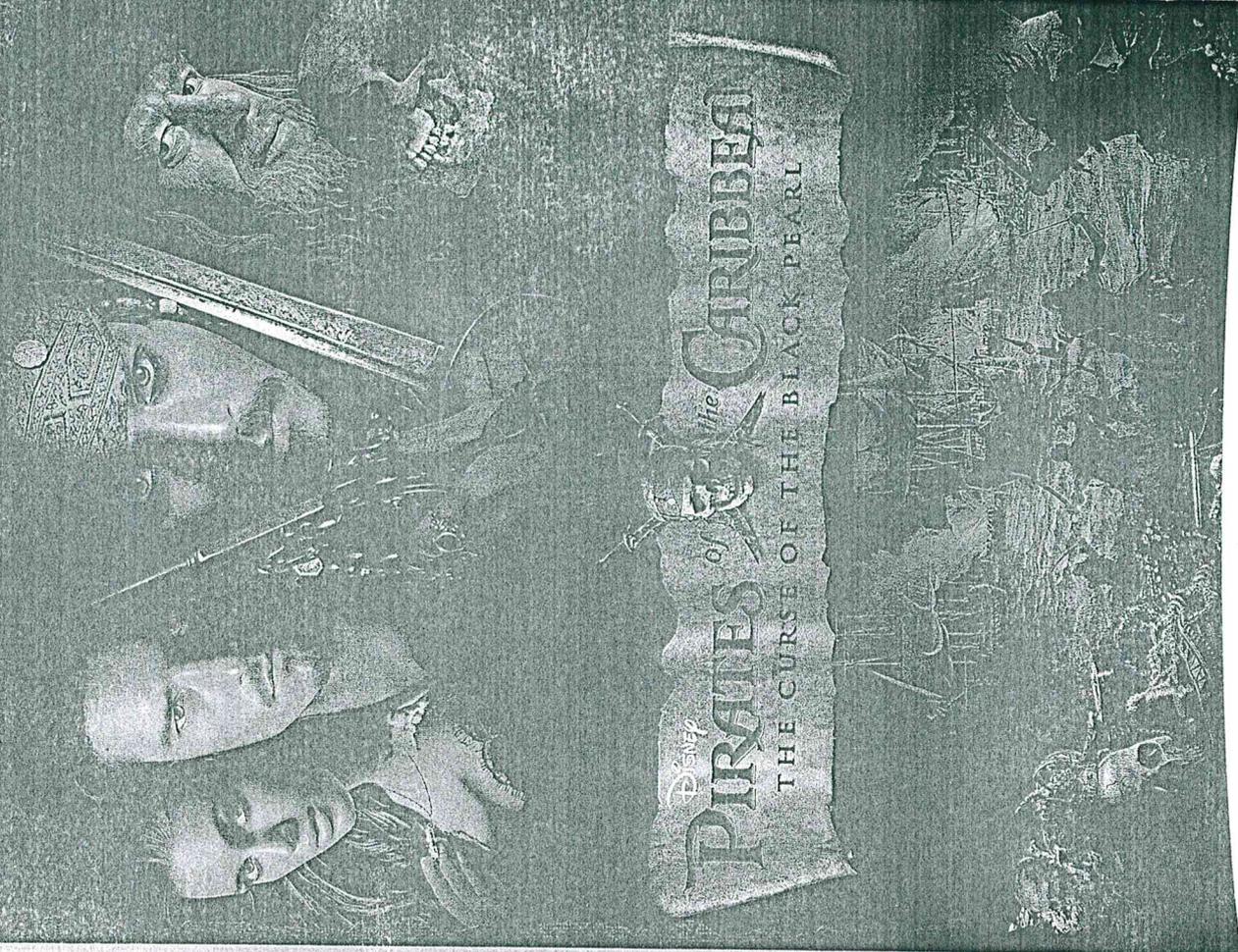


LEVEL 2



Pearson English Readers

Introduction

“Yo ho, yo ho, a pirate’s life for me,
Yo ho, yo ho, a pirate’s life ...”

These are the words of a pirate song, and this is a story of pirates—and gold.

Elizabeth Swann, an English girl, is on a ship to the Caribbean with her father some time in the 1600s when she sees a boy in the water. Who is he? How did he get there? And why is he wearing a gold medallion?

