

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 it 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, uuuuuuuup and dowwwwwwn, uuuuuuuup and dowwwwwwn, ...

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! Noooooo! ALL

Hold tight mates! MAX

It's the size of a tidal wave! MEL

The wind will tear us into pieces! PAJ

Don't let it wash you out! ERIN

The next is coming! It's huge! Hold on! PAJ

Aaaaaaaa! Whoa! Ahhh! Nooo ALL

We made it through! We made it through! ERIN

Watch out! There's a whirlpool ahead! PAJ

Keep her steady in front of the wind. ERIN

No! No! Too late! It's got us! PAJ

Aaaaaaaa! Whoa! Ahhh! Nooo ALL

MAX
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
Uuuuuuuup and dowwwwwn ...

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.

ERIN

Yeah, that was a little too much.

MEL

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.

PAJ

I'm going to make a new ship.

MEL

Well, maybe I'll hide this one...

MAX

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

PAJ

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

ERIN,

I am with you, Paj.

MAX

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

MEL

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

SCENE 4 FINDING THE ESCAPADE

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

JESS

...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?

CHRIS

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.*)