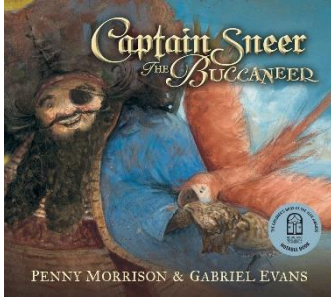


# Preschool and Playgroup Activities



## Captain Sneer the Buccaneer

**Author:** Penny Morrison

**Illustrator:** Gabriel Evans

**Publisher:** Walker Books, \$24.99

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### Outline:

Captain Sneer boasts about his bravery as he leads his crew to find the gold. But is he as brave as he claims?

### Themes:

Pirates, treasure, mother, bravery, courage, boasting

### Author/Illustrator Information:

#### Penny Morrison

Penny Morrison is the author of *Captain Sneer the Buccaneer*, *Hey! is that how God made me? Hey! Is that how God made animals?* and *The Mighty Mighty King Christmas Book*. Penny has previously worked as a preschool teacher, travelled full-time with a rock band, run playgroups and music groups and loves visiting schools to talk about her books or run writing workshops. Penny lives on the Northern Beaches of Sydney with her husband and three kids. She dresses up as a pirate at every opportunity. For more information see [www.pennymorrison.net](http://www.pennymorrison.net)



#### Gabriel Evans

Gabriel Evans is an illustrator and author from Western Australia. His books include *Annie's Snails* by Dianne Wolfer and *Roses are Blue* by Sally Murphy. The latter was a Notable Book in the 2015 CBCA Book of the Year Awards. Gabriel has also written and illustrated a series with Five Mile Press called the Woodland Whiskers. Working in a small messy studio, he creates classically flavoured illustrations with a contemporary twist. For more information see [www.gabrielevansartist.com](http://www.gabrielevansartist.com)



### How to use these notes:

This story is suitable for many ages. The suggested activities are therefore for a wide age and ability range. Please select accordingly.

## Discussion questions and activities

### Before reading the book

What does 'buccaneer' mean?

Can you talk like a pirate? What does a pirate say? Do you know what they mean? Have you ever heard a pirate say these phrases?

Shiver me timbers!

Thar she blows!

Ahoy, me hearties!

Scrub the deck!

Land ahoy!

I want my mummy! (Would a pirate say this? Why/why not?)

### Discussion during reading

#### Title Page

What's happening here?

#### Spread 1

Do you notice any difference between what Captain Sneer says and what the illustration shows?

#### Spread 2

How would you feel if you were there?

What do you think he should do?

#### Spread 3

How do you think Captain Sneer feels in the illustration? How can you tell?

#### Spread 4

Do you notice any difference between what Captain Sneer says and what the illustration shows?

#### Spread 5

If your ship was about to be struck by a cannon, how would you finish this sentence, 'I want my ... '?

What do you think Captain Sneer wants?

#### Spread 6

Why does Captain Sneer say he 'had to check'?

#### Spread 7

How does Captain Sneer feel? Why? What other information do you get from the illustration?

#### Spread 8

Who might have put the trap there?

How do you think he will finish the sentence?

#### Spread 9

Did you expect Captain Sneer to say 'map'? Why/why not?

Does this illustration tell us anything new about Captain Sneer?

#### Spread 10

What do you think they will find in the cave?

#### Spread 11

What does it mean to have butterflies in your tummy? Have you ever had that feeling?

What do you think might happen next?

#### Spread 12

What might the various characters be thinking in this picture? What would you say if you were Captain Sneer?

#### Spread 13

How does the mum feel?

How does Captain Sneer feel?

#### Spread 14 – Final spread

How do the different characters feel? Why?

What do you think might have happened after this?

#### Imprint page

Do you think the mum stayed angry? Why/why not?

### After reading

What does 'sneer' mean? Can show me your best sneer?

Do you think Captain Sneer could be a true story? How can you tell?

Are there pirates in real life? What were they like? What did they do?

What dangers did Captain Sneer face? What other dangers might a pirate have to face?

What does it mean to have 'a heart of gold'? Does Captain Sneer have a heart of gold?

What does Captain Sneer treasure most—the gold or his mum?

Which is your favourite page?

