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# The Pirate Cruncher



## Synopsis

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!

## Book Information

Hardcover: 38 pages

Publisher: Templar; 1 edition (April 13, 2010)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 11.6 x 0.4 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars - See all reviews (49 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## Customer Reviews

Ok! We just shared this - 3, 7, 9 year olds LOVVVED it. Each found something different - Mommy look at the strings on the old pirate. What's that tentacle? That's not a hand! What did the monkey catch. None of them guessed what LURKED below the tranquil island ladden with treasure - not even my 9 year old. I thought we'd never finish for all the sidenotes they were adding. Oh my! Please, please let him have another (equally as good book). If you DON'T buy this or get it from the library (we will never return it--- they want to study it for clues... seriously?, you are nuts... I would definately have LOVED to have this to teach foreshadowing, irony, even a parable of the three warnings. Best kids book in years!!!! Who votes for the Caldecott?

This is one beautiful children's book about pirates! Jonny Duddle entices the reader right from the beginning with the text: "All was unusually quiet in Port Royal...but if you listened carefully, on the docks, down the alleyways, and in the candlelit taverns, you could hear the faint sound of a fiddle floating in the wind." And if that weren't enough, the illustrations are truly amazing, placing the reader right into that darkened scene - one that stirs the imagination and brings foreboding and adventure at the same time. I love the characters - from the Old Fiddler to Pirate Purplebeard of Pendow! And I was ready to sign on as a crewmember and reap my share of the booty - but was glad I didn't in the end. Well done, Jonny Duddle!

If you have ever actively searched for a pirate book, then you have probably already discovered there really aren't that many good choices out there. This one has all the necessary elements that a really great pirate story demands. These pirates look like real pirates, (how my brain imagine they should look anyway) sporting big, bushy beards, missing a few nonessential body parts and overall looking quite sea-worn. They talk like real pirates, employing phrases like "me hearties" and "cowardly landlubbers" and they sing sea shanties. Even the author's name - Johnny Duddle - sounds like a shipmate, doesn't it? The dastardly (good pirate names, too!) Captain Purplebeard and his cutthroat crew are throwing a few back at the Thirsty Parrot (see!) when a traveling fiddler appears, prattling on about an island of gold deep in the sea. Of course, this grabs the crew's attention and they start dreaming of diamonds, rubies and gold. If the pirates will provide the transportation, the bony fiddler will reveal his map and they will all share the bounty. A deal is made! Once en route, the fiddler warns them that this island has a habit of vanishing and nobody has ever safely returned from a visit there. Nonsense! The pirates are undeterred. They sail on a bit and the fiddler also thinks to mention there is monster than lurks about this island. This pirate cruncher eats up the pirates and then chews up their ships. Ooh, I think I see a tentacle rising up out of the sea, as a warning of what's ahead. Still, they press on. When the pirates reach their destination, they are elated to discover a chest filled with treasures beyond their wildest dreams. But, just like the fiddler warned, a pirate cruncher lurks below the surface. No sooner do they reach the treasure chest, when CRUNCH. And that it the end of the tale of Captain Purplebeard and his cutthroat crew. They were too darn greedy for their own good and would not heed the warnings of their fiddling friend. The most amazing part of this book is the illustrations. They are wonderfully vivid, swirling and sloshing nearly off the pages. Near the end of the book, there is an extra large pull down page, which reveals the pirate cruncher lurking beneath the treasure. Very well done - excellent pirate-y details, great songs, fun story and a nice surprise ending (which I have just ruined

for you). Experience it first hand - you'll enjoy it very much.

"The Pirate Cruncher" is a sea dog's tale of a map to hidden treasure. Captain Purplebeard and his scurvy, cutthroat crew hear a sea chantey that tells them of a treasure they long to find, hidden on a vanishing island. Oh, and one more thing, "There's also a monster, or so they say,/ That likes to eat pirates who come for the treasure,/ and chew up their ships,/ Just for good measure." But the pirate cruncher does not deter Captain Purplebeard, for he is the Scourge of the Sea! Kids will love the scary, dark colored digital media illustrations of Captain Purplebeard and his ship and crew, the treasure, and the Pirate Cruncher. The pirates' thoughts are often comically pictured in little black and white balloon illustrations that stand out nicely against the macabre backgrounds. "The Pirate Cruncher" has a moral and a surprise ending that will keep kids reading and turning pages. It will appeal to the lusty crew of 5-7 year-old pirates-and-monsters-in-training.

I really enjoy this book and the illustrations are wonderful. The reason for 4 stars instead of 5 is because it is hard to read the text on a few of the pages (too dark) and my son, who is 3, did not like it as much as I thought he would. My daughter who is 7 seemed to enjoy the story a little bit more. If your child is really into pirates then he/she will definitely like the book.

This is my son's absolute favorite book! The illustrations are beautiful, and the story is captivating. Honestly, I love this book because I don't dread reading it to him like some other books that you read over and over again. The monster can be a little scary though for younger ages.

We requested this book because my 3 year old son loves pirates and we are HUGE fans of Jonny Duddle's "The Pirates Next Door." Duddle is an amazing illustrator and I find his books to be a pleasure to read. The rhyme is lovely and that particular story is just really fun. I didn't read all of the reviews so I could have missed if someone else already revealed the secret ending for "The Pirate Cruncher". SPOILER- the pirates all get eaten by a sea monster who has lured them to him with a pirate puppet. The sea monster is actually pretty scary looking. Like a lot of 3 year olds, our little guy is sensitive and has some fears of the dark. We are keeping this on the book shelf for a few years until the ending won't terrify him.

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