

**Teacher's Guide to  
The Core Classics Edition of**

**Robert Louis Stevenson's  
*Treasure Island***

By Alice R. Marshall

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## **Publisher's Note**

We are happy to make available this *Teacher's Guide* to the Core Classics version of *Treasure Island* prepared by Alice R. Marshall. We are presenting it and other guides in an electronic format so that they are accessible to as many teachers as possible. Core Knowledge does not endorse any one method of teaching a text; in fact we encourage the creativity involved in a diversity of approaches.

At the same time, we want to help teachers share ideas about what works in the classroom. In this spirit we invite you to use any or all of the ways Alice Marshall has found to make this book enjoyable and understandable to fourth grade students. Her introductory material concentrates on using *Treasure Island* as a way of teaching students some valuable lessons about style, about how to make their own writing more lively and more powerful. This material is favored over the comprehensive biographical information presented in some of the other guides. For those who want more information than is presented in the brief biography in the back of the Core Classics edition, the author has cited a very good web site in her bibliography. There you will find much more material than you will ever have time to use.

We also hope that the vocabulary and grammar exercises as well as the lessons on style will help you integrate the reading of literature with the development of skills in language arts. Most of all, we hope this guide helps to make *Treasure Island* an exciting adventure in reading for both you and your students.

The page numbers cited refer to the latest Core Classics edition of *Treasure Island* published in 2000.

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## Introduction: Stevenson and The Art of Writing

### *A Stylish Guy*

Robert Louis Stevenson was famous for his style. Because he always thought that he would be a writer, Stevenson studied writing and consciously practiced the tools of his craft. On his walks in the hills above Edinburgh, Scotland, he would take two books, one to read from and the other to write in. He liked to copy the style of passages that really impressed him. He even gave writing lessons, the way that people today give music lessons. His students came to him to learn technique as athletes do from a trainer.

Since recognizing the elements of style in any of the arts, from painting to poetry, is difficult, this Teacher's Guide includes exercises related to style. These exercises are interspersed with the chapter-by-chapter notes. By trying some of the techniques that Stevenson used so well, students can better see that writing is not only an art, but also a craft that can be learned. They can learn by imitation and can add sparkle to their own style. Fourth-graders can sharpen their skills in the same way that observing and then practicing certain moves in sports can dramatically increase performance.

Here are some techniques that students can observe in *Treasure Island* and then practice themselves:

- Catchy Titles (below, before Chapter 1)
- Making a Mental Movie (following Chapter 14)
- Visual Imagery
- Similes and Metaphors
- Adding the Sound Track
- Sound Imagery
- Onomatopoeia (Chapters 14 and 15)
- Editing: The Cutting Room Floor: Making Every Word Count (following Chapter 34)

### ***By Any Other Name?***

Would you rather read *The Sea Cook* or *Treasure Island*? Though Stevenson originally called his pirate tale *The Sea Cook*, he saw how much more romantic appeal the final name had. Maybe *Treasure Island* wouldn't have been so popular or made him so much money if it had had a different title.

Your students may never write a novel, but they will have to write lots of papers in school. Even e-mail messages need enticing titles. The best titles let readers know what you'll be talking about and make them eager to read on.

Here are some rules for writing catchy titles. They

- grab the reader's attention
- focus on the main point of the writing
- are short
- are correctly punctuated and capitalized
- never end with periods

### ***Title Search***

Every chapter in *Treasure Island* has a title--there are 34 titles in all. You can have small groups investigate the way Stevenson's titles are written and answer the following questions.

1. Which two words are capitalized in every single title? (*The first and last word of each title is capitalized.*)
2. What kinds of words are not capitalized? (*All other words are capitalized EXCEPT prepositions, articles, and conjunctions.*)
3. What is the longest title? How many words does it have? (*Chapter 1 is longest, but it still has only 8 words.*)

4. Which titles are complete sentences? Do they end with periods? (2, 7, 23, 25; No)

5. What punctuation marks appear in these titles? (*None except the quotation marks around "Admiral Benbow." "Admiral Benbow" is in quotation marks to show that it is a title of something and not a person.*)

### ***Title Check***

A. Before students begin reading *Treasure Island*, have them write their names on a sheet of paper and answer two questions:

1. Which chapter title sounds the most exciting?

2. Which chapter title sounds the funniest?

Have students turn in their answers. After you've read the book, vote on the funniest and most exciting chapter. Then tally the predictions the class made based only on the titles. See whether Stevenson's titles helped you to judge what the chapters would be like.

