

"Sky Pirates"

FADE IN:

INT. PLAYROOM - DAY

MAX is at the play table, working away at a coloring book when EMMY enters, struggling with a cardboard box. Max looks up.

MAX
What's in the box, Em?

EMMY
(straining)
Old toys.

She drops the box in the middle of the room with some relief. Max bursts out of his chair...

MAX
TOYS!! Lemme see!

Max tears into the box, pulls out an old-fashioned tin airplane. He spins the propeller. It goes around a few times, then stops. Max frowns.

MAX
Where're the *vroom-vroom* sounds?

He drops the plane, searches the box for more. Emmy takes out an old-fashioned doll, pulls the string.

DOLL
Ma-ma!

Emmy drops the doll, looks for more. Max withdraws an ordinary child's large, spinning tin top. He places it on the floor, shoves the handle down and the top spins, making a simple WHISTLING sound. Then it topples over.

MAX
This stuff's bor-ring.

Emmy takes out a jack-in-the-box, starts to crank it, playing "Pop Goes the Weasel".

EMMY
I wonder why Mom and Dad liked to play with them.

As the "Weasel" song ends, "Jack" pops out of the box. Max and Emmy exchange a look that says "Big deal!".

MAX

Ugh!

(then brightens)

Know who has great toys?

MAX & EMMY

THE DRAGONS!

Emmy moves to the window seat drawer, removes the dragon scale. Max grabs hold with her. As it starts to glow...

MAX & EMMY

*I wish I wish, with all my heart, to
fly with dragons, in a land apart.*

Max and Emmy react with excitement as the dragons on the wallpaper come to life and begin to fly in circles around the walls. Then they fly off the walls, circling Max and Emmy, faster and faster. As the floor vanishes beneath them the dragons cover the screen and...

DRAGON DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. DRAGON LAND - SCHOOL IN THE SKY - CLOSE ON FLAG - DAY

The flag at the top of the school tower waves in the breeze. WIDEN to reveal the school. Just as CASSIE, ORD, ZAK & WHEEZIE exit, Max and Emmy rush into shot. (Note: We can also see the school bell in this shot.)

EMMY

Hi, everyone!

CASSIE / ZAK / WHEEZIE

Max! / Emmy! / Hi!

ORD

Gimme tail, little buddy!

Ord turns around and holds his tail up before Max, who slap a hand down on it.

MAX

Let's play! Got any cool new toys?

WHEEZIE

(excited)

I just got a monster mega ball.

Wheezie reaches into her pouch, takes out a ball about the size of a golf ball.

MAX

Doesn't look very *monster* to me.

WHEEZIE

Just wait!

Wheezie takes out what looks like a little bicycle pump, attaches the end of the hose to the tiny ball, then places the pump on the ground. Then she grabs the pump handle and wildly jumps up and down as she pumps, rattling Zak.

ZAK

T-T-Take it eeeeeasy, Wheeeeezie!

The tiny ball inflates to 6 feet, even bigger than Ord. It's "squishy" like a big balloon.

MAX / EMMY

Wow! / That is a monster ball!

WHEEZIE

Let's DRAGON BOWL!!!

ORD

I wanna be a pin!

Ord stands up super straight.

MAX / EMMY / CASSIE

Me, too! / So do I! / Yeah!

Max, Emmy and Cassie move to Ord, stand up straight beside him like bowling pins. Wheezie rolls her ball at them. When it bounces into them they all purposely fall down like pins.

"PINS"

(happy giggling)

WHEEZIE

STRIKE!!

(snorkle laughing)

Zak reacts with alarm as the ball rolls o.s.

ZAK

Wheezie! Your ball!!

ORD

It's rolling away! C'mon!

As they all run after it, cut...

WIDE ON SCHOOL IN THE SKY

The kids and dragons chase the big ball as it rolls down a hill, away from the school.

KIDS & DRAGONS
Hurry! / Grab the ball, grab the
ball! / Don't let it get away!

ANOTHER ANGLE - MEADOW

The ball bounces across the meadow. Our guys follow.

ANGLE ON TREE HOUSE

The huge ball rolls into shot, bounces off the tree, o.s. SID SYCAMORE'S face appears on the trunk where the ball hit.

SID SYCAMORE
Huh?

Then the kids and dragons rush through shot after the ball.

KIDS & DRAGONS
(more giggles and laughs)
It's slowing down! / Get it!

Max is the only one who spots Sid; he waves as he runs past.

MAX
Hi, Sid!

Sid watches as the kids and dragons continue o.s.

MAX
Bye, Sid!

