

LEVELED BOOK • J

The Pirate Substitute



Written by Torran Anderson
Illustrated by Ingvard the Terrible

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Focus Question

What lesson does Jack learn from Pirate Chalk Beard?



It was 8:05, and their teacher still wasn't there.

That meant a **substitute** was on the way.

The door burst open, and there stood a pirate.

His peg leg **thumped** on the floor as he walked to the board.





“Me name is Pirate Chalk Beard,”
he said.

He pulled back his sleeve.

In place of his hand was a long
piece of chalk.

The students gasped.

Everyone stared except Jack.

He sat in the back, drawing
in his notebook.

Pirate Chalk Beard taught them
many things, and he taught
them fast.

He held up a giant map
and pointed out the oceans.

He taught the students to yell
“ahoy” and “scurvy dog.”





At last, Pirate Chalk Beard thumped
to the back of the room.

He looked at Jack and at Jack's
notebook.

“May I?” he asked.



Jack nodded.

Pirate Chalk Beard lifted
the notebook and stared
at it for some time.

It was a drawing of a pirate
fighting a group of skeletons.



“Arrr, it’s a beauty!” the pirate cried.
He stomped back to the front
of the room.

"It's time to dig up me booty,"
he said.

"Your what?" a boy asked.

"Me **treasure**—to the playground!"
Pirate Chalk Beard cried.



The students followed their substitute teacher outside and started digging near the swings.

“Heave ho!” cried the pirate.

Finally, they hit something solid.



They helped Chalk Beard **lug** out
an old wooden chest.

Inside the treasure chest were
pirate costumes.

The class pulled them out in a rush.

By the time Jack reached inside,
there was nothing left.





Chalk Beard winked, took off his hat, and set it on Jack's head.

"I was once a shy pirate myself, you know," he said.

"You were?" Jack asked.

"Aye," the pirate said.



Jack felt the **brim** of the large hat and smiled.

“Thank you, Captain,” he said.

“Arrr!” Chalk Beard cried.

He added, “Remember, matey, it’s the size of your heart—not your voice—that matters.”

Jack grinned.

“I know why it takes pirates so long to learn the alphabet,” Jack said.

“Oh? And why might that be?” Chalk Beard asked.

“Because they spend years at C,” Jack said.

“And ‘Arrr,’” Chalk Beard added.



Glossary

brim (<i>n.</i>)	the edge that extends outward around the bottom of a hat (p. 14)
heave (<i>v.</i>)	to lift (p. 11)
lug (<i>v.</i>)	to strain to drag or carry something (p. 12)
substitute (<i>n.</i>)	someone or something that takes the place of another for a period of time (p. 3)
thumped (<i>v.</i>)	knocked or pounded noisily (p. 4)
treasure (<i>n.</i>)	something that is very special or valuable (p. 10)

Words to Know

brim

substitute

heave

thumped

lug

treasure

Pirate Words to Know

ahoy—a sailor's greeting to
a passing ship

booty—money or goods taken
illegally or from an enemy
in a time of war

scurvy dog—an insult. *Scurvy* is an
illness that sailors used to suffer,
caused by a lack of vitamin C

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Correlation

LEVEL J	
Fountas & Pinnell	J
Reading Recovery	17
DRA	18

The Pirate Substitute

A Reading A-Z Level J Leveled Book

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Connections

Writing

Write a fictional biography for Pirate Chalk Beard. Include his childhood, life as a pirate, and life as a substitute teacher.

Social Studies

Make your own treasure map. Share your map with a partner and ask him or her to find your buried treasure.

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