

Michigan Reading Association March 2015 Annual Conference

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! Arrrr ye ready fer some pirate fun? Learn 1) how students (lads and lassies) can think like a pirate and be amazing, blow-me-down writers(!) and 2) how to use Rhonda's *No Pirates Allowed! Said Library Lou* (a 2014 IRA/CBC Children's Choice Book and Bank Street College Best Book) in ye'r classroom! See ye thar, matey!

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 (show covers) 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
- ~ 2015-2016 Nebraska Golden Sower 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
- ~ 2013 Dallas Reads! Book
- ~ Colorado Libraries Bell Award nominee
- ~ 2014 Korean edition of the book was released.
- ~ In March 2015, the 17 legislators from Michigan's House Legislative Education Committee are going into schools to each read the book to at least 1,000 students.

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

Books mentioned- (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 an 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 the “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... *Firebears the Rescue Team* (firemen + bears)

Mail Monkeys (mailmen + monkeys)

Polar Bear Pirates (polar bears + pirates))

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

Examples 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 @ 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 that go 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 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' - On www.teachervision.com, there's a packet 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...

—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 (for 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	Squawked	Muttered
Ventured	Dashed	Thundered (for yelled)
Flared	Dared	Scrubbed
<i>Swwwish</i>	Burst	Grabbed
Scowled	Exclaimed	Sneered

Practiced	Bragged	Barked
Stared	Snatched	Scoured
Popped up	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

[Details con't.]...

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 schools 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—

- ~ *Only God Can Make a Kitten* (March 2015 ZonderKidz) A little boy, full of wonder, asks his mama who makes a tiny seed, a curled-up kitten, the salty sea, and more.
- ~ *Firebears The Rescue Team* (Holt) Will be released as a board book in August 2015
- ~ Fall 2016 (Bloomsbury) A counting book about construction vehicles
illus. by Daniel Kirk
- ~ Fall 2017 (Bloomsbury) A picture book about transportation illus. by Daniel Kirk