SID SYCAMORE
(shouts after them)
Wow! You look like you're having
a ball! Get it, ball? That's a
funny one.
(silly guffawing)

ANGLE ON FOREST

The big ball rolls into shot, jams between some trees and stops. A beat later the kids and dragons rush in, stop.

KIDS & DRAGONS
(out of breath)

Emmy looks up, o.s., reacts with surprise, points. The others look up as a shadow moves over them.

ORD

(scared)

Wh-What's that?

THEIR POV: UP ANGLE ABOVE TREES

A giant pirate ship is sailing just above the treetops. It has a large, sausage-shaped balloon tied over it.

CASSIE (O.S.)

(awe)

It's a flying pirate ship!

BACK TO KIDS AND DRAGONS

EMMY

I thought ships only sailed in oceans.

MAX

Or in my bathtub!
(giggles)

They all react in awe as the ship lowers into shot before them, touching the ground. Zak flinches as an anchor drops to the grass before them. THUD!

WHEEZIE

(excited)

C'mon, Zak, let's see who's sailing the ship!

ZAK

(nervous)

Uh-uh! No way!

Zak grabs the anchor chain, tries futilely to hold on as Wheezie flaps her wings and flies up. Ord takes Max and flies up with Wheezie. Cassie takes Emmy and follows.

ANGLE ON PIRATE SHIP DECK

The kids and dragons land on the deck, look around.

WHEEZIE

(sing-song)

Hell-ooooo-oooo? Anybody home?

ORD

(nervous run-on)

There's no one here, so we don't
need to stay, so let's go!

Suddenly CAPTAIN SCALIWAG steps out of the cabin door before the startled kids and dragons. He 80 years old and wears a pirate's coat, tall boots and plumed hat (with no skull & crossbones). He has a hook at the end of his right arm and a "brass" peg leg.

SCALIWAG

Ahoy there, mateys!

KIDS & DRAGONS

(panic)

A PIRATE!!!

Scaliwag looks around nervously.

SCALIWAG

A pirate?! Where? He's not
getting my treasure!

He holds up his feeble fists. Max points at Scaliwag.

MAX

(giggles)

You! You're the pirate!

SCALIWAG

Me?

(laughs)

I'm not a pirate. I'm Captain
Scaliwag.

ORD

(still nervous)

If you're n-not a pirate, how come
you have that h-h-hook?

Scaliwag looks at the hook at the end of his right arm.

SCALIWAG

Oh. That's for hangin' me hat.

He pulls his sleeve back revealing he's holding the hook in his hand. He sticks it onto the mast, hook facing out, then removes his hat and places it on the hook. Scaliwag takes his hat off the hook, puts it back on.

ZAK

And how come you have that peg leg?

SCALIWAG

(worried)

I have a peg leg?

He looks down at his brass peg leg, reacts with relief. Scaliwag lifts up his leg to reveal he was just kneeling on a brass telescope. His leg was just hidden. He picks up the telescope and extends it to full size.

SCALIWAG

Whew! I was wondering where I put my telescope.

FAVORING SCALIWAG AND MAX

Max points to a spider tattoo on Scaliwag's chest.

MAX

If you're not a pirate, how come you have a spider tattoo?

SCALIWAG

I don't have a tattoo.

Scaliwag looks at the spider on his chest. The spider looks up and smiles at him. Scaliwag freaks, wildly brushes it away.

SCALIWAG

AAAAAAHHH!! A SPIDER!! GET IT OFF! GET IT OFF!

Scaliwag reacts like a child, wildly brushes the spider off and it crawls away. The kids and dragons laugh at the sight.

KIDS AND DRAGONS

(laughing & giggling)

Scaliwag relaxes, sits down on a barrel, drops chin in hands.

SCALIWAG

(down)

I told you I'm no pirate. Why, I can't even find me own buried treasure.

MAX

You have a treasure!?

SCALIWAG

Aye. Buried it in Dragon Land many, many years ago when I was just a lad. I've looked and looked, but I can't remember where I put it.

EMMY

Can we help you find your treasure, Captain Scaliwag?

OTHERS

Uh-huh! / Can we? / Please?

SCALIWAG

Why, that would be wonderful.

WHEEZIE

Oh, I just love treasure hunts. They're so...YO-HO-HOEY!

Scaliwag stands up, looking hopeful again.

SCALIWAG

How would you like to be my crew?

KIDS & DRAGONS

Crew!! / Wow! / Cool! / You betcha!

Scaliwag moves to a "locker"...

SCALIWAG

You'll need some of these...

