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# The Pirates Next Door



## Synopsis

The Jolley-Rogers have traded in the high seas for suburban life. Meet the Jolley-Rogers – a pirate family who is moving to Dull-on-Sea, a quiet seaside town, while they fix up their ship. This unusual family soon has the whole neighborhood gossiping. Defying the grown-ups, Matilda becomes friends with young pirate Jim Lad. When the Jolley-Rogers return to sea, the town realizes that they were wrong to assume the worst when it is discovered that the pirates have buried treasure in everyone's yard. The neighbors are thrilled, but Matilda is sad to have lost her new friend, until she discovers her own treasure – a pen pal!

## Book Information

Hardcover: 44 pages

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Product Dimensions: 11.8 x 0.4 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars – See all reviews (44 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## Customer Reviews

This was the first of Jonny Duddle's pirate books that I read and is now one of my favorite pirate books to read my son. A family of Pirates, including a young boy, move into a small town temporarily and the boy befriends the little girl next door. She has no bias towards him and is excited about learning all of the unique and exotic things about him and his family. The rest of the neighbors are pretty awful and judgmental, all because the Jolley-Rogers are different. The Pirates leave behind gifts for everyone, in hopes that they will think more highly of their kind the next time they encounter them. I am someone who very thoroughly believes in the importance of being oneself and celebrating the things that make you who you are, especially if you are different or weird. So

this book struck a chord with me. I really enjoyed how it portrayed the characters, making it clear that Tilda, the girl, was the one with an appropriate attitude and that the other neighbors were shallow and jumping to poor conclusions, but in a way that is still enjoyable to read. I think it's a great "teaching" book. The art is just fantastic and springs from the page. The colors and details are wonderful. There is also a foldout section towards the end that adds a nice touch to the enjoyment of the story. This is written in rhyme and the flow and rhythm is so much fun to read aloud. There is a lot of great "pirate speak" and the voices of all of the characters are a joy to ham up to kids. This and The Pirate Cruncher are new favorites that I know will be getting a lot of attention at bedtime.

It's not at all hard to understand why kids and adults are so keen on Jonny Duddle's two pirate picture books. I would second all of the glowing reviews about the appealing artwork, cheerful vibe, and subtle positive messages in those books. But, be alert to the next step. Duddle has moved from picture books to heavily illustrated chapter books featuring the Matilda and Jim characters that little readers love from this picture book. So, once you've read this book a zillion times you can move your growing-up reader to "The Jolley-Rogers and the Ghostly Galleon" chapter book and follow even more pirate adventure. That's a great idea and a nice way to have a series grow up along with its fans.

Great story and pictures, our 3-year old son loves this book! Johnny Duddle's stories have great artwork and incredible detail that make it interesting for adults as well (especially after reading it for the 8,000th time...)

ok as parent and reader, I love this book. the wording gets a bit sticky at points but the surprise ending is absolutely precious. my son, however, is not interested and I cannot figure it out because he's in a pirate phase. He loves 'How I became a pirate'.. and it's almost as long. and this one has a much better lesson than running off from your parents, just saying.

I should have believed the reviews I read on this but I really wanted a pirate book, and the illustrations were great, so I bought it anyway. What a mistake! The neighbors stereotype the pirates and don't want anything to do with them. Their attitudes remind one of something out of the 1950s. Of course, everything changes when the pirates leaves each of them gold. The story was so appalling that I actually made up a story to go with the pictures, rather than reading the text to my granddaughters. I didn't even want to donate the book because I don't think it's appropriate for any

children. With so many wonderful picture books to choose from, do yourself a favor and pass on this one.

This is a delightful book with pictures that have tons to look at and make my five year old and I laugh. For older children there is the possibility to talk about deciding who or what people are like based on what they look like but for now we just read the story. I don't mind repeated readings which is a plus.

My 2yo daughter wants to be read this book every night! I love the rhyming (some reviews thought it was awkward, but if you get into it and find the rhythm it's very good and fun to read aloud). The pictures are so much fun and have "Easter eggs" throughout which enhance the story. It's a good length - takes about 8-10 minutes to read - for a young kid. NOTE: I read a few of the bad reviews that discuss the moral lesson of the book. I look at it from the other side. A little girl in need of an adventure finds a pirate friend and the two "outsiders" form a bond. And the Pirates understand that townsfolk can be meanspirited but the family is generous and thoughtful anyway. Not every kids book needs to show ideal human behavior, people are flawed.

**SUMMARY:** Matilda lives in Dull-on-Sea. She lives in a nice neighborhood, but no one lives next door. Matilda really hopes for a girl her age to move in. Instead, a shipload of pirates move in while repairs are being done on their ship. The pirate family has some quirky characters including a young boy, his sister, Nugget, and his grandfather who won't leave the ship. The neighborhood is not pleased about these new, unusual, noisy, and messy neighbors and band together to find a way to get them to leave. But when they do leave in their own time, the pirates leave hidden treasures for all of the neighbors to find. The neighbors decide they didn't mind the pirates so much after all. **ILLUSTRATIONS:** The illustrations were created digitally. They are quirky, fun, colorful, and enjoyable to look at. **THE GOOD:** The story was full of humor including the big pirate dad getting his nails done. The characters are interesting. **THE NOT AS GOOD:** The rhyming of the story was very awkward and rarely worked. I would have liked the story better if the author did not try to rhyme and merely told the story. The action would have carried the words along. I also did not enjoy the fact that a majority of the story is about the neighbors disliking the pirates until they are bribed in the end. This made the story feel very negative. Since the story began with Matilda, I would have liked the story to center more on her. I also could have done without the bottle of booze grandpa holds (which says grog on it). This is a little children's book! **AGE RECOMMENDATION:** Advertized for

ages 3-7, but more appropriate for ages 4-8

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