

Alphabet Acrostic Story

A Bunny Caper

By Mrs. Baumgaertel

As the whaling ship *Marbles* sailed into Narraganset Bay, her crew prepared to greet their wives, grandmas and the babies they'd never met. Because they had been gone for nearly three years in search of ambergris and were returning home with no fewer than fifty barrels of the coveted whale oil, these sailors were in very good moods.

Captain Foyle was not in a good mood. During the long voyage, his favorite stuffed animal, Blue Bunny, had been his constant companion. Ever since the captain first set foot aboard a whaler when he was just thirteen years old, Blue Bunny had come with him. Frayed and worn, BB helped Foyle get to sleep at night. (Going to sleep on a sailing ship is actually rather easy, as the rocking of the waves lulls everyone to dreamland, so it was surprising that the captain still needed his bunny. He was also a grown man.)

Instead of laughing at their captain behind his back, the crew affectionately kept an eye out for Blue Bunny. Just the week prior, BB had somehow gotten himself misplaced and the cook located him beneath a barrel of salt pork. Kindly and without teasing, cook returned BB to the captain's quarters. Later, however, BB disappeared again.

"My bunny is missing!" complained Foyle. "Never have I had so much trouble with this wayward rabbit before this voyage."

"Oh, here he is, sir," piped a deckhand named O'Malley, fetching BB from inside a dingy.

“Perhaps he’s just anxious to be on dry land.”

Quite certain of foul play this time, Captain Foyle became increasingly suspicious of the whole crew. Reaching up to ring the ship’s bell, he signaled them to assemble on deck for inspection.

“So,” bellowed the captain as he paced, hands behind his back and boots stomping authoritatively on the forecastle. “Today we dock in Narraganset bay. Unless you want to walk the plank in front of your wives, grandmas and the babies you’ve never met, one of you needs to confess to stealing my Blue Bunny.”

Very timidly, a young deckhand stepped forward. With a trembling hand, he pointed to the captain’s hat.

“Xeric is my name, cap’n sir,” said the boy, “and I found yer bunny.”

Young Xeric had indeed located the wayward rabbit, whose furry blue foot was just then sticking out from under the captain’s cap.

“Zowie,” exclaimed Captain Foyle with a gleam in his eye, “let’s get to shore before I lose my marbles next!”

You just read a story that was told in twenty-six sentences. Like our Very Short Story assignment, this one has setting, characters, a struggle, some details, a climax, and a resolution (of sorts). Unlike the Very Short Story, though, this one has to follow an alphabet acrostic pattern: Each sentence begins with the next letter of the alphabet, from A - Z. That’s all there is to it.

Exercise 27

Write your own Alphabet Acrostic story. Begin the first sentence with letter “A”, and proceed through the alphabet in order, ending with “Z”.