

# Story Pillows, Quilts and Service Learning

by Karen Gruber, Second Grade Teacher, Midland, Michigan

## Story Pillows

The story pillows in the picture to the right were made by a second grade classroom and donated to a local shelter as a service learning project. These pillows feature fabric and stories about the ocean, inspired by the movie *The Riddle in a Bottle*.

To make story pillows, have students write their own stories or poems about moving water, or another topic inspired by *A Pirate's Quest* or *The Riddle in a Bottle*. Cut fabric squares for the size of pillow you want -- find decorative fabric for the front and plain fabric for the back of the pillows. Write the stories in permanent felt tip marker on the plain fabric squares. If an adult sews the pillows together except for a small hole for the stuffing, students can stuff the pillows themselves. Donate the pillows to a local shelter, or create a comfortable reading corner in your classroom or library, featuring the students' pillows.



## Story Quilt

The quilt in the picture to the right was made by the same second grade classroom and donated to a shelter for young, single mothers. Encourage students to decorate their own quilt squares based on the one-legged pirate's never give up attitude, or based on what they learned about the ocean. If you can find a talented person to sew the quilt together for you, the class can donate the quilt to a deserving organization in the community. Be creative!



[www.apiratesquest.com](http://www.apiratesquest.com)

*A Pirate's Quest*, by Laura Sams, Robert Sams, Heiner Hertling    *The Riddle in a Bottle*, by Sisbro Studios  
Published by Carl R. Sams II Photography, Inc. (800) 552-1867

