



The Pirate Cruncher

Jonny Duddle

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A hilarious picture book debut has a scurvy crew setting off for an island of gold, where an unexpected development awaits under the final flap.

I was sailing along and what did I see?
An island of GOLD in the scurvy sea!
But there's one small thing I forgot to share —
there's also a MONSTER waiting there.

A mysterious old pirate tells a tavern of salty seadogs about an island bursting with hidden treasure. But once they set sail, he also mentions that it is guarded by the terrible Pirate Cruncher. When the pirates' greed gets the better of their fear, there's a big surprise in store!

The Pirate Cruncher Details

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Author : Jonny Duddle

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From Reader Review The Pirate Cruncher for online ebook

Samantha Bilodeau says

A pirate singer tempts a group of pirates to seek treasure and warns them of the monster that protects it. The flow of the text is so much fun! It's so easy to get into a "pirate" mood reading this and my son and I really enjoy reading it.

The art in this is phenomenal and does a wonderful job of setting the tone. The colors and style are just gorgeous. My son really loved the many speech bubbles and the drawings inside many of them. There is a foldout page towards the very back that also enhances the story.

The "twist" at the very end is very subtle (I almost missed it!) and I was really amused to see all the signs that were so obvious during a second read but that I had missed the first time. This is such a fantastic addition to my son's library!

X says

Exciting storytelling with juicy clues and suggestions creeping out of the illustrations, the language and the characters' behaviour, and yet we are in for a giant surprise. Every inch of this book is rich in communication. Young readers get excited about their comprehension and try desperately to tell you what's going on, in case you missed it. The first class, iconic illustrations are full of fantasy and the level of graphic detail makes them cool in a grown-up way. Dynamite.

Kbrown says

Loved sharing these books with my son and children in school. Funny.

Clare Cannon says

A fun rhyming pirate story with lively illustrations and a good 'moral to the story': the greedy treasure hunting pirates meet their match in the 'pirate-eating monster', not listening to the warnings the old fiddler gives them through his songs. But it doesn't have that special something about the story which I look for in picture books.

Liz says

The rhyming is too forced--I didn't enjoy reading it out loud. For the first half of the book, it was dark text on a dark background. Very difficult to read, especially while holding the book to the side so people can see the pictures.

Nielson says

This was an absolutely darling book. Pirate lovers and non-pirate lovers alike will love it! A fiddler comes to town singing about an island full of treasure and Captain Purplebeard and his crew jump at the chance to find more loot! It isn't until they are on their way that the fiddler warns them of a monster that could be lurking nearby the treasure. Despite the crews fears, Captain Purplebeard presses on. Readers will be surprised at the ending as they find out who the monster really is!

This story is written in rhyme and song and the pirate talk adds the perfect touch! The only thing that might be hard for kids is that the font, although cute and aesthetically pleasing, may be hard to read. The illustrations are my favorite--I just thought they were incredible! They are so detailed, and I had to go back to make sure I didn't miss anything. Fabulous book!

Robin says

Fun pirate book, a bit busy, but appropriately perilous and fierce. Recommended for ages 4-6.

Alisha says

I like this book a lot. It's funny and dark. The illustrations are wonderful and vibrant. Fun for elementary age kids.

Joella www.cinjoella.com says

An old fiddler started singing about a huge treasure in a town with loads of pirates. Of course a group of pirates decided to go in search for said treasure. Even though the fiddler warned that this particular treasure was VERY dangerous to look for. But off the pirates went. While on the pirate ship, the fiddler started telling them more and more about the treasure (basically how it was even more dangerous to get than before). Apparently this treasure was guarded by a monster that ate pirates like snacks. Some of the pirates began wondering if they should turn back. But the pirate captain was especially greedy and decided to keep going...even after one of the pirate crew disappeared. Finally the pirates see the island with the treasure. And sure enough there is a large monster that is guarding it (the "island" is part of the monster after all). And all the pirates get eaten. Except for the fiddler. Who turns out to be the monster's marionette...complete with strings. The fiddler then goes off to "sing" the tale about the treasure once more...

This is a funny tale, and there are so many great details in the illustrations. For example, the fiddler always has strings on him...but they aren't as noticed until the end of the story. (Until you understand the end and then go back, then they are more prominent.) Elementary school kids will be especially delighted to see the cunning of the monster in finding his own meals. And the details of the crew and their changing reactions is pretty funny (if you aren't too attached to pirates). Basically this is one of those stories that kids who feel the urge to cheer for the clever bad-guy will enjoy this one.

Tracie says

The illustrations alone are enough to warrant a peek at this book, they are fabulous. So colourful and the entire page is filled. The characters look alive and the attention to detail is amazing. Could spend hours just looking at the pictures. I have read this book a few times (it's just so fun) and every time I look at it I see something new.

The story is fun and flows nicely. The way that it rhymes is brilliant.

This book really is a perfect childrens (or adult if your like me) book and I highly recommend it, I shall be delving deeper into the mind of Jonny Duddle at every available opportunity.

The twists and turns hidden in the story are also brilliant.

Neyebur says

Divertida aventura de piratas
codiciosos como ratas.
Narrada con poesías,
y con ilustraciones muy divertidas
Que el autor trabaje para Aardman no sorprende,
porque los piratas a otros de plastilina
puede que te recuerden.
Un divertido giro espera al final,
bien planteado si vuelves atrás.
Recomendada lectura
para niños y adultos en busca de aventuras.

Carina says

We loved reading Jonny Duddle's book about the Jolly Rogers and read it over and over and over. As a three year old, I didn't like this one as much. It was a little scarier. However, my mom loves the clever rhymes and pirate words - arrgh! The illustrations are fantastic.

Emily Moss says

An amusing and exciting picture book. The story is fast paced and definitely something that children will enjoy and the illustrations are full of detail and even interactive on some pages. Each pirate seems to have their own individual characteristics which children can explore in more detail. The story has songs which are written in rhyme as well as lots of text in speech bubbles which provides a further depth to the story.

Kathleen Whelan says

I read this book to a Year 3 class and they absolutely adored it! The pictures are so well detailed. The images are really quite dark which portrays the darkness of a pirate's life and the journey they are venturing on. The rhyming throughout gives the book a continuous rhythm. The children in Year 3 loved the rhyming and read along. The large picture at the end of the giant monster gave them a great reason to discuss what it was. Some thought it was a giant octopus and some said it was a giant sea creature. The treasure map pictures at the beginning of the book also had them greatly interested. They tried to guess where the treasure was hidden. This book gives lots of opportunities for discussion and also for predicting what will happen. There is a moral at the end of the story about being greedy and not listening to morals. The class really enjoyed the book and I really enjoyed reading it to them. The book is fun and interesting and you can't help but to love the silliness of the story. I would really recommend it as a book to read a class, if only to see the amazing expressions on their faces.

Milo says

"Yeah. That is a good one. I think it is fun."

Mama was worried that the illustrations might be too scary. But, I LOVED the story. After reading this book I wanted to learn more about pirates. I wanted to know if they were real and if they were around today. It made for some fun dinner conversations. I decided that I don't want to pirate, because they don't know when to stop getting gold and treasure.
