

Clever Thomas and The Pirate Queen

- Study Guide -

The Golden Age of Piracy:

The “Golden Age” of piracy in the Caribbean began in the late 16th century and reached its peak in the mid 18th century. This was also a time of competitive discovery and exploration for Spain, Portugal, France and England. The Spanish Empire claimed much of the mainland of the North and South American continents enclosing the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico, and this area was known as the Spanish Main. Huge Spanish shipments of silver and other treasure being shipped from present day Mexico and Bolivia back to Spain attracted many pirates to the Spanish Main. Piracy was also prevalent throughout the Mediterranean and the waters surrounding North and South Africa (primarily prompted by the African slave trade). The island of Madagascar, off the shores of South Africa, was a notorious pirate haven.

The Play:

Clever Thomas and The Pirate Queen takes place during the 16th century in the seaport town of Nassau located in the Bahamas/Caribbean. The central character of the play is a young boy named Thomas who longs for a life of adventure on the high seas. By chance, he meets up with Black-Eyed-Bess, the Pirate Queen, and her rival, Captain Calico Jack, as they attempt to outwit Sir William of Hargreave, Governor of the Bahamas, who is determined to capture them both. Comedy and calamity ensue as Lady Anne, and Thomas’ mother, Martha, enter the picture, and suddenly no one knows who’s a real pirate, and who isn’t!

Primary Activities

The Rainy Day By Evaleen Stein

Let's sail all day, away, away
To the splendid Spanish Main
And the sultry seas of the Caribbees
And skies that never rain!

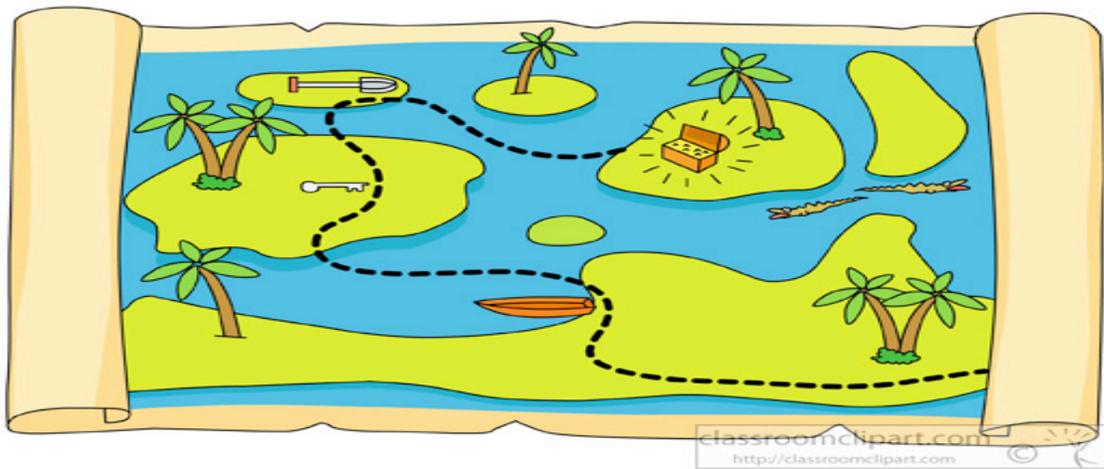
As pirates bold with bags of gold
And cutlasses and things,
We'll pack doubloons and silver spoons
In chests with iron rings.

And these we'll carry and secretly bury
In cannibal isles afar;
Like Captain Kidd, when they're safely hid
We won't tell where they are.

Let's sail all day, away, away
To the splendid Spanish Main
And the sultry seas of the Caribbees
--But at night sail home again!

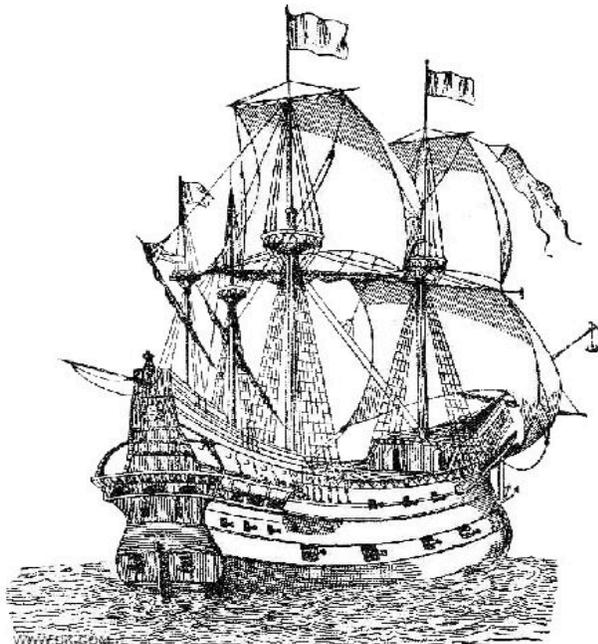
There are many online resources for pirate themed activities. The poem above comes from one of them. Online puzzles, traceable sheets for letters and pirate words for printing or vocabulary practice, crafts, and games at <http://www.dltk-kids.com/crafts/pirates/color/index.htm>

Treasure Maps



❖ Make a treasure-hunting map for the classroom or schoolyard.
There are complete mapmaking lessons and activities for all ages on this website.

