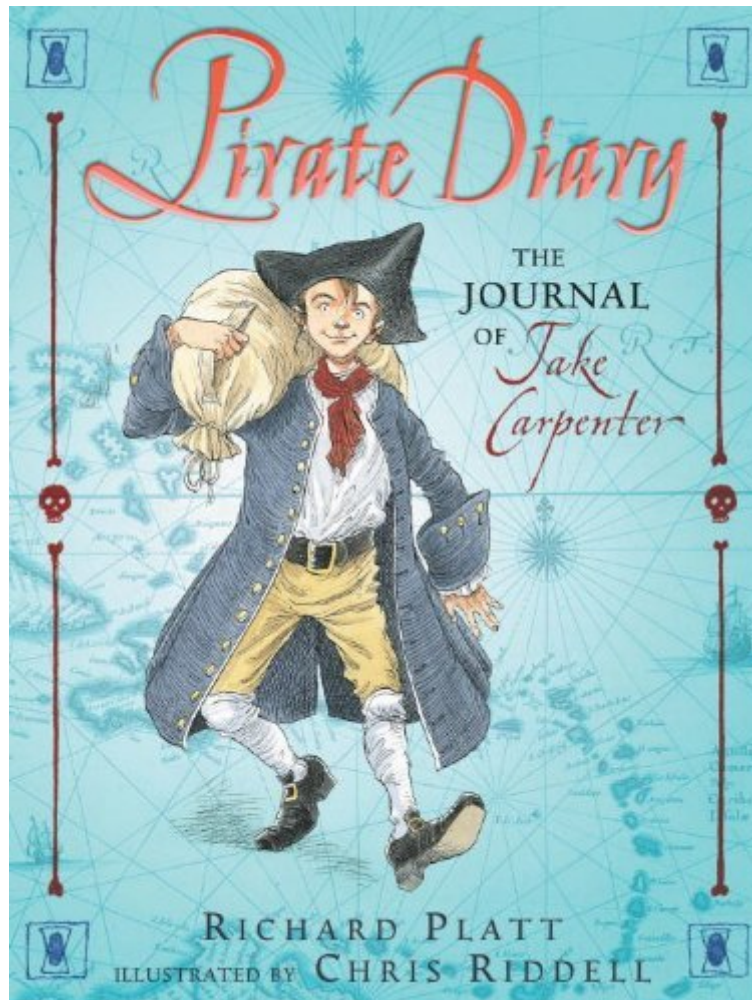




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Pirate Diary: The Journal Of Jake Carpenter, Cabin Boy



Synopsis

"Platt weaves vast quantities of nautical information into a text as lively as it is absorbing." -

Publishers Weekly (starred review) Curious about life on a pirate ship? Check out PIRATE DIARY: THE JOURNAL OF JAKE CARPENTER, an account of adventure on the high seas as told by a feisty nine-year-old carpenter's apprentice, circa 1716. Historically accurate illustrations of ship and crew, a map of Jake's travels, and a detailed glossary and index vividly reveal the fascinating - and harsh - life of a pirate in the eighteenth century. Ships ahoy!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A great book for children to learn about what life was like in the past for kids. Brilliant artwork, too. A series not to be missed.

I purchased this book for my eight year old little girl and I highly recommend this product. The book is very well done with lively illustrations and a good story line which will captivate children's attention and provide a quick overview of the historical period.

We loved this diary of the fictitious Jake Carpenter. There is plenty to learn that is presented in a manner appropriate for older elementary-aged students. The illustrations are a wonderful blend of graphic and humorous which seemed perfect for my sons. Each two-page spread is presented like a chapter so it is easy to find stopping points along the way to the end. After the story there are interesting 'Notes for the Reader' which include "Jake's World' about the colonies at the time and a map of Jake's journey. There is also a section called 'A History of Piracy and the Lives of the Most Famous Rogues' which concludes with 'Piracy Today' (as of publishing in 2001) which my sons were very curious about. This book is entertaining, informative and my children were always eager to get back to it. I look forward to reading the other books in this series: Castle Diary, Roman Diary and Egyptian Diary.

I don't think this book is bad really, it is a decent story and the illustrations are very interesting. I just highly question the age recommendation of 9 and up. I'm really surprised no one has mentioned that there are a couple very violent illustrations in this book. I checked this book out from the library and it didn't cross my mind to review it prior to sitting down with my kids to read it. There is an illustration of a man being flogged and blood spattering everywhere (the man then gets tossed into a boat and left to drift and die in the sea). There is also an illustration of a man having his leg amputated (again, with the blood splattering). Overall, the images are also very angry, and the misery on the faces of some of the men (such as the man getting flogged) can be kind of disturbing. Obviously, things like this have happened over time so it is not that it may be historically inaccurate. But, I do want to give fair warning to parents that if you have young children or sensitive children, that they may not be quite ready for images like this.

Almost 6 months back, I got this book casually from Fremont, CA library for my kid and returned. But I liked it so much, I couldn't forget it. Today when I asked my daughter about book name, (by giving her story out line) she immediately reminded me the name and main characters name. I like it so much I immediately added it to my shopping cart to have it permanently in my collection. Authors did a commendable (I am very modest here) job, in collecting details, pictures, narrating and even the info given at end of book is also very interesting. It blends nicely with history, and gives excellent account of things happened almost 200+ years back. Not only that the narrative includes subtle comedy, fine details, maths, history, political situation so much. I hope authors get financially rewarded very well, so that they can write more books like this.

Historical fiction is a great way for young children to learn history. "Pirate Diary" follows young Jake Carpenter as his ship is captured and he is forced to join a pirate crew. Through journal entries, all of the touchstones of pirate life are examined. By the end of the book, a young child will have historically grounded understanding of the era. There is something about pirate life that both appeals to and repulses young children. They like the "glamour" of pirate life but are also repelled by the violence inherent in piracy. "Pirate Diary" works because there is very little violence. I am waiting a few more years before I can turn my nine year old son on to the more nuanced and much better "Treasure Island".

This is the story of a young boy's adventures at sea. He went to sea with his uncle and they were soon kidnapped by pirates. Jake's uncle was put to sea in a small boat and left to die after he was flogged when he took Jake's place to prevent Jake from receiving this horrible form of punishment. In order to survive Jake was forced to join the pirates. The book gave a full account of a pirate's daily activities with many wonderful illustrations that included the detailed parts of the ship. If you have a young child who is fascinated by pirates, this is the book to give as a gift. It is a treasure. I believe it would have a special appeal for fourth and fifth grade children.

My 7 year old son and I just finished this book and it was great. The story is engaging for young children, yet conveys lots of historical information about piracy and life on merchant ships in the early 18th Century. The illustrations were fun as well. Really one of the best kids books I've read in a long time. I liked that it was a good story for us to read together, but that it is one he can go back to on his own for several years as he becomes a more proficient reader.

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