

# Gold Rush Adventures

written and illustrated by Aaron Pole



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There was a nine year old boy named Aaron who lived with his mom and dad and two little sisters. They lived in the San Francisco Bay area in 1850 during the Gold Rush in California.

Aaron was walking to school early one morning when he spotted a ship in the Bay with a Cross Bones Skull flag on its mast.



Cannon balls hit the school! Luckily, no one was in it yet.

Aaron's dad, Pappy, ran and grabbed him up and carried him into their adobe house. The little sisters were

hiding under their covers. His mom was packing things to go to the mission, which was 3 miles down the road. She was packing clothes, food, blankets and her jewelry box.

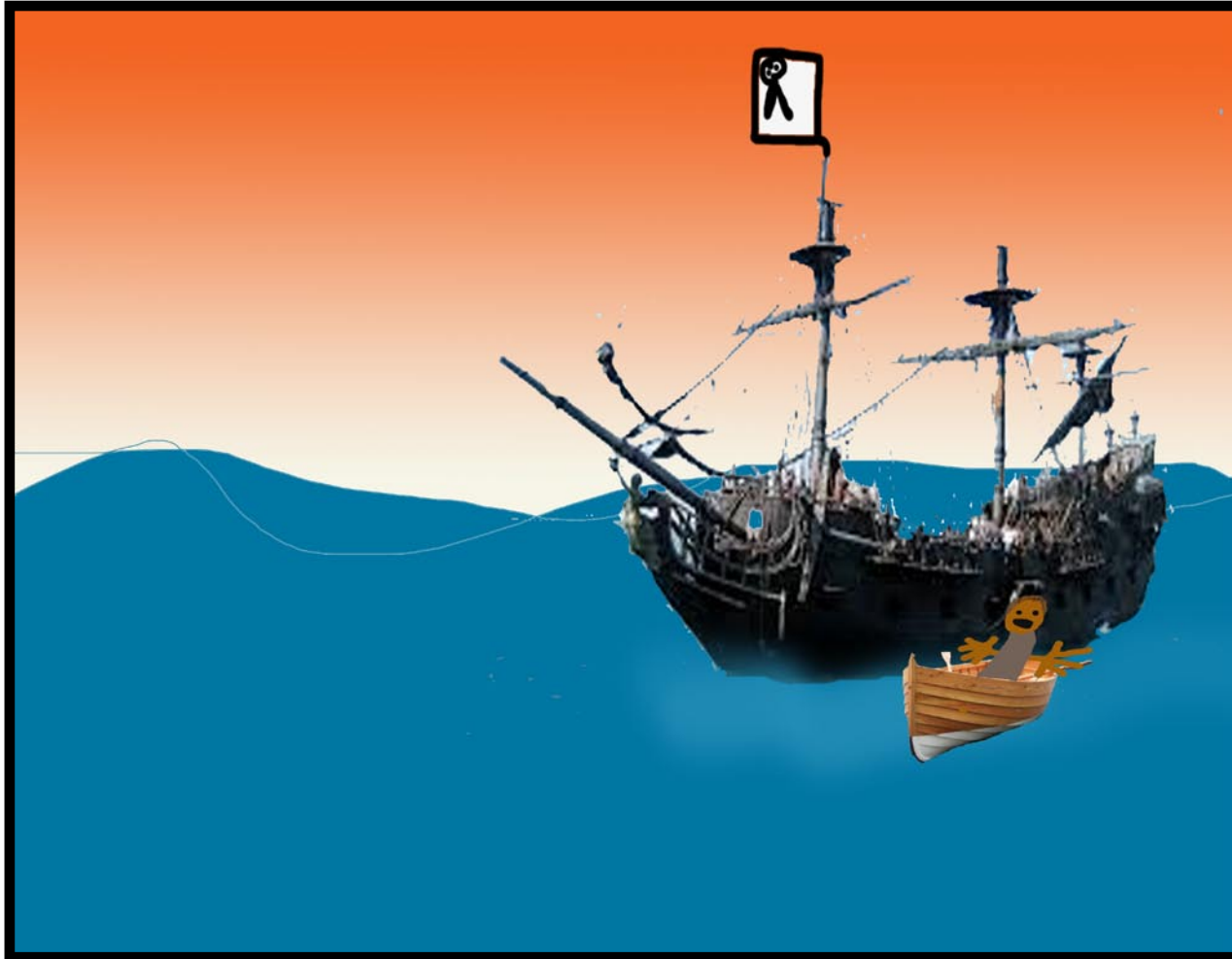
She dropped the box in the confusion as they were leaving the house.

The family was running out of the house when they saw the pirates come ashore. Aaron saw the pirates pick up the jewelry box.

There were a lot of families gathered at the mission. They were scared, upset and confused. What were they going to do? They made a plan to fight the pirates. Aaron thought it was a bad idea.

