

“The Pirate Queen” written by Sophia Rangel Santana, Age 11

There once lived a girl with hair the color of ship wood, a scar running down her cheek, and big, black boots. The only thing about her not screaming pirate were her eyes, emerald green with slit pupils. They were snake eyes. Her crew called her Cobra. Others called her the Pirate Queen.

Even Cobra couldn't defy the King, who wanted the treasure on her ship. He sent his guards to steal her treasure and burn the ship. As Cobra stood watching her crew scatter, she noticed a flyer advertising the king's masquerade ball.

She snuck into a tailor shop and found a dress the color of the sea she called home. She snuck into a shoe shop scouting for the perfect pair, settling for slippers the color of the foam riding the waves. She snuck into the house of an old man who made masquerade masks. A snake mask gleaming poison green in the moonlight caught her eye.

Cobra walked secret passages memorized long ago. The king watched the citizens dance while thinking about a girl with snake eyes from his childhood who dreamed of being a pirate.

Before he could address his citizens, a girl wearing a blue dress, white slippers and a green snake mask tapped him on the shoulder.

Cobra was first looking into the eyes of the scared little prince who was her best friend. Then she was staring at a traitor. She took a match out of her slipper, lit it, and dropped it into the crowd below. The fire was a hungry beast released from its cage.

The king struggled outside the dying castle. Something cracked. A snake mask lied next to his feet.

There once lived a pirate girl with snake eyes. Eyes forever reflecting the glow of a burning castle.