<http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/map-skills-elementary-students>



Junior and Intermediate Activities

- ❖ Ching Shih was a 19th century pirate who controlled 1800 ships and about 80 000 pirates in the China Sea. Charlotte De Berry, an English woman, cruised the African coast capturing gold ships. Find out about other women pirates like Anne Bonney.



www.dk.com

Women pirates Mary Read and Anne Bonny probably fought under this emblem of a skull and crossed swords. It was the flag flown by their pirate captain Jack Rackham. (Calico Jack)

- ❖ Communicate using semaphore flags. This website gives you directions and a template to make them.
<https://www.warmuseum.ca/cwm/exhibitions/navy/pdf/5.b.6.makesemaphoreflags.e.pdf>
- ❖ Compare and contrast pirates of the past with piracy today. National Geographic has an online video called Counter–Piracy for Grades 6-12 which gives background information about piracy today at this website: education.nationalgeographic.com
- ❖ Make a map to show the areas of Madagascar, the Bahamas, or the Spanish Main mentioned in the play. Interactive maps can be made and printed to show latitude, longitude, topography, satellite images, population densities, vegetation etc. from the following website: mapmaker.education.nationalgeographic.com

There are complete mapmaking lessons and activities for all ages on this website. <http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/map-skills-elementary-students/>

Glossary for Clever Thomas and the Pirate Queen

Sea dogs - a very experienced sailor.

Landlubbers - persons unfamiliar with the sea or seamanship

Shiver me timbers - sailor's oath shiver my timbers, is synonymous with let my boat break into pieces.

Anchors aweigh! - an expression used when getting a ship underway. The anchor is lifted as the ship prepares to sail.

Ahoy there! - a pirate greeting

About ship! - to maneuver a ship on a new tack (Tack means the position of a ship in relationship to its sails)

Port - The left side of a ship facing forward

Bounty - A reward or payment given by a government, for beneficial acts.

Semaphore flags - a system of signaling by holding a flag in each hand and moving the arms to designated positions to show each letter of the alphabet

Plundered - stripped of anything of value

Spanish Armada - great fleet of ships sent to fight against England in 1588

Privateers- an armed ship authorized by a government to capture merchant ships of an enemy nation

Malicious- wicked, deliberately harming someone

Harboring- A secret shelter

Intrigue- a secret plot

Tyranny - dominance through threat of force or violence

Scoundrel or Ruffian- a cruel or wicked person

Indisposed- slightly unwell, ill enough to have to stay in bed

Questions for Discussion

1. What makes live theatre different from television or movies?

Possible answers: - actors can hear and see you and vice-versa, there is an element of the unknown - anything can happen when it's live, shared experience and energy creates a give and take with the audience and actors

2. Why is the live theatre experience important?

3. What are the roles in live theatre, besides the actors?

Playwrights, stage managers, assistant stage managers, lighting and sound designers, costume and set designers and builders, directors and assistant directors.

4. What skills does an actor develop?

5. Communication skills - body awareness, memory, listening, oral and written language, reading

6. Vocal skills – diction, enunciation, dynamics, expression

7. Teamwork skills and social skills

8. Problem solving skills

9. What happens between auditions and the actual performance?

10. What is the rehearsal process for the actors and the technicians?

11. What is lighting design? Sound Design?

12. What is a cue?

13. How does the playwright create a play?

Cast/Crew/Production Team

Cast A (May 4 – 8): *LYTP Junior Players Summer Program

Kaegan Fulton: *Sir William of Hargreave*
Age: 13 years
School: Lambton Centennial Public School
LYTP member since 2011*

Dylan Moran: *Thomas*
Age: 10 years
School: Holy Rosary Catholic School
LYTP member since 2014*

Ronan Fulton: *Stan*
Age: 10 years
School: Lambton Centennial Public School
LYTP member since 2013*

Alicia Saint: *Patch*
Age: 13 years
School: Bridgeview Public School
LYTP member since 2015

David Huizinga: *Calico Jack*
Age: 15 years
School: St. Patrick's High School
LYTP member since 2012

Beth Schoenmakers: *Martha*
Age: 15 years
School: St. Patrick's High School
LYTP member since 2013

Jayden Laroque: *Twitch* (Cast A and B)
Age: 11 years
School: St. Matthew Catholic School
LYTP member since 2012*

Abby Warren: *Black-Eyed-Bess*
Age: 12 years
School: Aberarder Central Public
LYTP member since 2012

Julia Laton: *Starkey*
Age: 10 Years
School: Ecole Hillcrest
LYTP member since 2012*

Anna Williams: *Squib*
Age: 12 years
School: Ecole Hillcrest
LYTP member since 2015

Chantal Laton: *Lady Anne*
Age: 13 Years
School: Ecole Hillcrest
LYTP member since 2011*

