

CAPTAIN SPARE PEG



"I'm Miss Blossom and I'm your new teacher."

"I'm Dil."

"Nice to meet you, Dil. This is your coat peg. You can keep your bag on your peg. If you have any questions, do ask."

"I have a question, Miss Blossom. What if someone else is using the peg?"

"Your name is on your peg."

"What if there are two Dils or three Dils? Or someone named Oil but they think the 'D' is an 'O'?"

"There are some spare pegs at the end of the row."

"What if the spare pegs are so far away from everyone else that I have no one to say hello to in the morning?"

"What if the spare pegs aren't spare at all?"

"What if the spare pegs belong to someone else?"

"What if they belong to a pirate called Captain Spare Peg?"

"And he wants his peg back?"

"What if he comes back to find my bag hanging there? And it turns out it was never a coat peg at all but instead it's where he keeps his spare hook for his missing hand? And he gets angry. Oh, he gets so angry, Miss Blossom.

"What if he yells for his shipmates in a thunderous voice that can be heard half way around the world and his crew hear him and sail their grand ship, with huge black sails...and a Jolly Roger, across the oceans, up on to the land and right across the playground through the front doors of the school and down the corridor to our classroom?"

And as the ship sails to our classroom it pulls up the ocean and drags it along into the school with all the sharks and the snapping crocodiles and it yanks out the humungous plug that was keeping the ocean in the ocean?

And we have no choice but to climb aboard the ship because otherwise we'll all be swirling round and round and round, down the plughole as none of us have our swimming badges yet? And the sharks are starting to look very hungry? And the pirates capture us and they make us scrub the decks and pick the fish bones out of their soggy boots whilst they steal our packed lunches?

What if all we have to eat is a rotting pirate stew of porridge and fish guts?"

"What if everyone is so upset with me for using Captain Spare Peg's coat hook nobody wants to be my friend?"

"What if no one likes me?"

"I like you. I think you ask very interesting questions."

"I'm going to put my peg right next to yours, Dil."

"Now we can say hello to each other every morning"

"And I think we should make something together so that if Captain Spare Peg ever shows up he knows which peg is his."