

Who's a Clever Girl, Then?

from *The Pirate Gang* by Rose Impey

- 1 Once upon a time, and not so very long ago, a little girl was walking to school. She was a sensible sort of girl, who could make her own packed lunch and do her mum's shopping without losing the change. She was also far too sensible to talk to strange men whom she met in the street, especially ones with peg-legs, scars on their faces, patches over their eyes and scruffy parrots on their shoulders. So when she saw four strange characters fitting this description, she quickly turned the other way and kept on walking.
- 9 But the pirates had seen *her*. She was just what they were looking for.
- 10 "You look a sensible little girl," growled the biggest pirate, who was called Jake. "We want a sensible little girl like you to join our gang, don't we, lads?"
- 13 "Yes, yes," agreed the rest of the gang, covering their mouths to hide their smiles.
- 15 "We're rough, tough pirates and we sail the sea in a mighty, fine pirate ship. We have rare adventures, don't we, lads?" boasted Jake.
- 17 "Oh yeah, yeah," said the rest of the gang. They didn't seem quite so sure about this.
- 19 "All we need is for you to join us, then we can go off on raids. Isn't that right, lads?" said Jake.
- 21 "Yes! Yes!" they agreed, more strongly this time, again covering their mouths to hide their smiles.
- 23 Now the little girl knew better than to listen to this kind of story from such wicked-looking villains. She knew they were up to no good. But the idea of having an adventure was far too tempting to miss. She didn't exactly stop, but she walked on more slowly.