The Flying Ship

By Jacek Zuzanski and Laura Opie

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Danielle – owner of the Escapade, a homemade toy ship

In the first story:

Mel
Erin
Max
Paj

In the second story:

Chris/ Castor (pirate)
Jess (Chris’ best friend)/ Greeg/ Bandaged Danny in battle
Mira (Chris’ sister)/ Tonka (pirate)

Captain Bobo – Captain of the pirate ship

The Flying Ship

SCENE 1
A PLAYGROUND BATTLE OVER TELLING THE FIRST STORY

(At the playground, Danielle enters with a toy boat, puts in on the ground and makes gesture above and around the boat holding a feather. After a few words Mel, Erin, Paj, and Max enter upstage. They see Danny playing with the boat, silence each other, gather behind her, and approach slowly on tiptoe.)

Danny

I looked toward the horizon. The last traces of land disappeared. …and then, I remembered the magic feather. I pulled it from my pocket and waved it three times at the sail, chanting just like the Mad Wizard had taught me. The Escapade took off in the air, higher and higher soaring like an eagle! Escapade - my flying ship!

(Lifts the ship, makes a few steps one way and another, turns one way and another, and back. Sees others and freezes.)
MEL
Look what we’ve got here. “The Escapade,” huh? (Grabbing the boat.) If it flies, where are its wings, huh?

DANNY
Give it back. I’m the captain and it does what I want.

MEL
Yeah? (Tips the boat) Well, look it tipped so far that you fell out and I’m the Captain now. And my boat cuts through the surface of the sea and barely skims by huge rocks. Swoosh and swoosh and swoosh. (Runs around others, slips and falls down.)

ERIN
(Taking boat from Mel and demonstrating the tipping and whirlwind.) Ha, ha! I am the Captain now. And I navigate swiftly out of the rocky sea toward the open ocean straight toward a huge whirlpool. Hold on everybody. (Spins around and gets dizzy.)

MAX
Let me get it right. It’s in a hurricane, and the boat gets tossed up and down and back and forth, up and down and back and forth like this.

PAJ
(Grabbing the boat. Whacking it against his/her hand.) Watch out! Now, it hits a bunch of big, choppy waves and goes bouncing across the water like this. BAM! BAM! BAM!

ERIN
Give it here. It’s going back in the whirlpool… swirling and whirling, swirling and whirling!

MEL
(Grabbing it from Paj.) It should be more like a huge roller coaster, uuuuuuuuuup and downwwwwwn, uuuuuuuuuup and dowwwwwwnn, …

PAJ
(Grabbing it back.) Yeah, well then it hits more choppy water and smashes into it like when you go over a bump on your bike. BAM! BAM! BAM! BAM!

DANNY
It’s my boat.

PAJ & MEL
BAM! BAM! BAM!

DANNY
I get to tell what happens.
MEL, ERIN, MAX, PAJ
BAM! BAM! BAM! BAM! (They run off. Danny follows.)

DANNY
NOOOOOOO! It’s my ship! It flies smoothly through the air. I have a magic feather! This is my story! You’ll regret this!!

SCENE 2
IN THE FIRST STORY -- ON BOARD

Whoa! Ahhh! Nooooo!

Hold tight mates!

It’s the size of a tidal wave!

The wind will tear us into pieces!

Don’t let it wash you out!

The next is coming! It’s huge! Hold on!

Aaaaaaaa! Whoa! Ahhh! Nooo

We made it through! We made it through!

Watch out! There’s a whirlpool ahead!

Keep her steady in front of the wind.

No! No! Too late! It’s got us!

Aaaaaaaa! Whoa! Ahhh! Nooo
This storm cannot be real!  

ERIN  

Where is the Captain?  

MEL  

She was washed off!  

PAJ  

No she went inside!  

MEL  

I am slipping!  

MAX  

Grab my hand!  

MEL  

I can’t reach!  

ALL  

Whoa! Ahhh! Nooo. *(Washed out, fall and roll off the stage)*

**SCENE 3**  
**TELLING THE FIRDST STORY CONTINUED – THE CRASH**

PAJ  

BAM! BAM! BAM!  

MEL  

Uuuuuuuuup and dowwwwwwn …  

ERIN  

Swirling and whirling!  

MAX  

And back and forth.  

MEL  

And now watch. Did Danny say it can fly? I’m going to make it fly!

MAX  

Don’t do it! *(Mel throws the boat. It flies up then down and smashes on the ground. Max*
Goes to pick it up. It’s broken.) You didn’t have to do that.

Yeah, that was a little too much.

What’s the big deal. It looks homemade anyway. Anybody could make a boat like that in ten minutes. I could make a fleet in an hour.

I’m going to make a new ship.

Well, maybe I’ll hide this one…

You still wrecked it, whether you hide it or not.

I’m going home before Danny comes back, and I’m going to build her a new ship. (Exit.)

I am with you, Paj.

Me too. (Paj, Erin, and Max exit.)

Whatever, you guys are just a bunch of sissies. (Hides boat and exits.)

SCENE 4
FINDING THE ESCAPEADE

(Chris enters and hides where the broken boat is hidden while we hear Jess counting for hide and seek off stage.)

…41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50. Ready or not, here I come! (Chris stands up from hiding place with the broken boat.) What’s that?

I found it, right here. (Reading.) “The Escapade.” It’s a ship, but it’s broken.
JESS
Can I see it… (Chris hands the boat to Jess who examines it closely.) Look, the Captain’s inside. It’s a girl, and she’s dressed like a pirate!

CHRIS
Let me see.

JESS
It must be a pirate ship.

CHRIS
But there isn’t a pirate flag.

JESS
She’s all alone… I wonder what happened to the crew.

CHRIS
Do you think we can fix it?

JESS
Maybe… Mira could! For sure.

CHRIS
Yeah, your sister could fix it…and she could probably tell us why there isn’t a pirate flag, and what happened to the crew.

JESS
She’s really good at telling stories.

CHRIS
Come on! Let’s find her! (They exit.)