

# We Both Read®

## Parent's Introduction

Whether your child is a beginning reader, a reluctant reader, or an eager reader, this book offers a fun and easy way to encourage and help your child in reading.

Developed with reading education specialists, **We Both Read** books invite you and your child to take turns reading aloud. You read the left-hand pages of the book, and your child reads the right-hand pages—which have easier text written at a specific reading level. The result is a wonderful new reading experience and faster reading development!

You may find it helpful to read the entire book aloud yourself the first time, then invite your child to participate the second time. As you read, try to make the story come alive by reading with expression. This will help to model good fluency.

In some books, a few challenging words are introduced in the parent's text with **bold** lettering. Pointing out and discussing these words can help to build your child's reading vocabulary. If your child is a beginning reader, it may be helpful to run a finger under the text as each of you reads. To help show whose turn it is, a blue dot ● comes before text for you to read, and a red star ★ comes before text for your child to read.

If your child struggles with a word, you can encourage "sounding it out," but keep in mind that this will not help with all words because some words don't follow phonetic patterns.



You can help with breaking down the sounds of the letters or syllables, but if your child becomes too frustrated, it is usually best to simply say the word.

While reading together, try to help your child understand what is being read. It can help to stop every few pages to ask questions about the text and check if there are any words your child doesn't understand. After you finish the book, ask a few more questions or discuss what you've read together. Rereading this book multiple times may also help your child to read with more ease and understanding.

Most importantly, remember to praise your child's efforts and keep the reading fun. Keep the tips above in mind, but don't worry about doing everything right. Simply sharing the enjoyment of reading together will increase your child's reading skills and help to start your child on a lifetime of reading enjoyment!