Lauren Wright: *Percy*
Age: 12 years
School: John Knox Christian School
LYTP member since 2013*

Cast B (May 11 – 15): *LYTP Junior Players Summer Program

Brian Burns: *Sir William of Hargreave*
Age: 12 Years
School: Lambton Centennial Public School
LYTP member since 2013

Jared Huzinga: *Percy*
Age: 12 years
School: Holy Trinity Catholic School
LYTP member since 2015

Lily Cardiff: *Black-Eyed-Bess*
Age: 18 years
School: Lambton Central C.V.I. Petrolia
LYTP member since 2011

Alyson Jagt: *Martha*
Age: 18 years
School: Lambton Central C.V.I. Petrolia
LYTP member since 2011

Dawson Currie: *Starkey*
Age: 12 years
School: Lambton Centennial Public School
LYTP member since 2013*

Jayden Laroque: *Twitch* (Cast A and B)
Age: 11 years
School: St. Matthew Catholic School
LYTP member since 2012*

Drayton Doran: *Calico Jack*
Age: 12 years
School: St. Francis Xavier Secondary School
LYTP member since 2012*

Maitri Patel: *Lady Anne*
Age: 14 years
School: Northern C.I. & V.S.
LYTP member since 2014

Ryan Godwin: *Stan*
Age: 10 years
School: St. Philip Catholic School
LYTP member since 2015

Jesse Vanderveeken: *Thomas*
Age: 11 years
School: Riverview Public School
LYTP member since 2013*

Ally Goodacre: *Squib*
Age: 9 years

Emily Wright: *Patch*
Age: 14 Years

School: Ecole Hillcrest
LYTP member since 2013*

School: London District Christian Secondary
LYTP member since 2012

Creative Team:

Nancy Keys (Playwright/Director/Costume Design) – A member of the Canadian Actors' Equity Association, Nancy has a B.A. in Theatre Arts from Laurentian University. She has worked professionally in theatre for over twenty-five years as an actor, director, writer/producer, teacher and has a specific passion for children's theatre. Theatres Nancy has been associated with include: Sudbury Theatre Centre, Kids Up North, Lighthouse Festival Theatre, Blyth Festival, St. Lawrence Stage Company, and Victoria Playhouse Petrolia. Nancy has written many plays for children. Her work is available for preview at: www.keyskidstheatre.com.

Morgan O'Dwyer (Set Designer/Scenic Painter) - Morgan has been working in theatre and film for ten years as an actor, director, writer, set designer and scenic painter. She has a B.A. in Theatre Arts from Guelph University and worked at Lighthouse Festival Theatre, Theatre Aquarius, Teatron Jewish Theatre, Compass Theatre, and Theatre Norfolk. She is the founder and director of the children's theatre company Good Idea! Theatre in Port Dover, Ontario.

Dan Nagle (Technical Director/Lighting Design) - Dan started off in theatre as a “sound guy” at the tender age of sixteen. He attended the Metalworks Institute in Toronto for sound engineering, but eventually branched out into theatre lighting as well. He was the technical director at Victoria Playhouse Petrolia and Theatre Orangeville, and is now with Horizon Solutions, a technical production/supply company in London.

John MacIntyre (Sound Design/Operator) – John MacIntyre has been working in the music industry for many years as a touring musician, session player, writer, and recording engineer. Some of his many credentials include his work with Digimax A-V Recording Studio, Lakeshore Sound, Recording Workshop - Ohio, Criteria - Miami Beach, Soundshop - Nashville, Cloudburn - Detroit, and Sound Kitchen – Toronto.

Andrew McNabb (Apprentice Stage Manager) – Andrew is a recent graduate of L.C.C.V.I. in Petrolia. His previous experience has been behind the cameras with Skylight Films, and he is discovering a whole new world with live theatre. Andrew keeps order backstage, “calls” the show, and operates the lighting console.

Lambton Young Theatre Players:

The Lambton Young Theatre Players is now in its fourth year of operation. Our mandate is to enrich the lives of young people and our community through the production and presentation of new and established theatrical works under the guidance of theatre professionals. LYTP offers two performance training programs each year for young people between the ages of 10 and 18 years. In the past, both programs have culminated in the presentation of a main stage production at the Sarnia Library Theatre for one week of school matinees and public performances. This year, our spring production is *Clever Thomas and The Pirate Queen*, our first touring show! Two casts of 12 young people will be on tour for one week each. Auditions for our performance training programs are in

September and January, and dates are announced on our web site (www.lambtonyoungplayers.com).

Summer Programs:

The Lambton Young Theatre Players offer a Junior Players Summer Drama Camp for kids between the ages of 7 and 11 years, as well as more advanced acting classes for kids between the ages of 12 and 15 years, and 16 to 18 years.

Fall/Winter Drama Classes:

Drama classes for all ages are also offered for a variety of ages. Information is available on the LYTP website.

Theatre Technician/Stage Management Apprentice Program:

Not everyone wants to be on stage! LYTP encourages young people who are interested in working behind the scenes in the technical/creative design aspect of theatre. New comers are always welcome! Must be 14 years and older.