Years later, pirates take Elizabeth from her home. Will Turner, the boy in the water, is now a young man. He follows with Jack Sparrow. Jack is a pirate, too, but he is different. He is angry. Will wants to find Elizabeth, but what does Jack want? And what is the curse of the pirate ship, the *Black Pearl*?

Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003) is a Disney movie. It is exciting and it is funny. This book tells the story.

In the movie, Johnny Depp plays Jack Sparrow, Orlando Bloom plays Will Turner, and Keira Knightley plays Elizabeth Swann.

Geoffrey Rush plays the pirate captain Barbossa. People love and hate. They fight and die. And this book is not the end of the story of the ghostly pirates of the Caribbean. Look for *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man’s Chest* ...



Chapter 1 The Ghost Ship

Sailors tell a story about a big, black pirate ship. They see it sometimes when the fog is thick. The ghostly pirates on the black ship can never leave it because the ship carries a curse. But this is only a story. There aren’t really any ghosts. Or are there?



The *Dauntless* sailed slowly through the thick fog. It was a big ship, and it carried fifty guns and a hundred strong men.

Twelve-year-old Elizabeth Swann stood at the front of the ship. She was on her way to Port Royal in Jamaica. Her father was the new governor there.

“I’d like to meet a pirate,” she thought. She remembered an old song:

“Yo ho, yo ho, a pirate’s life for me,
Yo ho, yo ho, a pirate’s life ...”

Suddenly, a sailor called to her.

“Quiet, Miss!” he said. “Pirates sail this ocean. You don’t want to call them to us.”

“Mr. Gibbs!” Captain Norrington shouted at the old sailor. “Don’t be afraid,” he said to Elizabeth. “There aren’t any pirates here today.”

“I’m not afraid,” said Elizabeth.

But she knew the stories about pirates and fog.

They looked down at the dark water. There was something there. What was it? Wood? A box?

“Look!” Elizabeth shouted to the captain.

“It’s a man!” said Captain Norrington.

“No, it’s not,” said Elizabeth. “It’s a boy. Quickly, quickly, help him! Somebody help him!”

Captain Norrington called to his men.
"Get him out!"
The men pulled the boy onto the *Dauntless*.
"Is he OK?" asked Elizabeth.
"Oh, yes, Miss," said one of the sailors. "He's fine."
"But where did he come from?" asked Elizabeth. "There's nothing out there. Only the ocean."
Nobody spoke. And then a big ship came out of the fog. Every man on it was dead.
The men ran to the side of the *Dauntless* and looked down at the water. Were there any more people there?
"Miss, you stay with the boy," the captain said to Elizabeth. Elizabeth sat down next to the boy. He was about the same age as her—ten or maybe eleven. Slowly, his eyes opened.
"Hello," said Elizabeth. "My name is Elizabeth Swann."
"I'm Will Turner."
And then he was asleep again.
Elizabeth watched him. Then she saw something inside his shirt. Something gold. Slowly, she took it from him. She looked at it carefully. It was a medallion and there, on the front, was a skull and crossbones!
"Oh!" she thought. "Will Turner, you're ... a pirate!"
When Captain Norrington came back, she quickly put the medallion under her dress.
"Did he speak?" he asked.
"His name is Will Turner," she answered.
Inside her dress, she felt the gold medallion.
She looked out at the ocean—and there, in front of her, was a big, black ship. And it had the skull and crossbones, too!
The black ship turned away. But Elizabeth was suddenly very afraid.



"Oh!" she thought. "Will Turner, you're ... a pirate!"

Chapter 2 Port Royal

Elizabeth opened her eyes. She was in bed, in the Governor's House in Port Royal.

She looked at the gold medallion and smiled. Every day she thought about the medallion. And every day she thought about Will Turner. Was it really eight years?

She heard her father.

"Are you in bed? Get up now!"

Governor Swann came into the room.

"It's a beautiful day," he said. "And look—I have something for you!"

He gave Elizabeth a box. Inside, there was a beautiful new dress from London.

"You can wear it today," he said, "for Captain Norrington's party."

"Oh, him," said Elizabeth.

"He's a good man. And he likes you, you know. He likes you very much. And after today, he will be a commodore."

