

## Excerpt Set A

<b>Columbus' Diary, 1492</b> <b>From Medieval Sourcebook</b>	<b>Encounter</b> <b>By Jane Yolen</b>
Here follow the precise words of the Admiral: "As I saw that they were very friendly to us, and perceived that they could be much more easily converted to our holy faith by gentle means than by force, I presented them with some red caps, and strings of beads to wear upon the neck, and many other trifles of small value, wherewith they were much delighted, and became wonderfully attached to us."	But the strangers behaved almost like human beings, for they laughed, too, and gave in return tiny smooth balls, the color of sand and sea and sun, strung upon a thread. And they gave hollow shells with tongues that sang <i>chinga-chunga</i> . And they gave woven things that fit upon a man's head and could cover a boy's ears.

## Excerpt Set B

<b>Columbus' Diary, 1492</b> <b>From Medieval Sourcebook</b>	<b>Encounter</b> <b>By Jane Yolen</b>
Afterwards they came swimming to the boats, bringing parrots, balls of cotton thread, javelins, and many other things which they exchanged for articles we gave them, such as glass beads, and hawk's bells; which trade was carried on with the utmost good will... The natives are an inoffensive people, and so desirous to possess any thing they saw with us, that they kept swimming off to the ships with whatever they could find, and readily bartered for any article we saw fit to give them in return, even such as broken platters and fragments of glass.	<p>They did not hear because they did not want to listen. They desired all that the strangers had brought: the sharp silver spear; round pools to hold in the hand that gave a man back his face; darts that sprang from sticks with a sound like thunder that could kill a parrot many paces away.</p> <p>We were given none of these – only singing shells and tiny balls on strings. We were patted upon the head as a child pats a yellow dog. We were smiled at with many white teeth, a serpent's smile.</p>

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## Excerpt Set C

<b>Columbus' Diary, 1492</b> <b>From Medieval Sourcebook</b>	<b>Encounter</b> <b>By Jane Yolen</b>
<p>"It appears to me, that the people are ingenious, and would be good servants and I am of opinion that they would very readily become Christians, as they appear to have no religion. They very quickly learn such words as are spoken to them. If it please our Lord, I intend at my return to carry home six of them to your Highnesses, that they may learn our language. I saw no beasts in the island, nor any sort of animals except parrots." These are the words of the Admiral.</p>	<p>So it was we lost our lands to the strangers from the sky. We gave our souls to their gods. We took their speech into our mouths, forgetting our own. Our sons and daughters became <i>their</i> sons and daughters, no longer true humans, no longer ours.</p>

## Excerpt Set D

<b>Columbus' Diary, 1492</b> <b>From Medieval Sourcebook</b>	<b>Encounter</b> <b>By Jane Yolen</b>
<p>They came loaded with balls of cotton, parrots, javelins, and other things too numerous to mention; these they exchanged for whatever we chose to give them. I was very attentive to them, and strove to learn if they had any gold. Seeing some of them with little bits of this metal hanging at their noses, I gathered from them by signs that by going southward or steering round the island in that direction, there would be found a king who possessed large vessels of gold, and in great quantities. I endeavored to procure them to lead the way thither, but found they were unacquainted with the route.</p>	<p>So I drew back from the feast, which is not what one should do, and I watched how the sky strangers touched our golden nose rings and our golden armbands but not the flesh of our faces or arms. I watched their chief smile. It was the serpent's smile—no lips and all teeth.</p>

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## Excerpt Set E

<b>Columbus' Diary, 1492</b> <b>From Medieval Sourcebook</b>	<b>Encounter</b> <b>By Jane Yolen</b>
I do not, however, see the necessity of fortifying the place, as the people here are simple in war-like matters, as your Highnesses will see by those seven which I have ordered to be taken and carried to Spain in order to learn our language and return, unless your Highnesses should choose to have them all transported to Castile, or held captive in the island. I could conquer the whole of them with fifty men, and govern them as I pleased.	The next day the strangers returned to their great canoes. They took five of our young men and many parrots with them. They took me. That night, while my people slept on shore, the great-sailed canoes left our bay, going farther and farther that even our strongest men could go. Soon the beach and trees and everything I knew slipped away, until my world was only a thin, dark line stretched between sky and sea.

## Excerpt Set F

<b>Columbus' Diary, 1492</b> <b>From Medieval Sourcebook</b>	<b>Encounter</b> <b>By Jane Yolen</b>
But in truth, should I meet with gold or spices in great quantity, I shall remain till I collect as much as possible, and for this purpose I am proceeding solely in quest of them.	Our chief gave the strangers balls of cotton thread to bind them to us in friendship. He gave them spears that they might fish and not starve. He gave them gum-rubber balls for sport.

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