



## Pedro's Journal: A Voyage with Christopher Columbus, August 3, 1492-February 14, 1493

*By Pam Conrad*

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Pedro de Salcedo could not have known what adventures lay ahead! His incredible voyage as ship's boy aboard Christopher Columbus' Santa Maria would bring both danger and excitement. Pedro captured his experience between the pages of a journal. If he did not return alive perhaps someone, someday would find it and learn of his incredible journey to the New World.

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## **Editorial Review**

From Publishers Weekly

The ship's boy of the Santa Maria keeps a diary of his adventures in Christopher Columbus's company on that famous 1492 journey. Ages 8-12.

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From School Library Journal

Grade 3-6-- Pedro, one of three ship's boys on board the Santa Maria, acknowledges that he was hired on not for his seamanship, but for his ability to read and write. Conrad uses the device of a journal to tell of his adventures with Columbus, a man whom Pedro admires, but who also engages in fiery rages and penitent Hail Marys. The details of mutinous murmurings, falling stars, and false land sightings that are described in Susan Martin's *I Sailed with Columbus* (Overlook, 1991), Miriam Schlein's *I Sailed with Columbus* (HarperCollins, 1991), and Genevieve O'Connor's *The Admiral and the Deck Boy* (Shoe Tree, 1991) appear in this narrative as well, but in a tighter, more concise telling. Pedro's journal is a vivid revelation of the details of the voyage as well as the time period. Readers see the boy's discomfort in the explorer's proprietary treatment of the natives and, in particular, his shame that these people are allowed to believe that the Spaniards are deities. Koeppen's line drawings, many of the ships and their equipment, add dimension to the plot. One of the most pleasing of this season's Columbus offerings, Conrad's story will serve as an attractive alternative to nonfiction reading on the subject and certainly as a read-aloud. --Sylvia V. Meisner, Allen Middle School, Greensboro, NC

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From Kirkus Reviews

Chosen for his ability to read and write, young Pedro de Salcedo becomes a ship's boy on the Santa Maria-- and keeps a diary of his own on the expedition, recounting the voyage across the Atlantic and the subsequent exploration of the Indies. Among the several recent fictional accounts, all told from the perspective of a ship's boy, this one is distinguished by its revisionist approach: Columbus is portrayed as an ill-tempered egoist, and the Indians are given their due as kind and gentle people, cruelly mistreated by the Spanish. Conrad's story, while not remarkable, is the best of the lot so far--a quick, pleasant read with possible appeal for reluctant readers: historical details are skillfully integrated, characterization is adept, and this popular author of suspenseful YA books brings her narrative skill to bear here. Koeppen's b&w drawings are competent; they give the "diary" an added personal touch. Author's note. (Fiction. 8-12) -- *Copyright ©1991, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

## **Users Review**

**From reader reviews:**

**Barry Phelan:**

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**Thomas Ellis:**

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