In the 1600s and 1700s, merchant ships carried cargo around the world.

They carried silk, cotton, iron, gunpowder, brandy, and wine.

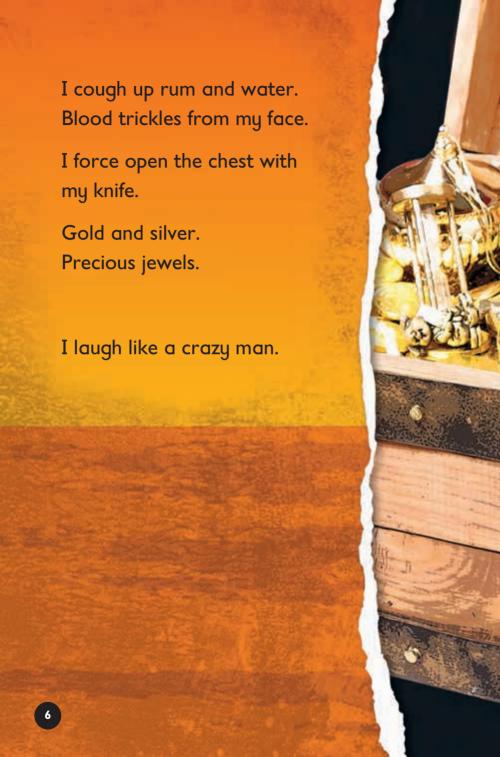
Some carried treasure from South America. Gold and silver and precious jewels.

The merchant ships were not alone on the ocean.

Violent, ruthless criminals sailed the seas in search of treasure.

The merchant ships could be attacked at any time.

Attacked by ...



I laugh like a crazy man.

I am rich beyond my wildest dreams.

But I'm no rich gentleman. Some would say I'm evil. A thief. A pirate.

So how did I come to sail on a pirate ship?

