

Captain Silverhook's Symbol of Strength

A Win and a Loss

The battle was over, but Captain Silverhook's win didn't feel as good as expected. He'd beaten Captain Longsword, but the skeleton carved into the bow of his ship had been blown to smithereens in the fight.

Captain Silverhook was the most feared pirate on the Stormy Sea. He had the biggest and fastest ship, manned by the strongest, most loyal crew. The treasures Silverhook discovered, stole, and buried were of legendary value. He was living every pirate's dream, until now.

The Dark Wave

The Dark Wave was a symbol of strength among pirate ships. Each ship had a unique carving standing boldly on the front of it. Captain Longsword's ship had a lion, Sir Swell's was outfitted with an open-mouthed shark head, and Captain Saltbeard was known by the mermaid leading his ship. This figurehead not only helped others identify the Captain from afar, but it also expressed the power he held.

The nautical figurehead was known by all in the sea for two reasons: that skeleton figurehead and Captain Silverhook. There was no doubt the ship was sturdy and powerful, but unbeknownst to the other pirates, it wasn't the best ship ever made. Now, in her damaged condition, the Dark Wave threatened to be the downfall of her Captain.

It would seem to an outsider that Captain Silverhook could simply get a new skeleton and attach it to the ship. However, the Captain knew that would be a grave mistake. The skeleton had been destroyed in battle - a fact Captain Longsword was sure to tell every pirate he encountered. If Silverhook replaced the skeleton, it would look like he was trying to cover up the fight rather than boast about his win. Indeed, the skeleton could no longer show the strength of the Dark Wave.

The Search Is On

Captain Silverhook would have to find a new figurehead and fast. As soon as word of her weakened state spread, other pirate Captains would be looking to seize the opportunity to challenge the Dark Wave. If Captain Silverhook didn't come up with a new figurehead soon, he would lose credibility, respect, and his treasures! A pirate's journeys were full of wild, mysterious creatures and

dangerous sailing conditions. Surely, there must be one thing left that all sailors fear to be used as his new figurehead.

Silverhook wasted no time. First, he asked his crew for ideas.

"I've always hated jellyfish," said Johnson.

"Yeah, they got that awful sting and they clog up the straights," added Smith.

"Jellyfish ain't terrifying. What we need is a lightning bolt," said Biggs.

Captain Silverhook laughed at his crew's ridiculous ideas. None of them were nearly frightening enough. Back in his cabin, Silverhook stared out the porthole. The skies were unusually clear, and the waters abandoned of sea life. He was searching for an idea, but Mother Nature didn't appear to want any involvement in giving him one.

A New Figurehead

After scouring the weapons, barracks, and sights from the crow's nest, Captain Silverhook grew frustrated. He threw himself down on a barrel near the edge of the ship. A few small waves slapped against the side of the Dark Wave. That was it!

When a storm blows in, any Captain will get nervous, even if he'd never admit it. There is an uncertainty in the way of the water. It can creep up and overtake you or soak in slowly to rot a ship from the inside out. Yes, what could be more feared than a dark wave? So, the ship Captain Silverhook so strongly named would now have a figurehead to match. All pirates feared the waters of the sea, and now they had Captain Silverhook's waves of wood to be wary of him as well.