He opens the door, revealing some pirate trappings: coats, hats, boots, etc. He takes out some hats and passes them out to the kids and dragons who put them on. The hats are too big on Max and Emmy, and comically too small on the dragons.

FAVORING MAX

He rummages through the locker, facing away from camera.

MAX

Hey! Look what I found!

He turns around, wearing a black eye patch.

SCALIWAG

(chuckles)

You can be my first mate!

MAX

Aye, aye, Captain!

Max salutes. His hat falls over his eyes.

FULL SHOT - ALL

CASSIE

(to Scaliwag)

Where's your treasure map?

SCALIWAG

(sadly)

Argh! I'm afraid I don't have one.

Scaliwag holds up a leather notebook.

SCALIWAG

All I have are these three drawings I made when I was a boy. I think one of them might be a picture of the place I buried the treasure.

CLOSE ON LEATHER NOTEBOOK

Scaliwag opens it, revealing the first drawing. It's a field of dandelions. But it is so childishly drawn (like all his drawings) that it looks like silly round flowers with faces. We can't tell the scale because there's nothing next to them.

WHEEZIE (O.S.)

What're those?

ZAK (O.S.)

Eyew! They look like *itchy* flowers.

WIDER ANGLE - ALL

MAX

(giggles)

With funny faces!

SCALIWAG

I was hoping maybe one of you would recognize 'em.

CASSIE

There are lots of flowers in Dragon Land with faces on them.

SCALIWAG

But these were special. They
roared! GRRRRRROOOWWR!

The kids and dragons react curiously.

EMMY

Wait a minute! Haven't we seen
flowers that roar before?

The kids and dragons think a beat, then all answer at once.

KIDS & DRAGONS

(excited)

DANDELIONS!

WHEEZIE

You're treasure must be in the
Dandelion Forest!

SCALIWAG

Well, what are we waiting for?
Cast off!

FULL ON FLYING SHIP

They toss off the lines and the ship rises up, sailing over
the forest.

WIPE TO:

EXT. WIDER OVER DRAGON LAND - DAY

as the ship sails over the land. Max is in the crow's nest,
looking through the Captain's big, brass telescope.

CLOSER ON SHIP'S DECK

Scaliwag is at the wheel with Emmy, Ord, Cassie, Zak and
Wheezie dancing on the deck. Wheezie plays a concertina,
dancing like a sailor and playing the song "Sailing" (PD).

WHEEZIE

(singing)

*Sailing, sailing, over the
bounding main. We'll search for
treasure high and low, and then
we'll search again. Oh!*

(repeat if necessary)

CLOSER ON MAX IN CROW'S NEST

Max is still struggling to keep the big pirate hat off his eyes. He spots something through his telescope.

MAX

Dandy lions, dead ahead!

HIS POV: THROUGH TELESCOPE MATTE

ZOOM IN on the Dandelion Forest. Then cut to...

EXT. DANDELION FOREST - DAY

Scaliwag's ship lowers into shot and sails right through the Dandelion Forest. Scaliwag and the others move to the railing and look at the huge dandelions.

SCALIWAG

This is the place, mateys.

Suddenly several of the dandelion heads "open" to reveal their lion-like faces, with dandelion seed manes.

DANDELIONS

(roaring)

The roaring practically blows their hats off. The kids and dragons excitedly hold up shovels.

KIDS & DRAGONS

I got my shovel! / Where do we dig?
/ Is there an "X" by the spot?

SCALIWAG

(down)

I'm afraid not. I just remembered that when I was a lad I was too scared to enter the Dandelion Forest, so I didn't bury me treasure there.

CASSIE

Don't worry, Captain. Maybe the second drawing will show us where your treasure is buried.

The others gather round as Scaliwag opens his leather notebook.

CLOSE ON DRAWING OF DANDELIONS

Scaliwag turns the page, revealing another childish drawing of a seedling tree with a tiny face on it. The face has a silly,

puzzled expression and the tree is scratching its "eyebrow" with the end of its hand-like branch.

ORD (O.S.)

What's that?

SCALIWAG (O.S.)

It's just a tiny tree I met when I was no bigger than a barnacle.

WIDER ON SCALIWAG AND OTHERS

CASSIE

I've never seen a tree like that before.

ZAK & WHEEZIE

Me neither!

EMMY

Was there anything extra-special about it?

SCALIWAG

Aye! He could talk.

(laughing at memory)

Ho, ho! He was very funny. Told me a joke: "Why is a tree better than a watch dog? Because it's got more bark."

(guffawing)

Get it? Tree bark...dog bark.

