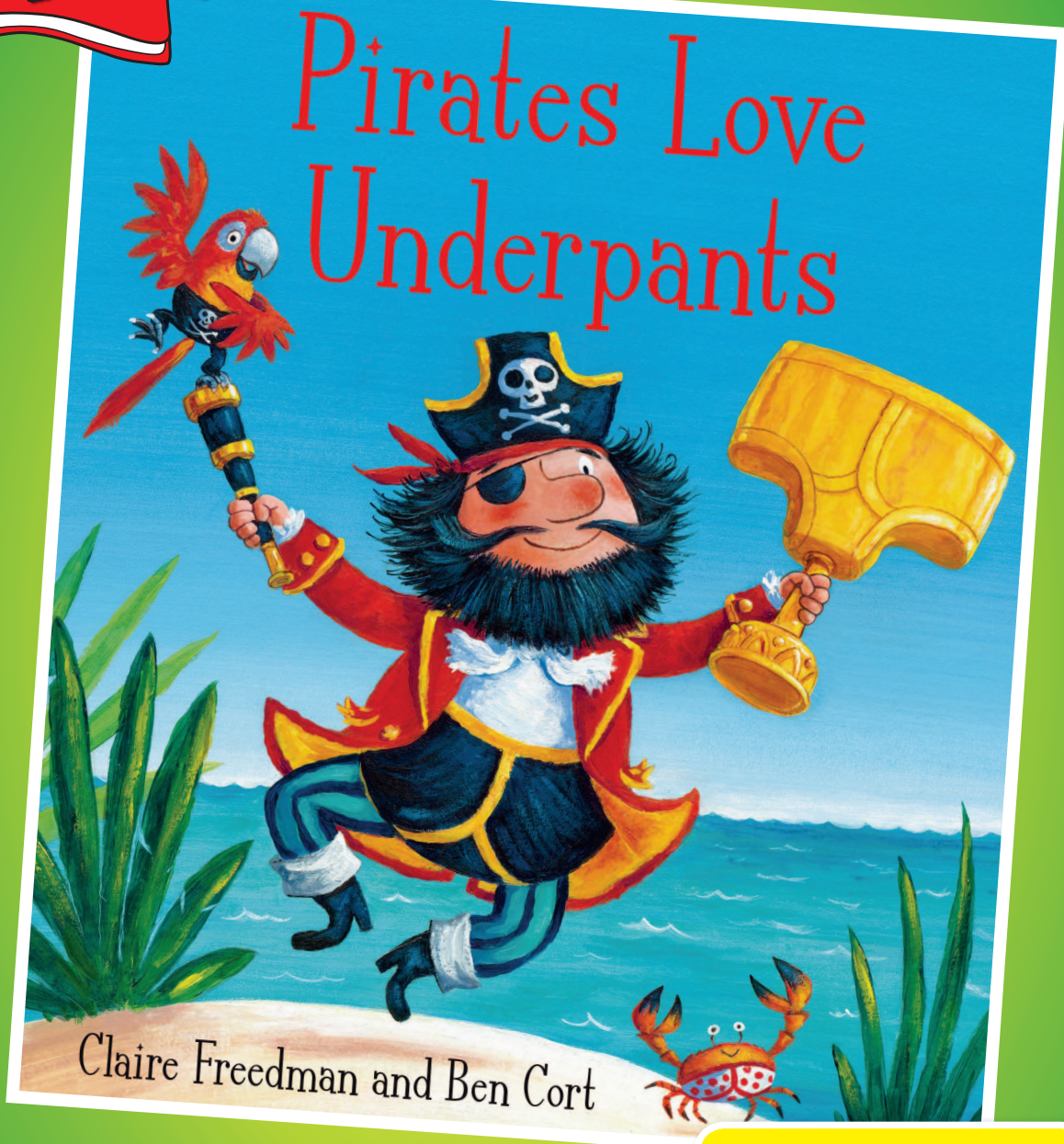
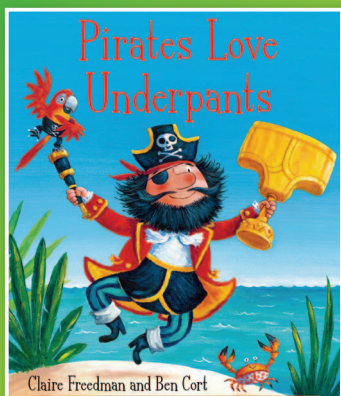


**Book
Talk**



AGES 2+

Engage and inspire your pupils with a Book Talk!



Claire Freedman and Ben Cort

Look out for this book
at your Book Fair!

AGES 2+

Price	£5.99 / €7.40
Case	Welcome to Reading
Author	Claire Freedman
Illustrator	Ben Cort
Publisher	Simon and Schuster

Using this book in your classroom

Themes

The themes in this funny rhyming story include **adventures**, **problem-solving** and **quests**.

Summary

The piratical crew of the Black Bloomer certainly love underpants – and they also love treasure, so they are keen to set off on a quest to find the fabled Pants of Gold! Their mission leads them through dangers such as shark-infested seas, rivers teeming with crocodiles and secret underground caves. But when they finally reach the treasure, they find that another pirate crew have beaten them to it and snatched the golden underpants already! Fortunately, they have a cunning plan to get their hands on the treasure ... and, unsurprisingly, it involves underpants!

Did you know?

- This is Claire Freedman and Ben Cort's sixth book together. Their first collaboration, the prize-winning *Aliens Love Underpants*, has now sold over 1.5 million copies!
- Ben Cort has illustrated over 50 books for children as well as the Underpants series. He is also a keen photographer and is interested in tattoo art.



The Story Session

1. Introducing the book

- Show the front cover to the children. What kind of book do they think this will be, funny or serious? What makes them think that?
- How many pairs of underpants can the children spot on the front cover? (As well as the golden underpants, the pirate captain is also wearing his pants over his trousers, and the crab is wearing pants too!)
- Read the first page of the story, and pause to share the children's predictions. What do they think will happen on the pirates' quest to find the Pants of Gold? Do they think the quest will be successful?

2. Reading the story

- Read the rest of the story aloud to the children, emphasising the rhyme and rhythm with lots of expression.
- Pause when the pirates spot the footprints on the beach. Ask whether they think the pirates are going to find some other people on the island, and who they might be. Share predictions about what might happen next.
- Pause again when the captain introduces his cunning plan. Can the children guess what will happen when the Black Bloomer pirates cut through the other pirates' pants elastic?
- At the end of the story, ask the children whether they think it was fair that the Black Bloomer pirates took the Pants of Gold from the other pirates. What would they have done in their place? Do they think the other pirates will want to get their own back? Talk about what might happen next, after the end of the story.

3. Follow-up

- In small groups or as a class, work on a follow-up to this story, continuing from after the Black Bloomer pirates sail away with the Pants of Gold. Will the other pirates come after them? Or will they make it back home safely? You could write the follow-up as a collaborative story, or act it out.
- Working in pairs or small groups, the children could design and make a model of their own fantastic treasure. You could organise a class display, with a treasure chest containing all the children's treasure models.
- The *Aliens Love Underpants* website (www.aliensloveunderpants.com) contains information about Claire and Ben and their books, as well as some fun downloads and story-linked games to play.

YOU TELL US

- Did you use these notes to have a Book Talk in class? • Were the notes helpful?
- Are there any changes you'd like to see to make them more useful?

We'd like to hear your comments! Please email us at:
bookfairs@scholastic.co.uk or bookfairs@scholastic.ie