

 [theday.co.uk/yemeni-pirate-becomes-surprise-heartthrob-4](https://theday.co.uk/yemeni-pirate-becomes-surprise-heartthrob-4)



**Above deck:** One X user said of al-Haddad: “He can board my ship anytime”.

**Do looks matter? X users are obsessed with a handsome man who tried to look like a terrifying pirate.**

## What’s happening?

Rashid al-Haddad just wanted to be feared. The **Yemeni** man posted a **TikTok** clip from a ship he had taken over, boasting about being a pirate.

His post blew up. But not for the reasons he had planned. Social media users wanted to talk about his good looks instead.

## Find out more

Al-Haddad is just the latest in a long line of serious or deadly people who are remembered more for their looks rather than their actions.

Take **Che Guevara**. The South American has one of the most well-known faces in history. But more people remember his looks than his role in a key **revolution**.

Meanwhile, **Jesse James** was a robber who murdered people. But films show him as a heroic **outlaw**.

Humans use looks as an **instant** way of learning about someone. Expert Robert Cialdini points out that we often think good-looking people are kind, clever and talented — even though that may not be true.

But others say looks do not really matter. For example, **Napoleon Bonaparte**'s laws and wars changed the world. But he was known in his lifetime for looking very normal.

**Do looks matter?**

## Some say

Yes! It is one thing we know about ourselves: we constantly think about how we and others look. We are more likely to think good things about good-looking people. Just like life, it is unfair.

## Others think

No! You can be powerful and successful without being good-looking. Think of the leaders of the world today. Most of them look very **average**.

### Some people say

*"Beware, so long as you live, of judging men by their outward appearance."*

**Jean de La Fontaine (1621 – 1695),  
French poet and fabulist**

Empty heading

*What do you think?*

### Six steps to discovery

#### 1. Connect

**How do you feel about this story?** - Look at a picture of Rashid al-Haddad. What do you think when you see his picture?

#### 2. Wonder

**What questions do you have?** - For example: Why do pirates attack ships?

#### 3. Investigate

**What are the facts?** - Pick out one thing we know for certain and one thing we cannot say for sure about this story.

#### 4. Construct

**What is your point of view?** - Should looks ever matter? What do you think?

#### 5. Express

**What do others believe?** - Describe your idea of beauty to another. Does the other person agree with you?

#### 6. Reflect

**What might happen next?** - What is the most beautiful thing you own — or that you can see in your classroom? Write down a description of it.

### Glossary

**Yemeni** - From Yemen, a country of nearly 33 million bordering Saudi Arabia on the Arabian peninsula.

**TikTok** - A Chinese social media company featuring short videos with one billion monthly users.

**Che Guevara** - An Argentina Marxist revolutionary, who was a major figure of the Cuban revolution. He died in 1967.

**Revolution** - A sudden change in the way things are done.

**Jesse James** - A 19th Century American outlaw, bank and train robber and gang leader.

**Outlaw** - A person who has broken the law and who lives separately from the other parts of society because they want to escape legal punishment.

**Instant** - Straight away.

**Napoleon Bonaparte** - The French military commander and political leader who rose to prominence during the French Revolution and led successful campaigns during the Revolutionary Wars.

**Average** - Typical or usual.