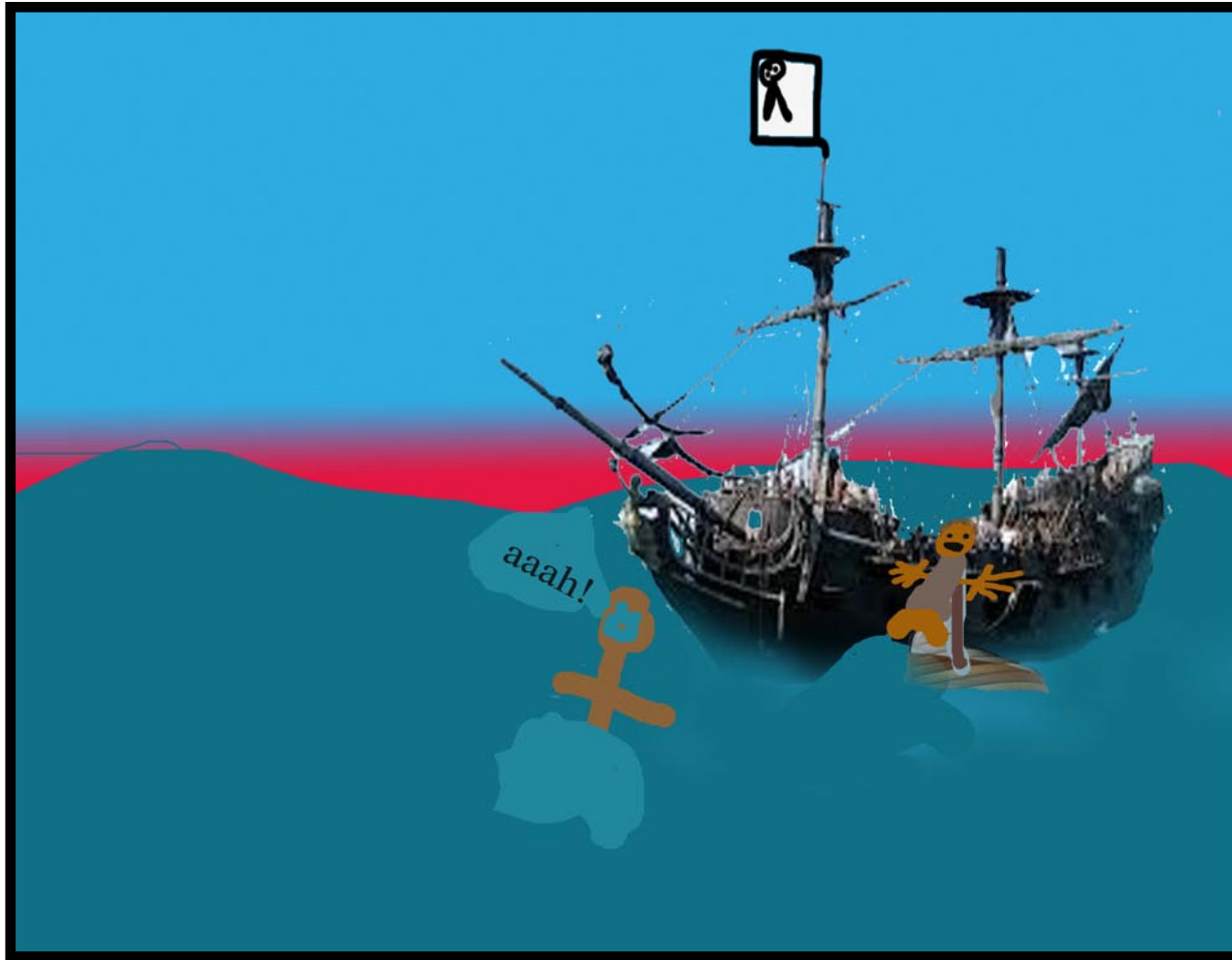
Aaron decided to go with them to make sure they were okay, but he was very scared. The men snuck through the woods and spied out from the trees. They saw the pirates raiding everyone's houses. Then Aaron looked toward his house and saw some of the pirates wearing his mother's dresses!

They stayed in the trees, while the pirates were done raiding and looting the houses.