Do we have any other books about pirates? (Read them) How is Captain Sneer the same as other pirates? How is he different?

### Emotional

Have you ever pretended you weren't scared, even though you were?

Is there anything you used to be scared of, but aren't anymore? How did you get rid of your fear?

What does it mean to be brave? Have you ever been in a situation where you needed to be brave but couldn't be? Can you think of a situation when you were brave?

### Language

Can you think of other things pirates say? Do you know what the sayings mean?

### Rhyming Words

Can you think of a word to rhyme with: Sneer, mummy, map, rough, bold, storm, charge, deck, shoot, dry, way, brave, impressed.

### Names

What does 'sneer' mean? How well does Captain Sneer suit his name? What do you think his first name might be?

What would you call yourself if you were a pirate? What pirate names can you think of from books, movies or TV?

What type of character would a pirate have with the name 'Captain Crocodile Smile'? or 'Captain Sharktooth'? or 'Captain Marshmallow'?

See the [printable pdf 'Captain Sneer's Pirate Names'](#). What would these pirates want? What might stop them from getting it? Make up a story starring characters you have created.

## Opposites

**Spread 1:** Captain Sneer said he was brave, but really he felt the opposite. What is the opposite of brave?

**Spread 2:** What is the opposite of calm?

**Spread 3:** What is the opposite of relaxed? What is the opposite of warm?

**Spread 4:** What is the opposite of near?

**Spread 5:** What is the opposite of friendly?

**Spread 6:** What is the opposite of above?

**Spread 7:** What is the opposite of dry?

**Spread 8:** What is the opposite of dangerous?

**Spread 9:** What is the opposite of lost?

**Spread 10:** What is the opposite of follow?

**Spread 11:** What is the opposite of dark?

**Spread 12:** What is the opposite of heavy?

**Spread 13:** What is the opposite of big? What is the opposite of catch?

**Spread 14:** What is the opposite of stay? What is the opposite of quick?

**Spread 15 – Final spread:** What is the opposite of grumpy?

## Science

Choose some objects and see if they float or sink. Which objects could you use to make a boat?

Try wearing an eye patch. Hold out one thumb and try to touch it with the other thumb. Try walking a plank or stepping stones. Now try it without the patch. Why is it tricky while wearing an eye patch?

Why do parrots make good pets? What must be done to care for a pet parrot?

Buy a coconut from the fruit shop and discover how to drink and eat it.

**Art – More ideas:** <https://au.pinterest.com/pennywoodmorris/captain-sneer-the-buccaneer/>

Draw Captain Sneer's treasure map. See [printable pdf 'Captain Sneer's treasure map'](#).

Create an old fashioned looking map, maybe a map of your house, preschool or an imaginary place. What dangers might you include? Where might the map be hidden?

Make a treasure chest. What materials could you use? What will you put inside?

Could you make a pirate sword? A telescope?

Use white chalk to draw a jolly roger flag on black paper.

Could you use paper, feathers and glue to make a parrot picture?

What materials could you use to make a model pirate ship?

### Fine Motor/Sensory

Hide treasure for a friend in the sand pit or in playdough. It could even be yellow playdough with sand or gold glitter mixed in. Can your friends get the treasure out with their hands? Can they get it out with one hand?

Gold coin rubbings with crayons or pencils.

Use sequins as treasure for sorting or for art.

### Social/Drama

Work together to make a class pirate ship. Bring in cardboard boxes or other items from home to build it together. What could you use as the plank? Water? Are there any ocean creatures?

Hide some treasure for your classmates to find. How will you give them clues?

Dress up as pirates and go on a class adventure. Are there any dangers? Will another ship attack? Do you have a map? Will you find treasure? Will you share it?

### Maths

Hide treasure then give directions using numbers of steps. E.g. Take 7 steps forward, 2 steps to the side.

### Rhymes

We dig for gold, we're on a quest

We dig for gold, a treasure chest

Open the chest, take a glance—it's filled with Grandma's underpants!

We dig for gold, we're on a quest

We dig for gold, a treasure chest

Open the chest, who would've guessed? Chocolate coins—they're the best!

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5 nasty pirates, sailing on the sea.

They were rough, they were tough, and as MEAN as could be

1 nasty pirate, fighting with his sword

Oops! Splash! And he's o-o-overboard.

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