

Kate Deimling

Turning Off the Blood

—Inspired by parental reviews of the video game
Assassin's Creed IV: Black Flag

Look, we're a strictly PG family.
Somehow this game got the rating *mature*—
this doesn't make sense. You play a pirate
seeking his fortune. There's some violence, sure,

and the pirate's not a great role model
but he's not exactly bad. You must stop
people from taking over the city.
The violence is not over the top—

no body parts or limbs come off at all.
My son's almost about to turn thirteen—
I said no to *Grand Theft Auto* and *Call
of Duty*, but this game's different I think.

There's an f-word two times, but he's heard that
before. In the tavern you can knock back
shots of rum, but after five you are drunk,
and if you drink even more, you will black

out and wake up in a haystack. There is
cannon fire, a strangling animation,
sword fights during battles on the ship, but
absolutely NO decapitation.

As a protective middle-aged Christian
mom, what is best about this game I found
is that you can turn off the blood. The bad
language in that case will also go down.

Also another thing I should mention
is that if innocent people get harmed
you'll be punished. Consequences happen,
so I see no reason to be alarmed

if your son wants to play this game. Violence
in real life should be nipped in the bud,
but in a game, it's not such a big deal—
just keep in mind you can turn off the blood.

