Golden Words

Before Reading: As you come across words in bold in “The Search for Pirate Gold,” ask yourself if you know them or if you can figure them out from context. Then check their meanings here.

1. prowling: “He and his men had been prowling the waters of the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean.” (p. 5)
   Meaning: moving around quietly and secretly, like an animal looking for prey

2. fleet: “Bellamy had 145 men in his crew and a fleet of five stolen ships.” (p. 5)
   Meaning: a number of ships, planes, or cars that form a group

3. looted: “In just one year, Bellamy and his men had looted more than 50 ships.” (p. 5)
   Meaning: stole things from a place

4. plundered: “By April 1717, the Whydah was filled with plundered treasures, including 180 bags of gold and silver coins.” (p. 5)
   Meaning: stolen by force

5. booty: “There, they would divide up their booty and head their separate ways.” (p. 5)
   Meaning: stolen money or goods

6. wreckage: “Within days, the ship’s wreckage had slipped off the sandbar and settled at the bottom of the ocean.” (p. 6)
   Meaning: the broken parts or pieces of something that has been destroyed or badly damaged

7. artifacts: “If he found the Whydah, Barry would have to prove that he would safeguard the artifacts so others could learn from them.” (p. 6)
   Meaning: simple objects (such as tools or weapons) that were made by people in the past

8. salvage: “In the days following the storm, Southack had tried to salvage the treasure himself.” (p. 7)
   Meaning: to remove something from a place so that it will not be damaged, destroyed, or lost

9. ruthless: “There were certainly some cruel and ruthless pirates.” (p. 8)
   Meaning: having no pity or sympathy for others

10. hull: “In 1998, they discovered the ship’s wooden hull.” (p. 9)
    Meaning: the frame or body of a boat or ship

Continued on next page >
Golden Words, p. 2

After Reading: View the vocabulary slide show for the nonfiction article “The Search for Pirate Gold,” which will help you learn the meanings of the bolded words in the article. Then check your understanding by answering the questions below.

1. Which of the following animals would more likely be ruthless?
   a. a lion on the hunt
   b. a baby kitten playing with yarn

2. In what type of place would you expect to find artifacts?

_______________________________________________________________________________________

3. Give two examples of situations in which a person might prowl.

_______________________________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________________

4. What is the difference between salvaging items from a ship and plundering a ship?

_______________________________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________________

Write a mini story about a pirate who successfully gathered a massive treasure. What did the pirate do first, next, and last? Use at least three vocabulary words from the article in your answer. (Continue on a separate page if you need more room.)