

# Pirate Nicholas

By Sarah Woodard

Nicholas loved nothing more in the whole entire world than pirates. He loved tall pirates, short pirates, scary pirates, and even pirates who only had one leg and one eye. Every day Nicholas would come home from school and dress up like a pirate. He would hide treasure and make a treasure map. He would leave the treasure hidden until a friend would come over to play and they would hunt for it together. Although Nicholas loved pirates he was not a very good one because he always forgot where he hid the treasure. So his maps were the only way for him to find it.



One day Nicholas buried a hundred gold coins in a treasure box. Another day he hid two of his favorite baseball hats. Another day he hid ten dollars of real money! And he would always forget where he hid them. When he drew the treasure maps he always drew a big black X right where the treasure was. He was getting very good at drawing his backyard. He learned that it was ten steps to get from the big tree to the little tree. He also knew that he could dig a very deep hole right under the bird feeder. The pirate game was very fun to play, but soon Nicholas started to learn too much about his yard. He was getting too good at drawing the maps. The game started to become boring because he started to never ever lose the treasure. So he decided that he needed to find a new place to play his game.

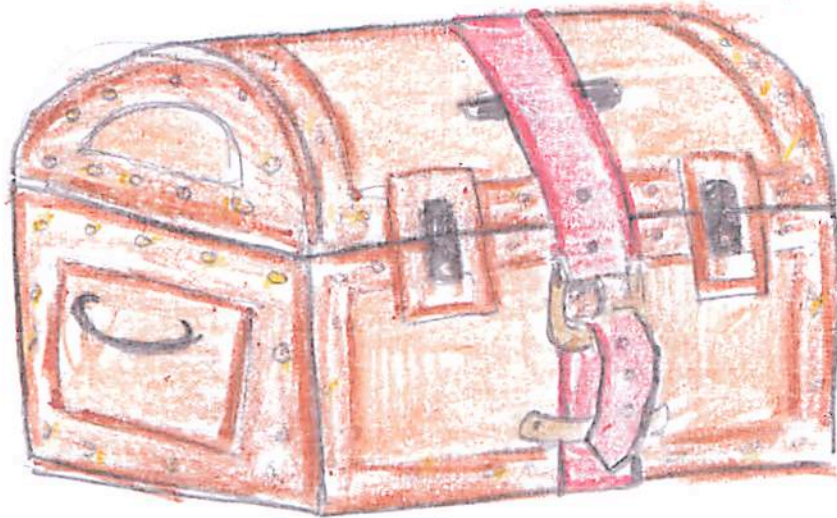
The very next day his best friend Charlotte came over to play. She loved playing the pirate game with Nicholas so much that she would not take no for an answer. He tried and tried to tell her he was bored of the game, but she just did not listen. She ran into his room and pulled the eye patch over her eye. She snatched a handful of golden necklaces and told Nicholas to stay in his room while she buried the treasure.



She came back into his room covered in dirt. He asked her where she hid the treasure and she said she was going to draw a map. Nicholas gave her a piece of paper and some coloring tools. She sat down and tried to draw the map. But there was a huge problem; she forgot where she hid the treasure! She tried and tried and tried to remember where she put it. No matter how hard she thought she just could not recall.

Nicholas had an idea. He thought that since he knew his backyard so well they could just look for it without a map. Charlotte thought this was a good idea so off they went. They searched high and low. In the flowerpots, next to the tree, even under the bird feeder, but they could not find the treasure. They searched and searched and searched until they found this pathway between all the trees and bushes surrounding the yard. Nicholas had never noticed the pathway before. Charlotte wanted to find out where it led but Nicholas was a little scared. Charlotte, brave as a pirate decided to go in anyways. There was nothing left for poor Nicholas to do but to put on his best pirate hat, his best pirate sword, his best pirate boots, and follow Charlotte.

They walked through the pathway for one minute, five minutes, one hundred minutes, until finally it seemed to end. They looked around them and saw that they had walked straight from Nicholas' backyard onto an Island. Not just any island but a very small one. Perfect for pirates to hide their treasure. Sure enough, it did not take them very long to find an X drawn into the sand. Quickly Charlotte starting digging and soon Nicholas was helping her. After not too much time they hit something hard. It was a treasure box.



Charlotte wanted to take it back with them but Nicholas said it did not belong to them. He also pointed out to Charlotte that they did not know how to get back. That did not seem to bother Charlotte very much, she was sure they would find a way. They sat down trying to decide what to do with the treasure for so long that they didn't notice the ship with a black flag with a skull on it sail up to the island.

"LOOK" screamed Charlotte pointing at the ship. It was very close by now. Neither of them wanted to meet the pirates that lived on that ship. They knew they would not be very happy if they found out the two children unburied their pirate treasure. No pirate would ever stand for someone else stealing his or her treasure. They had to think fast. Nicholas started running back to the trees where they came from. Charlotte grabbed the treasure box and followed Nicholas. Soon they found the same pathway and they ran for one minute, five minutes, one hundred minutes, until finally it seemed to end. They were back in Nicholas' backyard.



Charlotte was able to carry the treasure the whole way through the path. The two of them opened the box and found the gold necklaces Charlotte hid earlier. Nicholas realized that his backyard was really not as small as it seemed. He found out that there were many more adventures to have and many more pirate games to play. They put on the necklaces and went inside to get a snack. Nicholas couldn't help but glance back at the <sup>Pathway</sup> ~~tunnel~~ just to make sure there were no pirates who followed them. There were none.