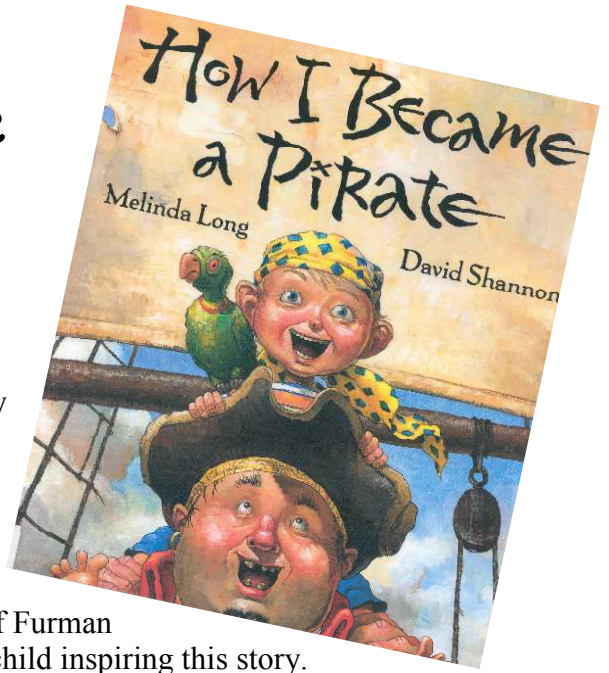


How I Became a Pirate

Written by Melinda Long
Illustrated by David Shannon

Jeremy Jacobs experiences the pirate lifestyle first hand when he joins Braid Beard and his crew for a day as the digger. As the day wears on, Jeremy begins to miss the comforts of home. Colorful and not scary illustrations by David Shannon are the perfect match for the text by Melinda Long.



About the Author/Illustrator

Melinda Long is a middle school teacher and author living in Greenville, South Carolina. She is a graduate of Furman University. Melinda played pirate with her brother as a child inspiring this story.

David Shannon graduated from Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California. He received the Calecott Honor Award for his book *No, David!*. Shannon lives in Burbank, California.

Accompanying Activities

1. Pirate Life vs. Jeremy's Life

Create a Venn diagram comparing Pirate Life with Jeremy's Life.

- Reading/comprehension** - Represent text information in different ways, including story maps, graphs, and charts (ELA 110.4 (b) 9 I)
- Reading/comprehension** - Identify similarities and differences across texts such as in topics, characters, and problems. (ELA 110.3 (b) 12 G)(ELA 110.4 (b) 9 G)

2. Pirate Language

Ahoy thar, matey! Melinda Long incorporates pirate language into her story. Use flashcards to match pirate language with the appropriate English translation. Create signs with the pirate language for chorus reading as the story is read.

- Reading/literary response** - participate actively (react, speculate, join in, read along) when predictable and patterned selections are read aloud (ELA 110.2 (b) 10 B) (ELA 110.3 (b) 13 B)

3. Manners, Manners

Role-play pirate manners and proper school and home manners.

4. What About the Art?

Compare David Shannon's illustrations in *How I Became a Pirate* with other books he illustrated listed in the Companion Books section.

- Perception** - identify similarities, differences, and variations among subjects, using the senses (ART 117.5 (b) 1 A)

5. Stranger Danger

Discuss Stranger Danger – would it be a good idea to go off with a group of pirates without Mom and Dad’s permission?

- a. **Government** - identify rules that provide order, security, and safety in the home and school (SS 113.2 (b) 8 B)
- b. **Government** - give examples of rules or laws that establish order, provide security, and manage conflict (SS 113.3 (b) 10 B)

6. Story Map

Use Kidspiration to create a story map for *How I Became A Pirate*. Include the setting, characters, and story details. Complete the map as a class after reading the book.

- a. **Reading/text structures/literary concepts** - understand simple story structure (ELA 110.2 (b) 11 B) (ELA 110.3 (b) 14 B)
- b. **Reading/comprehension** - Represent text information in different ways, including story maps, graphs, and charts (ELA 110.4 (b) 9 I)

Companion Books

Other books by Melinda Long

Hiccup Snickup. Simon and Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2001.

When Papa Snores. Simon and Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2000.

Other books illustrated by David Shannon

Alice the Fairy. Blue Sky Press, 2004.

The Amazing Christmas Extravaganza. Blue Sky Press, 1995.

Bad Case of Stripes. Blue Sky Press, 1998.

David Gets in Trouble. Blue Sky Press, 2002.

David Goes to School. Blue Sky Press, 1999.

Duck on a Bike. Blue Sky Press, 2002.

How Georgie Radbourn Saved Baseball. Blue Sky Press, 1994.

No, David!. Blue Sky Press, 1998.

The Rain Came Down. Blue Sky Press, 2000.

Pirates

Davis, Kelly. *See-through Pirates*. Running Press Kids, 2003.

Kimmel, Eric A. *Erie Canal Pirates*. Holiday House, 2002.

Krosoczka, Jarrett. *Bubble Bath Pirates*. Viking, 2003.

Lamm, C. Drew. *Pirates*. Hyperion Books for Children, 2001.

Lichtenheld, Tom. *Everything I Know About Pirates*. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2000.

Yolen, Jane. *The Ballad of the Pirate Queens*. Harcourt Brace, 1998.

Soccer

Goin, Kenn. *Soccer for Fun*. Compass Point Books, 2003.

Herzog, Brad. *K is for Kick: A Soccer Alphabet*. Sleeping Bear Press, 2003.

London, Jonathan. *Froggy Plays Soccer*. Puffin, 2001.

McGrath, Barbara Barbieri. *Soccer Counts*. Charlesbridge, 2003.
Rockwell, Anne. *Morgan Plays Soccer*. HarperCollins, 2001.

Manners

Cuneo, Diane. *Mary Louise Loses Her Manners*. Picture Yearling, 2000.
Gibbs, Lynne. *Don't Slurp Your Soup!: A Guide to Letter Writing, E-mail Etiquette, and Other Everyday Manners*. McGraw Hill Children's Pub., 2003.
Raschka, Chris & Vladimir Radunsky. *Table Manners*. Candlewick Press, 2001.
Ziefert, Harriet. *Someday We'll Have Very Good Manners*. Putnam's, 2001.

Other Sources

Harcourt Interview with Melinda Long and David Shannon About How I Became a Pirate.

http://www.harcourtbooks.com/authorinterviews/bookinterview_long.asp

Greenville News Article "Authors Love of Pirates Rewarded"

<http://greenvilleonline.com/news/2003/10/05/2003100516300.htm>