 How many words can you make from the letters in CJ's Mum's full name? **Give** yourself 5 minutes!

**Captain Tania the Terrible**

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- 3 **Find** the odd-one-out and **explain** your reasons.

Filthy Frederick – CJ - the wizard

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Big Bernie - Mrs. Parsnip - Mr. Farthingale

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Snap - the Slaver Captain - Jason

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CJ - Harry the Hook - Putrid Percival

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Pizza - sea monster – mermaids

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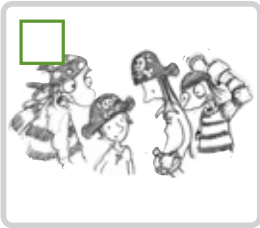


4

**Put** the pictures in order to retell the story.



*The Mermaid fights The Black Ship.*



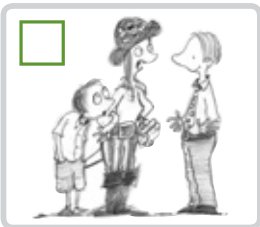
Cecil asks to go to school for his birthday present.



Cecil doesn't want to go to school.



The children climb onto the roof.



Mum goes to school.



They cross the magic time warp.