



Commander Toad and the Space Pirates

By Jane Yolen

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"A funny space adventure that spoofs *Star Wars* while providing an easy-to-read story." —*Booklist*

It's been a long trip, and Commander Toad and the crew of the *Star Warts* are bored. They've played all the games and watched all the movies and read all the books on the ship. Suddenly the alarm goes off--pirates are coming aboard, led by Commander Salamander, Scourge of the Skies and Goon of the Galaxies. Is the crew going to have to play his favorite game--Hop the Plank?

Fans of *DK Readers: LEGO Star Wars*, Tom Angleberger's *Origami Yoda*, and silliness will toad-ally love Commander Toad!

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 13 Yolen's writing in this book is rhythmic but confusing. Commander Toad is captain of Star Warts and Mr. Hop, a frog, is his co-pilot. They are on a long trip, ``a boring trip . . . They have played leapfrog and hopscotch and croak-kay." The puns are abundant but seem to be included only for effect. In many cases they are awkward and will not make sense to a beginning- to-read audience. Pirates, led by Commander Salamander, board the Star Warts. They make the crew play a dangerous game, ``Hop the Plank." By the time children wade through the confusing text, they won't care whether the crew escapes. Most of Degen's illustrations are black-and-white drawings, while a few are rendered in three colors. All seem harsh and uninviting. The characters as illustrated seem very neutral. There is nothing endearing about any of the ``good" characters, and the ``villains" are just ugly and unattractive. With so many other beginning-to- read books available, libraries can well pass on this one. Consider instead the books by James Marshall, Else Minarik, Arnold Lobel, and others. Sharon McElmeel, Cedar Rapids Community Schools, Iowa

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About the Author

Jane Yolen is an author of children's books, fantasy, and science fiction, including *Owl Moon*, *The Devil's Arithmetic*, and *How Do Dinosaurs Say Goodnight?* She is also a poet, a teacher of writing and literature, and a reviewer of children's literature. She has been called the Hans Christian Andersen of America and the Aesop of the twentieth century.

Jane Yolen's books and stories have won the Caldecott Medal, two Nebula Awards, two Christopher Medals, the World Fantasy Award, three Mythopoeic Fantasy Awards, the Golden Kite Award, the Jewish Book Award, the World Fantasy Association's Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Association of Jewish Libraries Award among many others.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lucille Grant:

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