

# The Pirate Substitute

A Reading A-Z Level J Leveled Book  
Word Count: 429



## Connections

### Writing

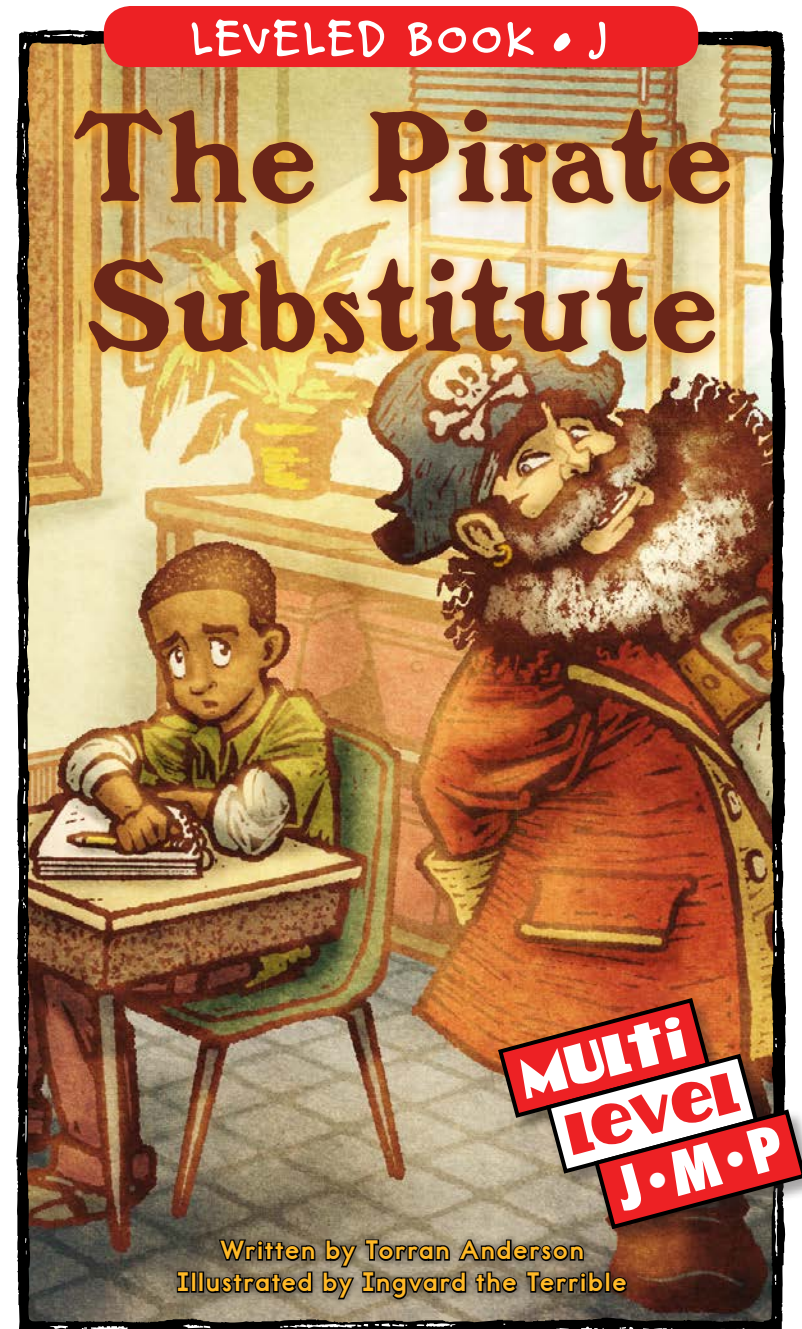
Write a fictional biography for Pirate Chalk Beard. Include his childhood, life as a pirate, and life as a substitute teacher.

### 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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# 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?

## 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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Level J Leveled Book  
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## Correlation

### LEVEL J

Fountas & Pinnell	J
Reading Recovery	17
DRA	18



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.





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.”

“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.





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