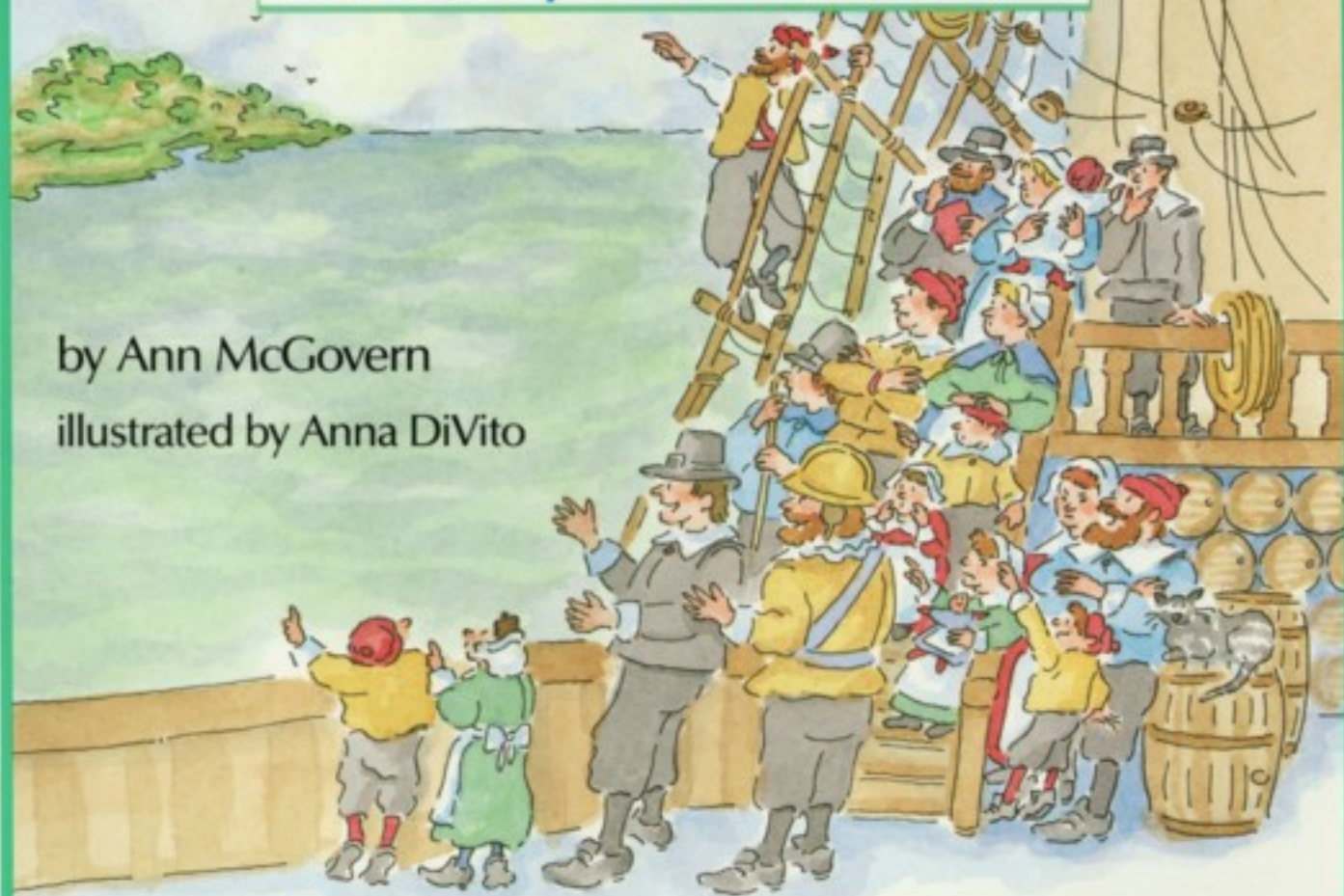


...IF YOU SAILED ON The Mayflower in 1620

by Ann McGovern

illustrated by Anna DiVito



THE PILGRIMS

Who were the Pilgrims?

A pilgrim is someone who goes on a long, long journey.

The people on the Mayflower were leaving their homes to sail far away to a new land, a new life. They were going on a long, long journey, and so we call them Pilgrims.



Where does the Pilgrim story begin?

In England, many years ago, everyone had to obey the rules of the King's church. There were some Englishmen who wanted to have their own separate church. They were called *separatists*. They had secret church meetings.

The King found out about the secret meetings and he put some of the men in prison.

Now the separatists were afraid to stay in England. They went to Holland in 1608. There they could worship God as they pleased. They lived in Holland for twelve years.

Life in Holland was not easy. The men had to work very hard. They made very little money.

And they were worried. They did not want their children to forget how to speak English. They did not

want their children to become soldiers and sailors for Holland.

What could they do? Perhaps they could go to the New World, some of them thought. These are the people we call Pilgrims today.

The Pilgrims needed a ship to take them to the New World. They bought a ship—the *Speedwell*—in Holland. But the *Speedwell* was small and old. They would need a second ship too—a bigger and better ship. But where would they get such a ship? They didn't have any more money.

At last they made an agreement with some businessmen in England. The businessmen got them a ship—the *Mayflower*—and bought some food and supplies.

In return, the Pilgrims had to agree to work for the businessmen for seven years. The Pilgrims promised

A different time...a different place...
What if you were there?

If you sailed on the *Mayflower*

—What could you take with you?

—How would you keep clean?

—What would you do when you first got to shore?

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