

The Spanish Armada

Your task is to write a playscript describing this scene aboard a typical English galleon. As there is a good deal of action going on, so it will require some stage instructions to give a clear indication of what is happening. However, if written thoughtfully, the dialogue among the sailors can convey much of the drama of the battle and so prevent the overuse of stage instructions.

Use of feature	Excellent	Satisfactory	Needs improving
Names and colons	✓		
Capital letters		✓	
Stage instructions	✓		

shot	ramrod	wad	broadside
✓	✓	✓	✓

Dialogue	Varied
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Crew looking through telescopes

Mollie: Are the Spanish near?

Stephanie: The Armada still awaits... (Steph looks up shielding her eyes) Hoist the sails!

Ella: Grab the ropes.

All: (pulling on the ropes, chanting) Pull, pull, pull the ropes. Pull, pull, it's gonna be tough.

Mollie: (shaking his hands) My fingers are trembling!

Ella: (whilst going under deck with Mollie) Shut up you wimp, to the cannons.

Mireya: (in the crows nest with Steph) The Spanish are nearing.

Stephanie: (in the crows nest) Load the cannons!

Mollie and Ella: (under deck, shouting) We don't have enough time, we're not going to make it, we need backup!

Mireya and Stephanie rush down the rigging to help, and go under deck.

Mollie: (demanding loudly, by the cannon) Gunpowder.

Stephanie: (passing the Gunpowder) Check!

Mollie: Shot!

Mireya: (passing the shot) Check!

Mollie: Ramrod!

Stephanie: (passing the ramrod) Check!

Mollie: Wad! Protect it!

Stephanie: (shoving in some old rope) Cover it!

Mireya: (putting in the wad) Keep it in there!

Mollie: We need to create a broadside, so hurry. You get back and take cover while I light the fuse. (Crew ducking in the corner)

Mollie attaching the rope and lighting the fuse, then running to hide.

5 seconds later: BANG! BOOM! POOF!

Crew rises slowly looking through their telescopes.

Mireya: (once everyone had risen) Look lads, we hit that Spanish ship, it's sinking!

All: HOORAY!