# **Ben and Becky and the Buried Treasure**

A We Both Read® Book

Level 2

Guided Reading Level (for right-hand pages): L

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We Both Read® Books

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We Both Read®

# Ben and Becky *and the* Buried Treasure



By Sindy McKay  
with illustrations by Meredith Johnson

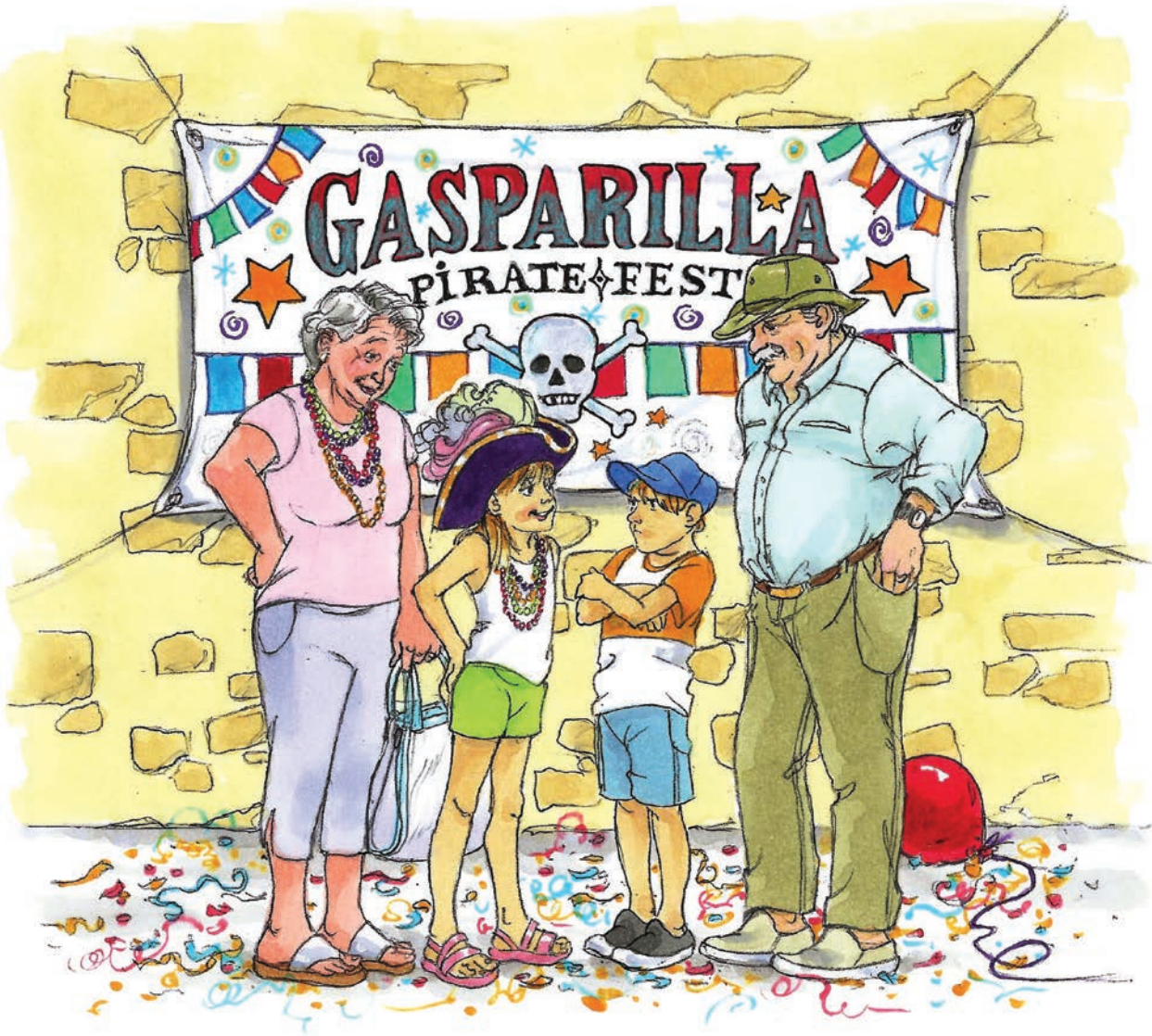
TREASURE BAY



- "Arr! Thar she be!" I pointed to a skull and crossbones flag waving above some pirates marching down the street. "The Jolly Roger! This is awesome! I'm so glad you moved here, Grandpa."

He smiled and said the Gasparilla (*gas-puh-RIL-uh*) Pirate Festival was just one of the great things about Florida.

"I've also heard there's buried treasure here in Florida," I said. "Is that really true?"



"Well," he said, "a lot of folks say it's true." Just then, my grandma and my sister Becky joined us. They were both draped with beads. Becky was wearing a pirate hat. "Look at the cool hat Grandma got for me, Ben!"

"Girls can't be pirates," I scowled.



Rachel Wall



Grace O'Malley



Ching Shih



“Yes, they can,” Becky insisted. “Rachel Wall was a famous pirate! Grace O’Malley was a pirate captain! And Ching Shih (*shee*) was a pirate queen who led three hundred ships in the China Sea. She had over *twenty thousand* pirates under her command!”

I covered my ears. “Okay, okay, so maybe there were lady pirates! But do any of them have a whole festival named after them like **Gasparilla**?”



★ Before Becky could answer, some coins were tossed from a passing float. Becky and I scrambled to pick them up. The words *Ye Merry Crew of Gasparilla* were on the front of the coins.

"Wow! Real gold and silver coins!"

"No," said Becky. "They are pretend coins. Just like Gasparilla is a pretend pirate."



● “Gasparilla is not pretend,” I insisted. “Tell her, Grandpa!”

Grandpa had to admit that Becky was **probably** right. He told us that most historians think Gasparilla is just a legend. “On the other hand,” Grandpa added, “some **treasure** hunters believe he was real and that he buried his treasure here in Florida.”

Suddenly, I spotted a torn piece of paper on the ground.



★ “Look! A **treasure** map!” I said as I swooped up the paper. “Maybe we can find Gasparilla’s treasure!”  
Becky rolled her eyes. “It’s **probably** just part of a menu from some diner.”

This reminded Grandma that she was getting hungry. Grandpa said he knew just the place to eat!



- Calico (*KAL-ih-ko*) Jack's was a pirate-themed restaurant named for John Rackham (*RAK-um*), the first pirate to raise the skull and crossbones flag. It was amazing!

Becky smirked as she pointed out that the menu looked exactly like the torn treasure map I had found. I, however, was not discouraged. I asked Grandpa if we could go hunting for buried treasure tomorrow.