B. Encourage students to pay attention to the chapter titles as they read. Does the title make them curious about the title? Does it set a mood or create suspense? Is it a preview of coming attractions? After reading a chapter, they can look back and see if the title did its job by cluing them in to what is important in the chapter.

## Chapter-by-Chapter Guide

### Chapter 1: "The Old Sea Dog at 'The Admiral Benbow'" (pp. 1-7)

Critics agree that the opening of *Treasure Island* is masterful because it accomplishes so many of the things needed for a good beginning in such a short space. In just one sentence Stevenson sets up the point of view, introduces the first person narrator and his subject, establishes the setting, and launches the plot. Besides all that he also hooks the reader with the mention of the old seaman's "sabre cut across his cheek" (p. 1) a detail that shows that this man is no ordinary guest at a seaside inn but comes from the dangerous world of adventure.

Because he is writing a romance, Stevenson intentionally leaves out some realistic details. *Treasure Island* is not situated in real space or time; he omits "the bearings" (longitude and latitude) of the island, and he leaves the actual year blank.

In paragraph 2 (pp. 1-2) students should note Stevenson's vivid visual description; Billy Bones is a "nut-brown" man with "scarred" hands and "black, broken nails."

Many of the dominant themes of the novel are presented in the first chapter:

- Stevenson contrasts the dirty, scarred but romantic pirate world with clean, comfortable but humdrum daily life.
- The connection is established between immoderation, especially drinking excessively, and adventure, as is the connection between honor and class. Billy Bones's theme song connects him with "drink and the devil" but the neat doctor is unafraid of the "filthy scarecrow of a pirate" and contemptuously replies to his drunken threats. In their battle of wills, Bones loses because Doctor Livesey, a magistrate and a gentleman, has law and honor behind him.



- The doctor's calm courage introduces one of the premium values of the novel.
- The high price of easy money also comes up. The captain obviously has something of value that makes him fearful. Cap'n Bones pays Jim "a silver penny to watch for the one-legged sailor." This man who can "leap and pursue" despite his missing leg haunts Jim's dreams, foreshadowing the nightmarish events to follow. Says Jim, "I paid pretty dear for my monthly penny, in the shape of these terrible dreams"(p. 3). In the course of the treasure hunt many more men pay even more dearly.
- Lastly, through Billy Bones and the yet unseen one-legged sailor, Stevenson symbolizes the idea that though evil is maimed and dirty, it can exercise undeniable strength and fascination.
- Even the name of the inn Jim's father runs is related to the theme of courage and manliness. Curiously, Stevenson's fascination with maimed strength is part of the story of the original Admiral John Benbow, who continued to fight the French even after his legs had been cut off. The folk song that was sung by 18th century sailors commemorating this valiant leader can be found at the end of this teacher's guide, in the section called "Who was Admiral Benbow?"

**Summary:** The narrator explains that he is writing *Treasure Island* at the request of Squire Trelawney and Dr. Livesey. He describes the scarred old seaman lugging his heavy chest up to the Admiral Benbow singing the trademark pirates' song. He chooses Jim's father's out of the way inn because there he can drink rum and sit by the fire keeping a lookout for seafaring men. The captain pays Jim a silver penny a month to watch for a one-legged sailor. Jim likes the money, though he has nightmares about the strong but crippled man. He gives Jim's father four gold pieces when he first arrives, but for months afterward just roars when he is asked to pay his bill. In fact Jim speculates that the terror in which his father lived hurried his death. Only Jim and Dr. Livesey are not afraid of the captain; Dr. Livesey, however, on a visit to Jim's father, stands up to him. When the captain yells for silence, Dr. Livesey merely warns him of the dangers of rum. The captain draws his knife to pin the doctor to the wall, but the Livesey tells him to

put the weapon away or "on my honor, you shall hang." The captain loses the "battle of looks" and puts away his knife "grumbling like a beaten dog." Here in the inn, moderation, respectability, law, and honor triumph just as they will on Treasure Island thirty chapters later. And young readers are assured from the first sentence that the good guys win since the first person narrator must have lived through the adventures in order to be able to write about them now.