Arf, arf, arf!

(more guffawing)

Oh, ho, ho, ho! I haven't heard that one in ages.

ZAK

We know a tree that tells jokes...

WHEEZIE

...but he's not little, he's a GREAT, BIG TREE!

CASSIE

Maybe he knows where your little tree is.

MAX

Let's go ask him!

SCALIWAG

Aye, mateys! Just point me in the
right direction and let's shove off.

And as Scaliwag moves back to the helm and spins the wheel,
the ship turns and rises out of the dandelion forest and sails
off into the sky...

WIPE TO:

EXT. MEADOW - ON TREE HOUSE - DAY

The ship sails through the sky into shot, lowering to the tree
house. PUSH IN as Ord tosses out the anchor which hooks in a
branch. Then Scaliwag lowers the gangplank to the top of the
tree house steps. He and his "crew" walk down the plank, then
down the tree house steps to the ground.

CLOSER ON SYCAMORE TREE

The kids and dragons lead Scaliwag into shot.

WHEEZIE

(sing-song)

Yoo-hoo! Siii-iiiiid!

Sid Sycamore's face appears on the trunk before them.

SID SYCAMORE

Hey there! Back for another joke?
Here's one. Why is a tree better
than a watch dog?

KIDS & DRAGONS

'CAUSE IT'S GOT MORE BARK!

Sid reacts with surprise.

SID SYCAMORE

How'd you know that?

MAX

The Captain told us.

SCALIWAG

And a little tree told me.

EMMY

Wait a minute! Look!

Emmy holds up Scaliwag's leather notebook. She and the others
look at the picture of the little seedling.

HER POV: CLOSE ON DRAWING OF SEEDLING

EMMY (O.S.)

This looks just like Sid when he
was really little.

BACK TO SCENE

Scaliwag gets a funny look on his face and stares closely at Sid, as if examining him with "old" eyes. Sid looks at Scaliwag with the same "puzzled expression" as in Scaliwag's drawing of him. He scratches his "eyebrow" with the hand-like end of his branch in the very same way.

SCALIWAG

Little Sidney?

Sid looks closer at Scaliwag, then his eyes pop wider with recognition.

SID SYCAMORE

Scaliwag??

SCALIWAG

It is you! Oh, Sidney, it's been
so long.

Sid and Scaliwag hug each other, then release.

SCALIWAG

You were such a funny little tree.
Remember the one about the apple?

SID SYCAMORE

You mean, How do you cut down an
apple tree?

SID & SCALIWAG

(in unison)

WITH APPLE SAWS!

(to kids & dragons)

GET IT? APPLESAUCE? APPLE SAWS?

(guffawing)

Scaliwag makes a "sawing" gesture with his hand. He slaps Sid on the back of the trunk, and Sid slaps him.

SID SYCAMORE

So, what brings you back to Dragon
Land, Captain?

SCALIWAG

I'm lookin' for me buried treasure.

Scaliwag reaches into his coat, takes out a shovel.

SCALIWAG

(excited)

It's around here somewhere.

Scaliwag starts digging.

SID SYCAMORE

Careful of my roots!

(sad to say it)

Wait a minute! There's no buried treasure here.

SCALIWAG

(stops digging)

How do you know?

SID SYCAMORE

'Cause if there was I'd feel it.

Suddenly a few little "root ends" pop up out of the ground and wiggle.

SCALIWAG

(remembering)

That's right. I was laughing so hard at your jokes I couldn't dig. So I buried me treasure somewhere else.

Scaliwag suddenly looks sad, his shoulders slump.

SCALIWAG

Argh! I'll never find it.

CASSIE

Don't be sad, Captain Scaliwag.

EMMY

Yeah! There's still one more drawing.

Emmy turns the page and reveals the last drawing in Scaliwag's notebook. Everyone, including Sid, looks over at...

THEIR POV: CHILD'S DRAWING OF CASTLE

It looks like an ordinary child's view of a castle, with drawbridge, turrets and a prominent flag and bell tower.

MAX (O.S.)

It's a castle!

BACK TO SCENE

WHEEZIE

(excited)

There's lots of castles in Dragon Land...

ZAK

(pessimistically)

...but none that look like that.

CASSIE

(gives it a second glance)

Maybe none that look exactly like that...

CASSIE'S POV: SAME SHOT OF CASTLE DRAWING

CASSIE (O.S.)

...but I've seen that flag and that bell before.

BACK TO SCENE

Suddenly the O.S. SCHOOL BELL RINGS.

ORD

(excited)

Oh! Oh! I know where that is! I know where that is!!

