

Six Literacy Enrichment Activities

to accompany *A Pirate's Quest*
and *The Riddle in a Bottle DVD*

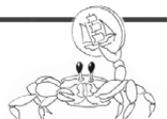
Creative Writing and The Word “Quest”
Compare and Contrast
Poetry
Making Connections
The Riddle
Creative Writing and The Word “Persistence”

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These activities were designed for 3rd and 4th grade, but they may easily be adapted to other developmental levels by changing some of the questions and discussions.

www.apiratesquest.com

A Pirate's Quest, by Laura Sams, Robert Sams, Heiner Hertling *The Riddle in a Bottle*, by Sisbro Studios
Published by Carl R. Sams II Photography, Inc. (800) 552-1867



Creative Writing and The Word “Quest” (Page 1)

1. Define the term quest. Write the definition from a dictionary and then write it in your words.

Dictionary definition:

In your words:

2. Describe the quest of the one-legged pirate in your words. Please begin with a topic sentence that defines the quest and then write at least four supporting sentences that describe details of the pirate’s quest (where, what, when, why).

3. What quests have you experienced in your life? Can you list at least three quests of which you have experienced or someone else that you know has experienced?

4. Choose one of the quests that you listed in number three. List as many details as you can think of concerning this quest. You do not need to write the list in complete sentences.



Creative Writing and The Word “Quest” (Page 2)

5. Re-read *A Pirate’s Quest* and while you are reading, please notice how the authors describe the quest in detail. Use the details of your quest that you have listed in number four to write a five paragraph creative writing piece that will describe your quest to a reader of your work. Please think about the following details that need to be clearly defined in your writing:

- What is your quest?
- Where did your quest lead you?
- Describe your quest with great supporting details so that your writing will allow your reader to develop pictures in his or her imagination of your quest.
- How did your quest end?

6. Look at the cover illustration of *A Pirate’s Quest*. Draw a picture that will accompany your creative writing piece that will depict your quest. Please share your story and illustration with someone. May your quest be one filled with imagination and adventure!



Compare and Contrast (Page 1)

1. After you have read the book, *A Pirate's Quest*, re-read the book and this time pay close attention to the details described in the questions below. Answer each question in one or two complete sentences.

- What was the pirate's quest?
- Why did the pirate embark on his quest?
- Where did the pirate's quest take him? In the different places he traveled, who did he meet?
- How did the pirate's quest end? Did he successfully complete his quest? Why or why not?

2. Now listen to and watch the pirate's *Peg Leg Song*. You can listen to the song on the DVD of *The Riddle in a Bottle* or on the internet at www.apiratesquest.com. Please answer the following question for the song, which are the same as the questions you answered for number one.

- What was the pirate's quest?
- Why did the pirate embark on his quest?
- Where did the pirate's quest take him? In the different places he traveled, who did he meet?
- How did the pirate's quest end? Did he successfully complete his quest? Why or why not?



Compare and Contrast (Page 2)

3. NOW, it is time to COMPARE AND CONTRAST! Look closely at your answers to questions one and two above. Compare your answers of number one (the book) to number two (the song). Below, please list three similarities between the book and the song.

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Below, please list three major differences between the book and the song.

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4. Please compare and contrast the ending of *A Pirate's Quest* and *The Riddle in a Bottle*. In particular, were the endings of each concerning the pirate's peg leg alike or different? Please compare and contrast the endings of the book and the movie. Please begin your paragraph with a statement that tells the reader whether or not the endings were alike or different, and then write at least four sentences giving supporting details for your answer.



Compare and Contrast (Page 3)

5. At the end of the book, *A Pirate's Quest*, the boy puts the pirate's peg leg in place. Did the pirate know that the boy was the one who put his peg leg in place? Do the authors tell us if the pirate saw the boy or knew that he was there on the beach with him? Please give your answer to each question in a paragraph with supporting details for your answer.

6. Please write at least a paragraph of four sentences, using your imagination, about how the story ends between the boy and the pirate. Share your ending with a friend.



Poetry

This activity is based on *The Peg Leg Song* from the movie *The Riddle in a Bottle*. If you don't own the movie, you can download the song for free on the web site www.apiratesquest.com. You can also watch the video clip that features the song on the web site.