The governor left the bedroom and went back to his office. Will Turner was there. He was now twenty years old and a big, strong young man.

"Mr. Turner," said the governor. "Good day."

"Good day," said Will.

"Do you have it?"

"Yes, sir. Here it is."

He gave the governor a long box. The governor opened it carefully. He took out a sword and smiled.

"Ah, very good! A fine job!"

He wanted to give the sword to the new Commodore Norrington.

"Thank you, sir," Will said.

Will looked up and saw Elizabeth. She looked beautiful in her new dress.

"Ah, Elizabeth!" the governor said. "A wonderful dress!"

But Elizabeth's eyes were on Will.

"Hello, Will," she said. "I thought of you last night. Do you remember that first day, on the ship?"

"Of course I remember, Miss Swann," said Will. "I can never forget that day."

He smiled at her.

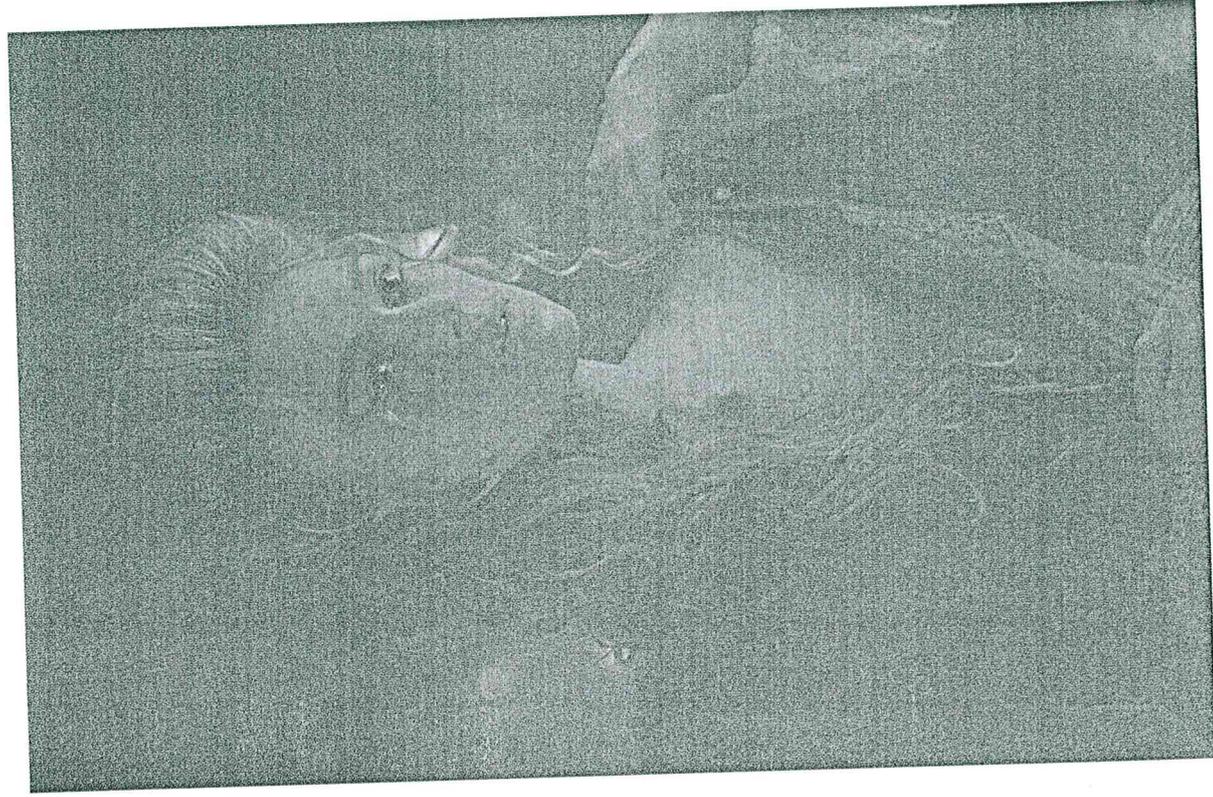
The governor wasn't happy with this conversation.

"We have to go," he said to Elizabeth. "It's time."

He took Elizabeth's arm. Elizabeth smiled at Will.

"Goodbye, Mr. Turner," she said.

The governor and his daughter left the house and went out into the busy street.



