



Glossary

of Piratical Prose



Aft - The back of the boat.

Ahoy! - "Hello" in ship-speak.

Avast! - High-seas word for "stop."

Aye - "Yes."

Bilge! - "Nonsense!" "That's ridiculous!"

Blimey! - Expression of surprise.

Bloke - Slang for "person."

Book Fair Treasure Hunt - Best place to find reading gold.

Bow - The forward part of a ship.

Buccaneer - A pirate.

Bucko - Means "my friend," as in "me bucko!"

Crow's nest - Small platform at the top of a mast for spotting land and, in the case of pirates, their quarry.

Davy Jones' locker - The bottom of the ocean.

Deadlights - Refers to one's eyes, as in "Blimey, yer not usin' yer deadlights, matey, there's a ship off the bow!"

Dead men tell no tales - Standard reason pirates used for taking no prisoners.

Doubloon - A Spanish gold coin.

Galleon - Spanish treasure ship.

Gangway! - "Move it!" "Get out of the way!"

Fore, farrard - The front of a ship.

Hands - The ship's crew.

Hull - The main body of a ship.

Jolly Roger - The skull-and-crossbones pirate's flag.

Landlubber - Anyone not a sailor.

Line - Rope.

Lookout - Sailor assigned to watch for ships, land, etc.

Me - In pirate talk, "me" means "my," as in "Avast, me hearties!"

Me hearties - A way to address fellow crew members.

Matey - Pal.

Pirate - High-seas adventurer of the not-so-nice kind.

Poop deck - The highest deck in the back of the ship.

Port - Left side of the ship when facing the prow.

Prow - The front of the ship.

Reader - Very smart mate.

Rigging - Lines and chains used to work sails, masts and spars.

Sail ho! - This yell indicates a ship has been sighted.

Scurvy - Common disease of seamen caused by lack of vitamin C. Word is also used to indicate displeasure, as in "You scurvy dog!"

Shiver me timbers! - Term used to show surprise or emotion.

Smartly - "Hurry up!" as in "Smartly there, Mateys!"

Spar - Wooden or metal piece used to support the rigging.

Stowaway - Person who hides on a ship to get a free ride.

Swab, swabbie - A sailor.

Spyglass - Telescope.

Starboard - Right side of a ship, when facing the prow.

Walk the plank - A punishment requiring the accused to walk on a board that extends over the water until he falls into the ocean. No record exists of this ever having been done.

Weigh anchor - Pull up the anchor so we can leave.

Yo-ho-ho - A jolly, nonsensical pirate-like phrase.

 **SCHOLASTIC**
Book Fairs.

www.scholastic.com/bookfairs