1. The lyrics (words) to a song are often written in poetic form. The composer and lyricist of *The Peg Leg Song* used a poetic format in pirate vernacular (the way a pirate speaks). Read the lyrics to the first verse of *The Peg Leg Song* below:

Oh, I went to visit me sister once upon the lake,
I fell asleep upon the shore and found when I did wake;
That my family heirloom peg leg had washed away from me
So then I made a vow to search as far as the eye could see.

You will notice as you listen to the song and follow the words that the ends of the phrases rhyme as well as the words have a similar rhythm. Listen to the song and then re-read the book *A Pirate's Quest*. There are characters who the pirate meets in the book that he does not meet in the video. Using your best poetic writing skills, write a verse for the song that describes a creature who the pirate met during his quest. Below is an example of a new verse for the song. Sing this verse to the catchy melody of *The Peg Leg Song* and then write your own four phrase verse.

Oh, I swam on down into the sea as fast as I could swim,
I spied a shape so brown and smooth I reached to pull it in;
But as I reached for what me thought was me peggy lying there,
An octopus reached out her arm to pull me straight into her lair.

Now it's your turn to be both a poet and lyricist. Choose a favorite creature from the pirate's quest and compose your poetic verse.



Making Connections (Page 1)

1. As you watch *The Riddle in a Bottle*, list below the answers that the turtle, the crab, and the muskrat gave for the answer to the riddle. Below each answer, list three details that you learned from listening to the songs and the spoken words of the animals as to why each thought he or she had the correct answer to the riddle.

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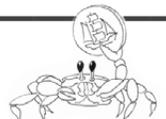
2. What is the connection between the answers that the turtle, the crab, and the muskrat gave as the answer to the riddle? Please write your answer in complete sentences and write at least three sentences to answer the question.



Making Connections (Page 2)

3. Now connect the answers of the three animals to the answer of the second grade class. How do the answers given by the animals connect to the correct answer given by the second grade class? Please write your answer in complete sentences and give at least four supporting details for your answer.

4. Using the information you have gained through watching the video and what you may have known before you watched the video, please write your opinion as to why the muskrat would not have given the same answer as the crab? Why would the muskrat not have agreed with the crab that the answer to the riddle was the tide? Please remember to make connections in your thinking between the animal and the environment before writing your answer.



The Riddle

1. Have you thought about just what is a riddle? Think of the “riddle in the bottle” from the film. Define a riddle in your words.

A riddle is

Use a dictionary and write the definition of a riddle below. Then compare the dictionary answer to what you wrote above. Is your definition similar to that of the dictionary?

2. Write a riddle that you have heard below. Here is an example: What is black and white and “read” all over? Answer: a newspaper

3. Read the “riddle from the bottle” below.

Always moving here to there,
Never stopping anywhere,
With no string or rope or tether,
This connects us all together.
Seek and you shall understand
The riddle held within your hand.

Answer: Moving water

4. Create a riddle that you can share with your class and your teacher. Remember you must give good clues in your riddle to lead your listener to the answer, but you must not give the answer in your riddle. In writing the riddle, please use rhyming words at the end of each phrase such as there and anywhere; tether and together, understand and hand.

When you begin to write your riddle, think of how you will convey to listeners the object, place, or thing of which you are thinking without telling them. Use the riddle from the bottle written above as a guide for your writing. Like the verses to a song, the phrases should have rhythm and rhyming text.

Create your riddle(s) here:



Creative Writing and The Word “Persistence”

1. Define the term persistent or persistence. Write the definition from a dictionary and then write it in your words.

Dictionary definition:

In your words:

2. The pirate from A Pirate’s Quest was persistent in his quest to _____.
He was not willing to give up until he had searched everywhere for his beloved _____.

3. Make a list of at least three times in your life when you have been persistent in wanting to accomplish, find, or do something.

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4. Choose one of the times from number three above and list as many details as you can think of concerning how you were persistent in what you were doing.

5. Create a five paragraph creative writing piece using the details from number four. Begin with introducing the reader to your adventure of persistence in the first paragraph. Then write three supporting paragraphs that give supporting details of your persistence in your quest to accomplish, find, or do something. Finally, in the fifth paragraph, write a conclusion that tells the reader the result(s) of your persistence in your quest. When you have finished your work, share your finished writing piece with a friend, your class, and your teacher. Be as persistent as the pirate in his quest for his dearly cherished “peggy.”

