



## A Pirate in my Paddling Pool

“There’s a what?” asked Mum, thinking that she had misheard. After all, she had been very busy making dinner when Clare had burst into the kitchen.

“A pirate, Mum,” urged Clare, “There’s a pirate in my paddling pool.”

“A pirate?” questioned Mum, still sure that Clare must have said something else.

“Yes, Mum. A real-life pirate. He has a parrot on his shoulder and everything!” Clare shouted, not quite sure which part of the story Mum didn’t understand. “Quick – come and have a look!”

She grabbed Mum’s hand and led her through the back door, past the vegetable patch and all the way to the furthest corner of the back garden, where the sandbox and paddling pool sat next to the slide. Sure enough, sitting in a soggy heap in the middle of the pool, was a pirate. A burly, wet pirate with a wooden leg, one eye covered by a patch and a colourful parrot sat on his shoulder.

“Polly wants a cracker!” the pirate’s feathered friend squawked as the pirate took off his shoe and poured out the water.



**Q1:** Which of these did the pirate have? Tick three.

- a wooden leg
- an eye patch
- a captain’s hat
- a parrot

**Q2:** What was next to the paddling pool in the garden?



**Q3:** Why did Mum think that she must have misheard what Clare had said?

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“Erm... hello there, sir... are you okay? How may we help you?” said Mum nervously.

“Aye, aye, me hearty! I’m as splendid as a cod in the morning!” the pirate replied, grinning to reveal a mouth full of missing teeth.

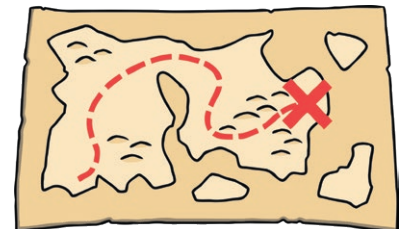
“It’s just... I’m not quite sure why there is a pirate sitting in my daughter’s paddling pool, that’s all,” replied Mum. She was trying to be polite but she was starting to wonder if this was actually a dream.

The pirate tilted his head and a look of confusion spread across his face.

“I don’t think he understands you, Mum,” said Clare. “Let me try.” She stepped towards the paddling pool and bent down, as if talking to a child.

“Ahoy, me hearty!” bellowed Clare, in her very best pirate voice. She had seen it done in films. “What’s a salty seadog like ye doin’ in our ‘ere paddlin’ pool?” she asked.

“Ahhhh, me land lubber!” the pirate replied. “I have me self a map. It leads to the finest treasure this land ‘as ever seen... only, I seem to ‘ave gotten meself a bit... lost.”



**Q4:** Which of these statements are true? Tick **two**.

- Clare tried to use a pirate voice.
- Mum told the pirate to leave.
- Clare gave the pirate a map.
- There was a dog in the paddling pool.
- The pirate did not understand Mum.



**Q5:** *'The pirate tilted his head and a look of confusion spread across his face.'*



Why do you think that the pirate was confused?

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**Q6:** *"Erm... hello there, sir... are you okay? How may we help you?" said Mum nervously.*

Why did the author say that Mum spoke 'nervously'?




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"Treasure?" said Clare, liking the sound of what she had heard.

"Aye, me bonny lassie, treasure. It says 'ere that X marks the spot and somewhere around 'ere, in this 'ere garden, lies the treasure of Davy Jones," said the pirate.

"Who's Davy Jones?" asked Clare. The pirate's face dropped.

"Why, you're dafter than a sponge," uttered the pirate. "Davy Jones is only the most famous pirate that's ever sailed the Seven Seas," he explained, standing up in the paddling pool and swinging his sword left and right. Mum pulled Clare backwards, out of the way.

"I say, I say," the pirate continued. "There'll be some golden coins in it for you land lubbers if you help me to find my bounty," he said.

Clare looked at Mum. She didn't need to say anything – her face said it all. She smiled at Mum sweetly with a twinkle in her eye.

"Okay, okay, but we've only got fifteen minutes," agreed Mum. "Dinner will get cold."

**Q7:** 'Why do you think that Clare *liked the sound of what she heard*'?




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**Q8:** What do you think Mum, Clare and the pirate will do next?

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**Q9:** Put the following events in the order that they happen in the story. The first one has been done for you.

- The pirate tells them that X marks the spot.
- Clare smiled sweetly at Mum with a twinkle in her eye.
- Mum and Clare found the pirate sat in the paddling pool.
- 1 Clare ran into the kitchen to tell Mum about the pirate.
- Clare spoke in her best pirate voice.
- The pirate grinned and showed his missing teeth.