Ord gets so excited he flies off.

EMMY

Wait for us, Ord!

As the others move o.s. on foot...

WIPE TO:

EXT. SCHOOL IN THE SKY - CLOSE ON FLAG - DAY

As the flag blows in the breeze...

ORD (O.S.)

There!!

WIDEN to reveal the School in the Sky before Ord and the others. Its flag and bell are clearly visible.

SCALIWAG

(in awe)

The School in the Sky!

CASSIE

You've been here?

SCALIWAG

Aye! When I was a boy I used to play here with my dragon friends. But it seemed so much bigger then...

MAX

...like a castle!

SCALIWAG

Aye!

Suddenly QUETZAL steps out of the front of the school. He looks at Scaliwag, who looks back...hard!

QUETZAL

Scaliwag?

SCALIWAG

Quetzal? Is that you?

Quetzal and Scaliwag rush to one another, hug. Then they stop, stare at each other at arm's length, smiling.

QUETZAL

Look at you! You were just a niño when I saw you last.

SCALIWAG

And you were just a bumpy little lizard!

EMMY

You know each other?

QUETZAL

Sí! Scaliwag had a magic dragon scale.

MAX

(amazed)

Like ours?

QUETZAL

Correcto, Max! And he'd come to play with me after school.

EMMY

(looking at dragons)

Just like we do!

DRAGONS

Yeah!

SCALIWAG

I remember now!

(looks at Quetzal)

We buried my treasure...together!

QUETZAL

(remembering)

Si! Under the schoolhouse!

SCALIWAG

C'mon!

Scaliwag leads the others...

UNDER THE SCHOOLHOUSE

where he takes out his shovel and starts digging.

SCALIWAG

Lend me a hand, mates!

The kids and dragons help him dig, picking up rocks and things. Ord comically digs like a dog, spraying dirt out through his hind legs, raining on Max.

MAX

(giggling)

Hey! Cut it out!

Scaliwag's shovel finally hits something. CLUNK! Then he uncovers a small treasure chest.

ORD

A treasure chest! Oh, boy, oh, boy!

WHEEZIE

Oooo! I can't wait to see what's inside!

Scaliwag leans down, snaps off the lock, lifts the lid.

THEIR POV: CLOSE ON TREASURE CHEST

It's filled with antique toys: wooden airplanes, trains, alphabet blocks, wooden "Nutcracker" soldier with drum, etc.

SCALIWAG (O.S.)

ME TREASURE!!!

WHEEZIE (O.S.)
(bit disappointed)
But...where are all the glittery,
golden, jewelry, things.

BACK TO SCENE

ZAK
Yeah! Those are just dusty,
dirty, smelly old toys!

SCALIWAG
(near tears)
Not just toys! My toys! I haven't
played with these in years!

Scaliwag drops to his butt before the chest and takes out the
little train engine, plays with it in the dirt.

SCALIWAG
Chugga-chugga-chugga! Toot-toot!
(turns to others, smiles)
Wanna play with me?

QUETZAL & OTHERS
Sí! / Okay! / Sure! / Looove it!

The kids and dragons sit around Scaliwag, each grabs a toy and
plays. Quetzal picks up a little wooden sailing ship. Max
has a toy plane, Ord takes the car.

QUETZAL
This one was always my favorite.

He plays with it in the dirt, moving it over the "sea".

MAX / ORD
(airplane & car sounds)

And as everyone has a blast, we...

DRAGON DISSOLVE TO:

MAX & EMMY (V.O.)
*I wish, I wish, to use this rhyme,
to go back home, until next time.*

By the end of the dissolve and poem Max and Emmy are...

BACK IN THE PLAYROOM - DAY

Max & Emmy leap off the window seat.

MAX

C'mon, Emmy, let's find our own
buried treasure.

EMMY

Definitely!

(on second thought)

But where?

Max spots the box of Mom and Dad's old toys, points at it.

MAX

There!

He rushes to the box, sits down, then spills it out before
him. Emmy sits beside him.

EMMY

But I thought you said this old
stuff was boring?

MAX

Uh-uh! This is our treasure!!

Max finds a little wooden paddle with ball attached by rubber
band. Emmy finds a metal slinky. As she *slinks* the slinky,
Max waves the paddle, trying to hit the ball. He misses and
the ball gets tangled around him.

MAX & EMMY

(giggling)

FADE OUT

THE END

CHARACTER: GROUP

CHALLENGE: INTERPRETING THE MEANING OF PICTURE SYMBOLS

DRAGON TALES

"Sky Pirates"

Written

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