## Sample of Cover and Selected Pages

**The following sample material is for preview purposes only.  
(Scroll down to see additional pages.)**

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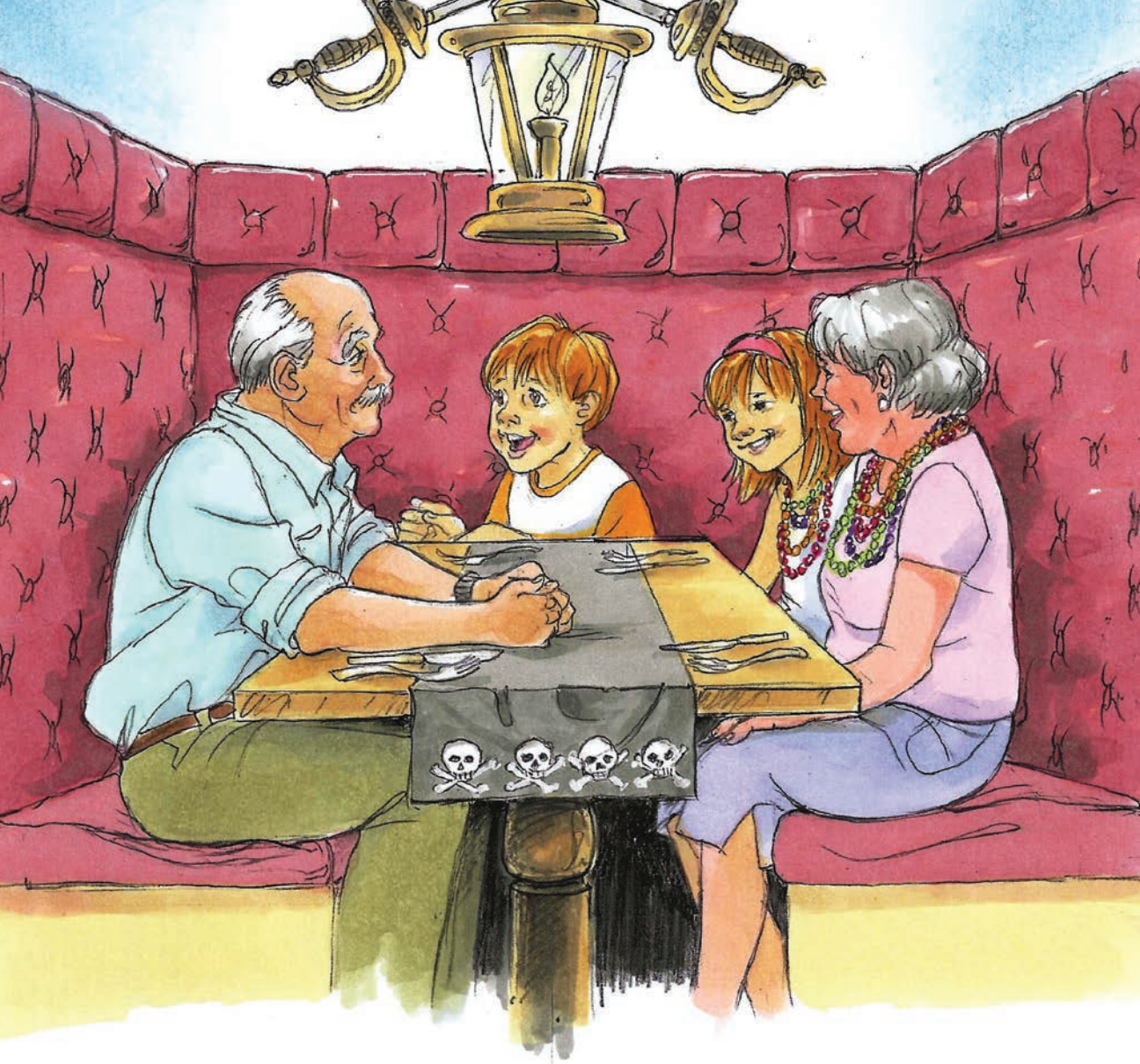
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★ I told him there was probably so much buried treasure here that we would not even need a map! Grandma reminded us that Grandpa was taking Becky and me on a trip to the Everglades tomorrow. So, I **asked** if we could go treasure hunting the day after. Grandpa smiled and nodded. "Sounds like a plan."