



The Horribly Nice Pirate

“So, let me get this straight... you want to kill me?”

“Aye, we do Cap’n, we do!”

Captain England was staring down at a number of cutlasses and blades pointed rather uncomfortably towards his face. The sun was shining brightly and there was a southerly breeze rolling in from the sea but it wasn’t the best way to start the day. “And you are perfectly aware that I am in actual fact your captain?” he asked, politely.

“Aye, we do Cap’n, we are!” Most of the pirates on board The Cassandra had gathered onto the gently swaying deck to vent their disapproval towards their captain but it was John Taylor (Captain England’s first mate) who was doing all the talking.

“Right. Only, usually, it’s the captain that gives the orders not the crew,” Captain England explained.

“Aye, true, Cap’n, true,” his first mate agreed and a few other pirates nodded along with him. “Except this is a mutiny and all that kinda thing goes out the window.”

“Mutiny?... Mutiny?!” The captain clapped his hands as though he’d just worked out the punchline of a joke. “Ah, I see! Of course! It all makes sense now. Right, I’m with you! Silly me.” He peered round at all the sharp-looking cutlasses again. “OK,” he said, suddenly sounding more serious, “remind me again - why do you want me dead?”

“Because you’re too nice,” the first mate explained.

“Nice?”

“Nice, aye. An’, well, me an’ the boys had a chat, didn’t we, lads?” A few of the pirates made mumbling noises and nodded in general agreement. “An’ we just felt that bein’ pirates an’ all, well, we was gettin’ a bit worried about our reputation.”

“Reputation?” the captain scoffed.

The first mate seemed to take offence to this. “Now listen ‘ere, Cap’n. Me an’ the lads been pillagin’ an’ plunderin’ these seas since we was knee high to an octopus an’—”

“Ooh, a giant octopus?” Captain England interjected.

“...What?” the first mate said, looking slightly confused.

“Was it a giant octopus you were knee-high to? Because I can tell you, those beasts can get pretty darn big. I remember long ago when I was—”

“Nay!” the first mate yelled. “Nay, not a giant octopus, one of them little ones what we find hidden deep in the crevices of mysterious oceans.”

“Oh.” Captain England looked rather unimpressed. “They’re tiddly. You must have been very small yourself to—”

“Look!” the first mate screamed. His eyes were wide and his face was getting quite pink. “It don’t matter! Point is, ever since me an’ the boys were young, we’ve wanted to be known as blood-thirsty pirates, feared throughout the Seven Seas. Our reputation is at stake ‘ere. Arrrrr!”

“Well that’s just silly,” Captain England said.

“Silly? What’s silly?”

“The idea of the seven seas,” Captain England explained like he was the teacher and his first mate was the pupil. “It’s all really one large ocean joined together, you see. If you did want to count them individually there are 110 seas anyway, not seven. 113 if you include the land-locked ones – and don’t get me started on that ridiculous ‘arrrr’ sound you keep making.”

The first mate had turned even pinker now. His eyes were almost popping out of his head, while his teeth were clenched so tightly together he had started dribbling. “ARRRRRRR!” he shrieked. “Cap’n England! I hereby sentence ye to death by a thousand cuts an’ for your body to spend eternity at the bottom of Davey Jones’s locker. Any last requests?”

Captain England rolled his eyes. “Oh, come on, John,” he sighed. “We’ve been together for all this time. It’s been lovely. Think of all the fun we’ve had.”

“Aye!” his first mate yelped back. “That’s the problem! It has been lovely! Too lovely! It’s ‘orrible! Take yest’rday for example; we just defeated three East India Company ships off the coast of Madagascar in our biggest battle to date - losin’ 90 good men I may add – an’ instead of torturin’ and killin’ their cap’n like all the other good pirates do, you just let him go!”

“Well,” Captain England smiled, “Captain Macrae seemed a jolly decent fellow. Didn’t seem right to make him walk the plank.”

“Pirates don’t do that anyway!” the first mate spat, jumping up and down like he was having a tantrum.

“Oh, that’s right. It’s a myth that one, isn’t it? Well, it didn’t seem right to flog him to death or shoot him, or maroon him on an island or whatever it is we do do,” the captain said with a pleasant smile.



“Right!” the first mate squealed. “That’s it! THAT IS IT! I’ve had enough! Call yourself a pirate? Davey Jones’s locker is too good for you, matey! The next island we see you can grab your things an’ get off!”

“Wonderful!” Captain England laughed, clapping his hands. “I never liked the sea anyway. I’m glad we got there in the end, John.” He peered round at the rest of the crew who had lowered their blades but were still looking a bit confused. “Now,” he said, smiling as though he’d just won the lottery, “would any of you boys like a nice cup of tea?”

Q1: What two things could Captain England see pointing uncomfortably towards his face?

