

BARTON

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Dare to Know

Sea Fiction

Fiction that depicts a heroic main character on the open sea and whose plot progressively strips away the norms of land-based society.

A genre in which the daring world of sailors, naval battles, exploration, and pirates is explored. These novels depict thrilling adventures on the high seas, providing the reader a view into maritime history and the complex relationship between sailors and the uncertain oceans. This genre often depicts the life of sailors during specific historical periods, such as the Age of Sail (17th and 18th centuries), or in different parts of the world, including the Caribbean and the Mediterranean. The novels may feature naval officers, sailors, or pirates as the central characters, and they often delve into the intricacies of ship life, naval warfare, and maritime traditions. Johann David Wyss's *Swiss Family Robinson* (1812), James Fenimore Cooper's *The Pilot* (1824), Edgar Allan Poe's *The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym of Nantucket* (1838), Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island* (1883), Rudyard Kipling's *Captains Courageous* (1897), Rafael Sabatini's *The Sea Hawk* (1915) and *Captain Blood* (1922), C. S. Forester's *Beat to Quarters* (1937), Herman Wouk's *The Caine Mutiny* (1952), Frans Gunnar Bengtsson's *Long Ships* (1954), and Patrick O'Brian's *Master and Commander* (1969) are classic examples.

Common Elements

Swashbuckling captains
Shipwrecks
Sea battles
Piracy

The spirit of exploration
The dangers of the open sea
Exotic locales

Hidden treasures
Naval hierarchies

Benefits of Reading

Allows readers to vicariously feel the romance, freedom, and danger of the high seas
Immerses readers in pure adventure
Offers readers a cathartic experience
Demonstrates to readers the power of nature and the frailty of humans

Allows readers to see examples of heroism and moral conundrums
Better readers' understanding of human nature
Instills in readers a sense of confidence in confronting their own challenges

Modern Literary Examples

<i>Beneath the Wind</i> (1993) by Cordelia Frances Biddle
<i>Beware the Bight of Benin</i> (1974) by Philip McCutchan
<i>Care and Feeding of Pirates</i> (2005) by Jennifer Ashley
<i>Decision at Trafalgar</i> (1985) by Richard Woodman
<i>The Emperor's Coloured Coat</i> (1995) by John Biggins
<i>Every Man for Himself</i> (1996) by Beryl Bainbridge
<i>Five Black Ships</i> (1994) by Napoléon Baccino Ponce de León
<i>The Flying Squadron</i> (1999) by Richard Woodman
<i>Freedom Tree</i> (1997) by William Bedford
<i>The Ghost of the Mary Celeste</i> (2014) by Valerie Martin
<i>Grania: She-King of the Irish Seas</i> (1986)

by Morgan Llwyn
<i>Killigrew RN</i> (2000) by Jonathan Lunn
<i>Maiden Voyage</i> (1996) by Cynthia Bass
<i>Mutiny</i> (2009) by John Boyne
<i>The Pirate Hunter</i> (2003) by Richard Zacks
<i>Pirate Latitudes</i> (2009) by Michael Crichton
<i>Pirates!</i> (2004) by Celia Rees
<i>The Privateer</i> (1999) by R. C. Anderson
<i>Richard Bolitho, Midshipman</i> (1975) by Alexander Kent
<i>Sea Witch</i> (2019) by Helen Hollick
<i>Sharpe's Trafalgar</i> (1999) by Bernard Cornwell
<i>Shred of Honor</i> (1999) by Tom Connery
<i>Success to the Brave</i> (1983) by Alexander Kent
<i>Voyage of the Narwhal</i> (1998) by Andrea Barrett