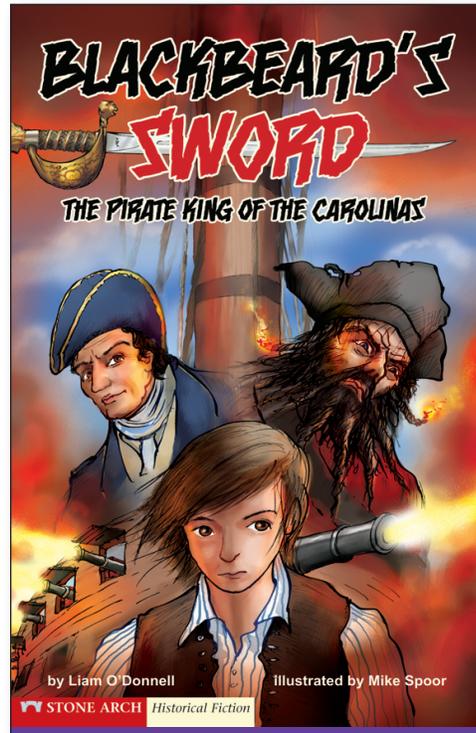




## READER'S THEATER



### **Blackbeard's Sword** **by Liam O'Donnell**

**Characters:**      **Narrator**  
                         **Mr. Webster**  
                         **Jacob**  
                         **Cameron**  
                         **Blackbeard**  
                         **Amanda**

**Genre:**            **Historical Fiction**

**Ages:**             **8-11**

## Blackbeard's Sword page 1

**Narrator:** It was a cold November afternoon in 1718. Lieutenant Maynard, captain of the ship *Jane*, was hunting for the feared and famous pirate known as Blackbeard. Floating in a small rowboat, Jacob Webster and his father were helping the Lieutenant capture Blackbeard's ship, *The Adventure*, which was anchored in an inlet nearby.

**Mr. Webster:** Check the water's depth twice, Jacob. We're risking our necks out here. There is no room for mistakes.

**Jacob:** Yes, Father.

**Narrator:** The Websters were helping guide the *Jane* through shallow waters. They carefully checked for sandbars in order to steer the ship through the inlet.

**Mr. Webster:** What's our depth, son?

**Jacob:** Twenty feet. Plenty of room, Pa.

**Narrator:** Jacob lied to his father about the depth of the waters. The water there was very shallow. Jacob was secretly hoping that the *Jane* would get stuck because he wanted to save the life of his hero, Blackbeard the Pirate.

**Cameron:** We've run aground!

**Mr. Webster:** Jacob!

**Narrator:** Mr. Webster realized his son had betrayed them. The *Jane* was trapped on a sandbar until the tide came in. Blackbeard would be able to escape.

**Jacob:** That's strange. Why isn't Blackbeard running?

**Mr. Webster:** It seems his ship may be stuck, too.

## Blackbeard's Sword page 2

**Narrator:**

The hull of Blackbeard's ship was buried in the sandbanks only a few hundred yards from the tiny pilot boat navigated by Mr. Webster. Blackbeard was stuck, but he wasn't giving up the fight. The gunports on the side of *The Adventure* opened and black cannons were aimed at the bobbing boat.

**Jacob:**

I just saved Blackbeard and now he is going to kill me!

**Mr. Webster:**

Get down. He's going to fire!

**Narrator:**

Jacob believed Blackbeard was a good man. It was this belief that placed him in the dangerous situation he was now facing.

A few weeks before these events, Jacob saw a side of Blackbeard that others disagreed with. When Blackbeard held the city of Charleston hostage, Jacob felt it was for a good purpose.

**Jacob:**

Dad, when Blackbeard demanded ransom he didn't ask for gold, or fine silver, or a chest full of gems. He wanted a doctor for his crew members who were sick. Blackbeard isn't always cruel and bloodthirsty. He is concerned about his men.

**Blackbeard:**

Send out your best doctor, you yellow-bellied cowards, or I'll blast your pretty houses into the sea!

**Jacob:**

He's a good man. He takes care of his men.

**Mr. Webster:**

He is a selfish scoundrel. If those pirates didn't spend their days drinking and cutting up one another with swords, they wouldn't need a doctor.

**Narrator:**

Earlier, when Blackbeard landed in Jacob's hometown, Jacob shared his admiration of the pirate king with his friend Amanda.

**Jacob:**

See, Amanda. I told you Blackbeard was here. Isn't he the greatest?

**Amanda:**

If you like bullies and madmen. I thought you said he was as tall as a tree.

## Blackbeard's Sword page 3

**Jacob:** Well, he is tall, right? Shh...Let's follow them and see where they go.

**Amanda:** I don't know why you think pirates are so great, Jacob Webster.

**Jacob:** Pirates are free to go where they want and do what they please. They don't stay in just one town. They sail around the world in search of treasure.

**Amanda:** My father says there is a group of pirate hunters in town. They are going to capture Blackbeard. They were talking to your father this morning. He is going to lead them to Blackbeard's ship.

**Jacob:** He never said anything to me.

**Amanda:** Why would he? You would probably try to warn Blackbeard!

**Narrator:** Amanda's words gave Jacob an idea. Hiding under the sails of his father's pilot boat, Jacob planned to warn Blackbeard and save his life. The boat was already well on its way when his father discovered Jacob the stowaway.

**Mr. Webster:** This is no trip for a boy. But I suppose it will do you good to see the end of that vile pirate.

**Narrator:** Will Jacob's actions help Blackbeard escape capture? Can he survive the blasts of *The Adventure's* powerful cannons? What will young Jacob do when he stands face to face with Blackbeard? Read *Blackbeard's Sword: The Pirate King of the Carolinas* to learn Jacob's fate.