She looked beautiful in her new dress.

Chapter 3 Captain Jack Sparrow

Captain Jack Sparrow looked at the ships in Port Royal. His boat was small and old. He wanted a new, bigger ship. He had no money, but that wasn't a problem. Jack Sparrow was a pirate, and he had a plan.

He looked at the *Dauntless* for a long time. It was a big ship with fifty guns. Then he saw the *Interceptor*. It was smaller, but faster.

He wanted it.

There were two sailors next to the *Interceptor*. Jack went to them.

"Hey, you can't come here," one of them said. He looked at Jack's old boat and laughed. "Who are you? And what's that?"

"That's my boat," said Jack.

He smiled at the man and looked carefully at the *Interceptor*.

The man smiled back.

"I like your ship," Jack said.

"Yes, it's the fastest ship in the Caribbean."

"Really?" said Jack. "Isn't the *Black Pearl* the fastest ship?"

The sailor laughed. "Ghost stories are for children," he said.

"It isn't a story," said the other sailor to his friend. "I saw that ship."

He turned to Jack—but Jack wasn't there. He was on the *Interceptor*.

The sailors ran after him.

"What are you doing?" they shouted. "You can't go up there! What's your name?"

"Smith," Jack answered.

"And what are you doing in Port Royal, Mr. Smith?"

"I want one of these ships," Jack said.

The sailors thought about this.



High above the harbor, Elizabeth stood with Commodore Norrington. It was a hot day, and her dress was very heavy.

"Look at the ships down in the harbor," she said. "They're beautiful."

"And you are more beautiful," said Commodore Norrington. "You're a fine woman." Elizabeth didn't say anything. "I hope ..." he said. "I hope that one day you will marry me, Elizabeth."

"Marry?" Elizabeth said. "Marry you?"

She moved back, but she couldn't move easily in her new dress. Suddenly, she fell.

She fell down, down into the harbor below.

On the *Interceptor*, Jack and the two sailors saw everything. The sailors didn't move.

"Quick!" Jack said to them. "Aren't you going to help her?"

"But we can't swim!"

"Here," said Jack. "Take these and don't lose them!"

He gave them his hat and his gun.

Jack jumped into the water and swam to Elizabeth. She was under the water. He took her hand and tried to help her. But her dress was too heavy!

Jack found his knife and cut the dress off. Then he pulled the young woman out.

Commodore Norrington and Governor Swann ran down to the harbor.

"Thank you! Thank you!" said the governor. "Elizabeth, my dearest daughter, are you OK?"

"Yes, yes, I'm fine," said Elizabeth.

She sat up.

Norrington looked at Jack.

"Good man!" he said. "Thank you! Give me your hand."

Then he saw it—a white *P* on Jack's hand. "I know you," he said. "You're a pirate!" He looked at Jack carefully. "Your name is Jack Sparrow."



"Captain Jack Sparrow, please," said Jack.

"Captain Jack Sparrow, please," said Jack.

"I don't see your ship ... *captain*," said Norrington. "And you're a pirate."

"He wanted to take one of our ships." The sailors from the *Interceptor* were with them now.

Norrington looked at Jack and laughed. Then he turned to the sailors.

"Take him away!" he said. "Put him in chains. Now!"

The sailors put chains on Jack.

"You can't do that!" said Elizabeth. "Maybe he is a pirate, but he helped me."

Suddenly, Jack moved. He jumped behind Elizabeth and put his chains around her.

The sailors showed their guns.

"No, no, don't shoot!" shouted Norrington. "Be careful! He'll kill her."

Jack pulled Elizabeth back.

"I really don't like you," Elizabeth said to him.

"I helped you and now you're helping me," Jack said. He smiled. Then, suddenly, he took the chains off Elizabeth and ran.

"Get him!" shouted Norrington. "Get him, now!"



"I really don't like you," Elizabeth said.

Chapter 4 In the Blacksmith's Store

Jack ran down one street and up the next. He turned left. He turned right. He ran and ran. Then he listened. He couldn't hear the sailors. He was free! But he had the chains on his hands.

He saw a store and opened the doors. Then he went in, very carefully. It was dark, but he could see some swords and knives.

"Ah, a blacksmith's store," he thought. "I can use one of those knives."