

## The battle

‘Pirates!’

A sailor on the English ship *Charlotte* is shouting. ‘Pirates! They’re coming from the east!’

The pirate ship has a black flag with a white skull and crossbones – the pirate flag.

The pirate ship, the *Dark Shark*, comes towards the *Charlotte*. The captain of the pirates, Captain Blackheart, shouts, ‘You won’t escape from us. We’re going to get you!’

Now the *Dark Shark* is beside the *Charlotte*.

On the *Dark Shark*, Davy Johnson is watching. He’s Captain Blackheart’s cabin boy. But he doesn’t like being on the pirate ship.

*I’m not a pirate, Davy thinks. I hate Captain Blackheart and I hate watching the pirates attacking ships.*

‘Attack!’ Captain Blackheart shouts from the helm of the *Dark Shark*.

His men jump from the *Dark Shark* over to the *Charlotte*. The first pirate to jump onto the *Charlotte* is Scarface. He is Captain Blackheart’s first mate and he is a terrible person. Davy hates him.

The pirates tie the two ships together with thick ropes.

Davy watches the crew of the *Charlotte* fighting the pirates. It is a terrible battle. Davy hears men shouting and screaming.

‘Fight!’ shouts Captain Blackheart. ‘Get the captain!’

The captain of the *Charlotte* is not at the helm of his ship. He’s fighting in the battle. He’s fighting Scarface.



Scarface takes a knife out of his pocket. The English captain doesn't see the knife.

*Oh, no!* Davy thinks. He wants the crew of the *Charlotte* to win the battle. Davy wants to go with them. He wants to escape from the pirates.

Davy shouts, 'Look out! Scarface has a knife!'

Captain Blackheart hears this. He is angry and he shouts, 'Cabin boy! Come here!'

But Davy doesn't go to Captain Blackheart. He runs and hides in a small boat. He hides under some sails. He listens to the terrible fighting on the English ship.

The pirates win the battle. They cheer and shout.

'Captain Blackheart!' Scarface shouts from the deck of the *Charlotte*. 'What are we going to do with the captain and the crew of this ship? Kill them?'

'No,' shouts Captain Blackheart. 'Put them into their small boats. Give them some food and water. But tie their hands.'

Scarface says, 'But they can't eat or drink with their hands tied. They'll die.'

Captain Blackheart smiles and says, 'Arrr. But we're not going to kill them. We're not bad pirates.'

The pirates cheer and laugh.

*They are bad pirates,* thinks Davy.

'And put the cabin boy in a boat with them. I don't want him on the *Dark Shark*. He's not a pirate.'

Captain Blackheart's first mate shouts to the crew, 'Find the cabin boy. Bring him here.'

Davy stays under the sails in the small boat.

'Where is he?' one pirate says. 'He's not on the deck.'

'We'll find him,' a second pirate says.

But the pirate crew can't find Davy.

Scarface says to Captain Blackheart, 'The boy isn't on the *Dark Shark*, Captain. He's in the sea. He's dead.'

The captain smiles. 'Arrr. He's shark food now. It's time to find a new cabin boy. A boy who can fight! A boy who wants to be a pirate.'

Davy hears all this. He thinks, *What am I going to do?* After many hours he goes to sleep, hungry and scared.