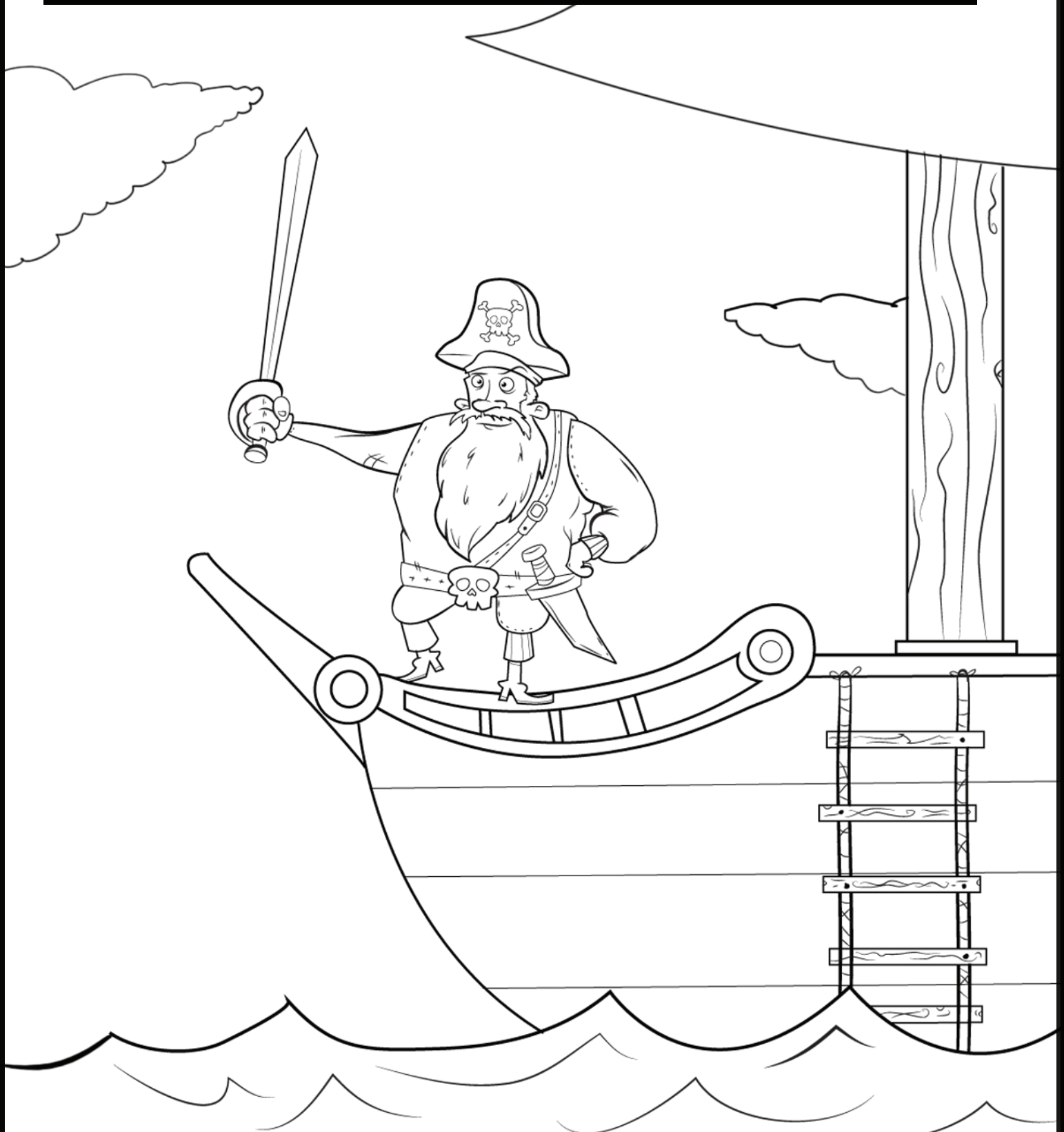


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Blackbeard was a fierce pirate. He started his career as a privateer, but soon carved his own path on the waters in true pirate-style. His ship was called Queen Anne's Revenge. He spent most of his pirate life sailing up and down the eastern coast of the Americas and the Caribbean.

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Blackbeard's most daring exploit was in May of 1718. Using Queen Anne's Revenge and two other ships, Blackbeard blocked the harbor of Charleston, South Carolina, keeping any ships from leaving or entering. He pillaged a couple of vessels for valuables on-board. And he took a number of the city's important citizens as hostages for ransom. His only ransom demand: a chest full of medicine.

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When the demands were met, Blackbeard released the hostages and left Charleston harbor without having fired any shots.

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