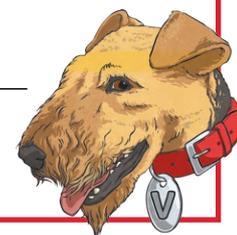
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Q2: What do you think a ‘cutlass’ is?
Give evidence from the text to support your answer.



Q3: ‘to vent their disapproval towards their captain...’
How else could the author have written this line?



Q4: ‘...pillagin’ an’ plunderin’ these seas since we was knee high to an octopus.’
Why do you think the author writes in this way?



Q5: *'His eyes were wide and his face was getting quite pink.'*

Why do you think the first mate was like this?



Q6: Why do you think that Captain England kept trying to annoy the First Mate?



Q7: *'...smiling as though he'd just won the lottery...'*

Why did Captain England react in that way?

Q8: : Where did the battle against three East India Company ships take place?



Q9: Do you think that Captain England was actually thrown off at the next island?

Yes No

Explain your answer.



Q10: Describe how two different characters reacted to Captain Monroe being let go.



Q11: Why do you think that this text is called 'The Horribly Nice Pirate'?



Q12: Sum up the story of The Horribly Nice Pirate in thirty words or less.





The Horribly Nice Pirate **Answers**

Q1: What two things could Captain England see pointing uncomfortably towards his face?

Accept the following answers only:

- (a number of) cutlasses
- (a number of) blades

Q2: 'What do you think a 'cutlass' is? Give evidence from the text to support your answer.

Accept any answer which states that a cutlass is a sword / type of weapon, provided that evidence from the text is given to support the answer, e.g.

- I think a cutlass is a sword because in the text it says that they are 'sharp-looking' and a sword looks sharp.
- A cutlass could be a weapon because the crew were pointing them at Captain England and he was uncomfortable about it.

Q3: '*to vent their disapproval towards their captain...*' How else could the author have written this line?

Accept any answer which reasonably rewords the above phrase but keeps the sentiment, such as:

- to tell the Captain that they were unhappy
- to show how much they did not like the Captain
- to shout about how they did not like what the Captain had been doing

Q4: '*...pillagin' an' plunderin' these seas since we was knee high to an octopus.*' Why do you think the author writes in this way?

Accept answers which discuss that the stylistic choice of the author to attempt to replicate a pirate's speech, e.g.

- I think the author writes that way to try to replicate the way that a pirate would speak.
- They might have done it to include vocabulary that a pirate is likely to use.
- The author wanted to mimic a pirate's speech.

Q5: *'His eyes were wide and his face was getting quite pink.'* Why do you think the first mate was like this?

Accept answers which infer that the First Mate is becoming angry/frustrated with Captain England, e.g.

- **His face was getting pink because he was becoming angry and sometimes people's faces go red when they are angry.**
- **His eyes were wide and his face was pink because Captain England was making him frustrated.**

Q6: Why do you think that Captain England kept trying to annoy the First Mate?

Accept any answers which discuss the following themes:

- **He did it because he was in a tricky situation and it was amusing him.**
- **He chose to do it because he actually wanted to be thrown off the ship and this would wind the First Mate up enough to go through with it.**
- **Captain England he knew he would be thrown off the ship anyway so he thought that he would have some fun in the process.**
- **He wanted to make the First Mate look foolish in front of the rest of the crew.**

Q7: *'...smiling as though he'd just won the lottery...'* Why did Captain England react in that way?

Accept answers which discuss that Captain England had received the outcome that he had wanted all along, e.g.

- **Captain England was doing that because he had got the result that he really wanted**
- **He did it because he was being dropped off at an island instead of dumped in the sea and that is what Captain England was hoping for.**

Q8: Where did the battle against three East India Company ships take place?

Accept the answer 'off the coast of Madagascar' only.

Q9: Do you think that Captain England was actually thrown off at the next island? Explain your answer.

Accept either yes or no as an answer provided that a reasonable justification, such as the following, is provided.

Yes because...

- the crew really didn't like him.
- he actually wanted to go.
- he would not be able to fight back against a whole crew by himself.
- it was the outcome he wanted.

No because...

- the crew might have rethought the idea and realised that they could not run a ship without him.
- the rest of the crew did not speak up so they might not have been in support.

Q10: Describe how two different characters reacted to Captain Monroe being let go.

Accept answers which discuss that Captain England has happy to let Captain Monroe go because he thought that he was a 'jolly decent fellow', whilst the First Mate wanted Captain Monroe to have faced a punishment and was unhappy with Captain England's decision. Accept any other reasonable comparison between two characters mentioned in the text.

Q11: Why do you think that this text is called '*The Horribly Nice Pirate*'?

Accept any reasonable discussions which include the idea that Captain England was not a typical pirate because he was too nice, so the other pirates saw this as a horrible trait.

Q12: Sum up the story of *The Horribly Nice Pirate* in thirty words or less.

Accept any reasonable attempt to sum up the main points of the story within the word limit, such as, Captain England's crew decided to stage a mutiny. They did not like that he let an enemy captain go after a battle. They decided to leave him on an island.