



**CHARACTERS:**

- Narrators
- Columbus
- King of Portugal
- King of Spain
- Queen of Spain
- Sailors
- Messenger
- Columbus' brother
- Marco Polo
- Townsperson one
- Townsperson two
- Townsperson three
- All: different pairs of students will say these parts.

**Narrator 1:** A sea battle! The ship tipped and rocked. Suddenly it burst into flames. Splash!

A spray of salt water flew into the air. A sailor had jumped into the ocean.

**Narrator 2:** The sailor swam to a floating oar. He gripped it to stay afloat. Although he was miles from shore, he knew he would survive!

**All:** He wouldn't give up,

though others might.

He believed in himself

when he thought he was right.

**Narrator 3:** This brave sailor was Christopher Columbus.

**Columbus:** I grew up in Italy. My father was a weaver of cloth. He wanted me to be a weaver, too. But I dreamed of being a sailor. Finally, my father agreed.

**Narrator 4:** Now Christopher Columbus was in the cold ocean water. But he wouldn't give up.

**All:** Swimming and floating,

working and resting.

Swimming and floating,

working and resting.

**Narrator 5:** He did make it safely to shore. He landed in Portugal. This was lucky for Columbus. His brother lived there!

**Columbus' brother:** I own a map store. I will give Columbus a job making maps.

**Narrator 6:** Columbus talked with sailors who came to the store. He read about explorers like Marco Polo.

**Marco Polo:** I have traveled east from Italy on land. I have gone to wonderful, faraway places. These places are called the Indies.

**Narrator 7:** People were thrilled by the riches Marco Polo brought back.

**All:** Silk and spices.

Jewels and gold.

Wonderful things

for all to behold.

**Columbus:** I want those things, too!

**Narrator 8:** Columbus began making a plan to travel to the Indies. He thought about the shape of the earth.

**Columbus:** The earth is round, this much I know.

Would sailing west be the way to go?

**Narrator 9:** Columbus decided not to go east over land. He would sail west over the ocean!

**Narrator 10:** But Columbus had some big problems. Most people thought the ocean was too wide to cross.

**Townsperson one:** It cannot be done!

**Townsperson two:** Impossible

**Townsperson three:** The sea is too wide and unknown, they will never come back!

**Narrator 11:** Also, sailing west to the Indies would be expensive! Columbus did not have enough money.

**Columbus:** I will ask the King of Portugal for help.

**Narrator 12:** First, Columbus explained his plan to the King. Then he asked for ships and money.

**King of Portugal:** Ships and money for a plan that sounds funny?

Ships and money for a plan that sounds funny? NO!

**Narrator 13:** Columbus was sad. He was disappointed. But...

**All:** He wouldn't give up,

though others might.

He believed in himself

when he thought he was right.

**Columbus:** I will go to see the King and Queen of Spain.

**Narrator 14:** The King and Queen listened to Columbus. Then they asked a committee to study his plan.

**All:** Over and over,

meeting and talking.

Over and over,

meeting and talking.

**Narrator 15:** After four years, the committee made up their mind.

**King and Queen of Spain:** It's a Silly Idea!

**Narrator 16:** Poor Columbus. He was very disappointed. But...

**All:** He wouldn't give up,

though others might.

He believed in himself

when he thought he was right.

**Columbus:** I'll go back to see the King and Queen of Spain.

**Narrator 17:** The King and Queen again listened to Columbus. He told them about his dreams of riches.

**Columbus:** Silks and spices Jewels and gold!

Wonderful things for all to behold!

**Narrator 18:** Columbus tried to convince them. But once again

**King and Queen of Spain:** NO

**Columbus:** Next, I'll visit the King of France.

**Narrator 19:** He was on his way, when a messenger caught up with him.

**Messenger:** Please come back!

Do be so kind!

The Queen of Spain

has changed her mind!

**Narrator 20:** It was a happy day for Columbus. The King and Queen of Spain signed an agreement with Columbus.

**Columbus:** I promise to bring you things from the Indies.

**All:** Riches and gold

and information.

Fame and fortune

for the nation.

**Narrator 21:** The King and Queen gave Columbus supplies. They also gave him three ships: The *Nina*, the *Pinta*, and the *Santa Maria*.

**Columbus.** I'll sail on the *Santa Maria*, it is the largest.

**Narrator 22:** On August 3, 1492, Columbus set sail. He headed west, across the ocean.

**Columbus:** The earth is round

this much I know.

And sailing west

is the best way to go!

**Narrator 23:** Columbus kept track of days, directions, and distances. His ships sailed farther and farther away from Spain. His sailors grew angry and worried.

**Sailors:** Tossing and rolling

over the waves.

Sun and storm

and endless days.

**Narrator 24:** A month dragged by with no sight of land. The sailors were scared and ready to give up

**Sailors:** Time to go home!

**Columbus:** Give me three more days

**All:** He wouldn't give up,

though others might.

He believed in himself

when he thought he was right.

**Narrator 25:** They kept sailing. Two days later, they saw birds. Columbus changed direction to follow the birds. He hoped they would lead him to land.

**All:** Flying high in the sky,

sailing low on the ocean,

the birds and the ships

together in motion.

**Narrator 26:** Columbus kept watch until late that night. Finally they saw land! The time was two hours after midnight. The date was October 12, 1492. Five hundred years later, we still celebrate the date!

**Narrator 27:** Columbus thought he had found the Indies. In fact, he had found islands near two continents he didn't know were there. Today, we call these continents North and South America.

**Narrator 28:** Columbus and his sailors went ashore. The native people welcomed them. They spoke to each other using sign language.

**Columbus:** I will call this native people "Indians" because we have reached the Indies!

**Narrator 29:** The native people gave them delicious food. They also showed the sailors how to make hammocks. But Columbus wanted more than hammocks. He wanted riches.

**All:** Silks and spices,

Jewels and gold!

Wonderful things

for all to behold!

**Narrator 30:** Columbus and his sailors visited other islands. Along the way, Columbus collected things to take home.

**Columbus:** Wonderful stories and wonderful things like parrots, sweet potatoes, and golden rings.

**Narrator 31:** He did not bring home the Santa Maria. It wrecked on coral reef and broke into pieces. After six months away, Columbus returned to Spain. He brought some native people with him. He was welcomed as a great hero!! Columbus was very happy.

**All:** He didn't give up,

when others might.

He believed in himself

when he thought he was right!

**King and Queen of Spain:** We will send Columbus on more voyages to the west.

**Narrator 32:** Columbus never found a path to the Indies. All he found was trouble.

**All:** Angry natives,

stormy seas,

greedy sailors,

and disease.

**Narrator 33:** By now, Columbus was tired and sick. In 1504, Columbus returned to Spain for the last time. He was no longer a hero. But Columbus knew that he had done something very important. He had sailed across a great ocean when others said it couldn't be done!

**Narrator 34:** Later, millions of people would follow his example and travel west to the Americas. Today Christopher Columbus is a famous man. We can learn about courage from Columbus.

**All:** We won't give up, though others might.

We'll believe in ourselves when we think we are right!