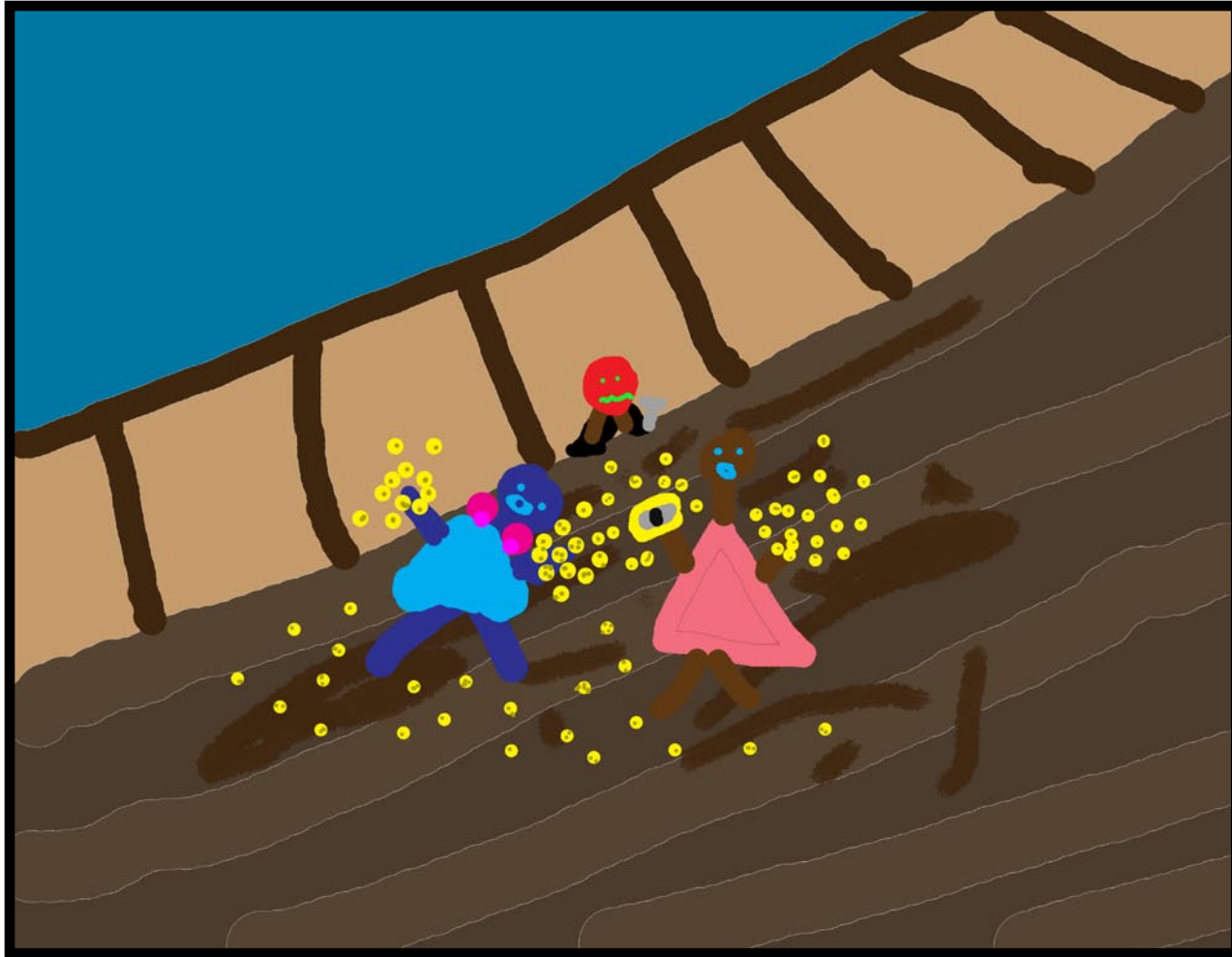


Later,  
Aaron and  
two of his  
friends, took

a dinghy to the pirate ship. They planned to cut the anchor so the boat would drift out to sea. When they got there, the rope was as thick as their arms. Every time they tried to cut the rope, the knife would slip because the rope was wet.



Then, a big wave came and knocked the dinghy over, and Aaron's friends were in the sea and swimming for shore. Aaron jumped on the rope and started to climb up to the ship.



When he got to the top he saw the pirates who were wearing his mother's dresses. He snuck on board and hid behind the cannon balls. The pirates were throwing the money and gold they stole into the air. They threw Aaron's mother's jewelry box too, so he caught and ran to the lower deck to hide better.



On the lower deck, Aaron looked for a hiding place. While he was looking, he found an axe. He

hid in a hay pile and when the pirates were asleep, he went up on deck and picked up some of the gold pieces and put them in the jewelry box too.

He lowered the pirate ship's life boat and punched a hole in the side of the ship with his axe. The pirates didn't wake up because they were drunk.





The pirate ship was slowly sinking as he made his way to the shore.

His mother was very proud of him and very happy. His sister's were very surprised he was brave enough to go on the pirate ship. Then he had more friends than ever. His dad was very, very proud of him, and so happy he came back alive.

The



End



### *About the Author*

Aaron Pole is a 9-year-old 3rd grader at Orleans Elementary. He loosely based his story on *The Stowaway* by Christian Gregory because he likes adventure.

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