

## ELA activities for PIRATES DON'T CHANGE DIAPERS

By Melinda Long, Ill. David Shannon.

Parents, please use these resources to help your child become a better writer. Some children may be able to read and complete these activities independently. However, you may wish to read each question with your child and allow them to respond. A response can be oral, drawn, or written. If you don't have an available copy of this book, I plan to put a read-aloud on this website. It should be available soon. There are also multiple versions already on YouTube. These activities are specific to my book, but many can be adapted to any book. Please feel free to use them that way. Finally, this document has a parent page and a student page that contains the same information without the parent info so that you'll have a less confusing document to use with your child.

Hope you find this helpful.

Kindergarten-grade 1, Parent page

1. Every good story has a problem or conflict to solve. In *PIRATES DON'T CHANGE DIAPERS*, Jeremy Jacob and the pirates need to get out of the house to dig up the treasure but they can't. First they have to settle down Bonney Anne. How do the pirates solve their problem? What would you do instead? Write, tell, or draw a story about how you would make Bonney Anne happy so that you could dig up the treasure. Explain why your idea would work. Use the back of this paper. *Parent note: Encourage your kids to brainstorm ideas and explain why they would help solve the problem.*
2. What changes do you need to make to your story so that it is easy to understand? What can you add? If you made a drawing, label it.
3. When Jeremy Jacob hears a knock on the door, he peeks through the peephole. Why do you think he does that? What are some other things you should always do to be safe when you're at home or away? Write about it. *Parent note: Help your child to brainstorm ideas for safety at home or away.*
4. In the story, **first**, the pirates came to get their treasure, but **then** the baby woke up. **After** they found a way to keep Bonny Anne happy, the pirates discovered the map was missing. **Finally**, they found the map, the baby, and the treasure. Write a story real or imagined, about several things that happen in order. Be sure to use words like **first**, **then**, **after**, and **finally**, that describe the order in which they happened. Use details. Be sure your story has a beginning, middle and end. *Parent note: Help your child to use sequenced events, details and temporal words to show the order of events and achieve a solid ending.*
5. Write or tell about your favorite part of this story.

Kindergarten-grade 1, Student page

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Grades 2-3, Parent page

1. Pretend you are Jeremy Jacob. Write a journal about your time at home with the pirates and Bonney Anne. Make hourly entries. Use details and describe actions, thoughts, and feelings to make your story interesting. Edit and revise your story. *Parent note: Talk to your child about journaling. Here are a couple of links to get you started.* <https://www.scholastic.com/parents/books-and-reading/raise-a-reader-blog/how-journaling-benefits-your-child.html>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/list/show/3717.Diaries\\_and\\_Journals\\_in\\_Children\\_s\\_Literature](https://www.goodreads.com/list/show/3717.Diaries_and_Journals_in_Children_s_Literature)
2. Jeremy Jacob has to find the map and Bonney Anne. Write about a time when you had to hunt for something you'd lost. Give details and tell about your feelings. Edit and revise your story.
3. The pirates had a lot of new experiences with Bonney Anne, like changing diapers and feeding the baby. They made a lot of mistakes. In your opinion, what's the best way to learn to do new things? What is your reason for that opinion? Write about it and then edit and revise your work. *Parent note: Talk to your child about how they learn new things. Do they read about them? Do they ask questions of an expert? Do they watch how-to videos? Do they just jump in and try to learn from experience?*
4. Predict what will happen after the pirates sail away with their treasure? Write about it.



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*Grades 4-5, Parent page.*

1. Much of this story is told through the pictures and through Jeremy Jacob's eyes. The pirates don't often talk on their own. They usually just repeat what they've heard. Rewrite a scene from this story and add dialogue between some of the pirates. Make sure that each pirate speaks with his or her own voice. Give them names and add details and explanations that aren't written in the story. Use the back of this page or your own paper. *Parent note: help your child to give voice to different characters and to understand how to use quotation marks.*
2. Edit and revise your work. Make sure there are no unintended spelling mistakes, no grammatical or punctuation errors. Check for ways to reword or rephrase your story or to add to it to make it more interesting. *Parent note: Sometimes when characters speak in dialect, they don't use words correctly or the spelling is off. Speak to your child about the difference between correct usage and spelling and dialect.*
3. Write an alternative ending to this story beginning with when the pirates realize the map is gone. Brainstorm about what might have happened to the map and Bonney Anne and put it into a story with a logical ending. Use vivid nouns and verbs to describe what happens.

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*Parent note: Your child may not be in the mood for adventure. As an alternative to the above projects, older children may wish to write a journal about what's happening to them right now. Classes are being canceled, sports events and performances put on hold. The unknown can be frightening. Your child can express his or her feelings and expound on the fears they're experiencing during this tumultuous time. Writing is good therapy for children as well as adults. Younger children may wish to do a drawing journal with only minimal writing. They can still explain their ideas aloud.*