***Questions: "The Old Sea Dog at 'The Admiral Benbow'"***

1. What does the captain look like? What do his looks tell about his life?

*He is tanned and badly scarred. Rather than having lead a cozy fireside life, he has obviously faced physical hardship.*

2. Whom is the captain hiding from? Why is he hiding?

*He his hiding from other seafaring men, a one-legged man in particular.*

3. How does the doctor stand up to the captain? Why does the captain back down?

*When the captain yells for silence, the doctor calmly continues to speak. After the captain threatens him to pin him to the wall, the doctor warns him that if he doesn't put the knife away, he will hang.*

4. Stevenson tried especially hard to write good openings. Reread the first paragraph and tell whether or not you think he succeeded. How many elements of the story does he introduce in the first paragraph?

## Chapter 2: "Black Dog Appears and Disappears" (pp.8-15)

**Summary:** The captain and mysterious Black Dog clearly fear each other. They argue, and finally the captain chases Black Dog away. He would have split him in two, except that his sabre hits the wooden sign above the inn door. The captain calls for rum; he has had a stroke. Dr. Livesey treats the captain by bloodletting, confines him to bed, and warns him again not to drink.

**Themes:** The ominous man of the chapter title has the same mutilated strength as the one legged man of Jim's nightmare. This sailor is missing two fingers on his left hand; in spite of a bleeding sabre cut, he can run from the inn in a twinkling.

Once again courage is underscored. Jim is not afraid of bloodletting, just as he wasn't afraid of the captain.

### **Questions: "Black Dog Appears and Disappears"**

1. What is unusual about Black Dog's physical appearance?

*He is missing two fingers.*

2. How do the captain and Black Dog feel about each other?

*Each is afraid of the other.*

3. What causes the captain's stroke?

*He fights and then hotly pursues Black Dog; he aims a "tremendous cut" at him but hits the signboard instead. Whether these exertions or the fears aroused by Black Dog's appearance caused the stroke is unclear.*

### Exercise: Pesky Punctuation: 'Marks the Spot

One of Billy Bones' tattoos says, "Bill Bones His Fancy." Today we would write that, "Billy Bones' Fancy" ("Fancy" meaning what he likes best.) We would use an apostrophe after the s' in place of "His."

Some people think that apostrophes are going out of style. Because they think they aren't necessary, people forget or don't bother to put them where they belong. Even if apostrophes are not headed the way of the horse and buggy, students aren't the only ones who are confused about when to use apostrophes. They have two different meanings-they show where letters have been left out and they show possession. It might help to know how they got started, how possessives might once have been contractions.

So far, most writers remember to use apostrophes to show that letters are missing from that spot in a contraction.

do + not -----don't

is not-----isn't

he will -----he'll

they are -----they're

of the clock-----o'clock

what is up?---what's up?---sup?

We also but less reliably use them with an 's' to indicate possession, as in

the child's toy or the dog's leash.

These possessive apostrophes may actually be contractions. In the 1700's "his" after the owner's name showed possession, as in

Billy Bones His Fancy ----- Billy Bones' Fancy

Although practice differs, if the word already ends in "s," most prefer to just add the apostrophe without another "s."

or

John Smith His Book ----- John Smith's book

In medieval times people wrote, "For Jesus Christ His Sake." Now we would write "For Jesus Christ's Sake." Apostrophes mark the spot where letters are missing.

### Chapter 3: "The Black Spot" (pp. 16-22)

*Summary and Themes:* The captain begs Jim for rum. He insists that he'll die without it, or he'll get "the horrors," meaning delirium tremens\*. Jim sidesteps the doctor's orders when the captain starts to "raise Cain."\*\* We learn that Billy Bones was Captain Flint's first mate (second in command), that Flint is a notorious pirate, and that he potentially has access to all of Flint's money which he promises to share "equals, upon my honor" (p. 18) with Jim if the boy will help him now. (Later Long John Silver will make him a similar offer.)

Jim's father suddenly dies, taking everyone's mind off the captain, who continues drinking rum without interference in the ensuing commotion. During the funeral, people are too afraid to make him stop his drunken pirate song. Also on the day of the funeral, a scary blind man appears, the third intrusion from the world of romantic adventure. Like the others he is disfigured, and like them symbolizes the mutilated nature of evil. His sea cloak "made him appear deformed," Jim notes. Just as Pew is the most maimed of the three, he is most frightening. No pitiable blind man, he grips Jim's hand "like a vice" and threatens to break the boy's arm if he doesn't take him to the captain. Pew's voice is "cruel and cold." In Chapter 4 he wishes that he had poked out Jim's eyes. Once he has given the captain the Black Spot, the blind man skips out of the inn "with incredible accuracy and nimbleness," his stick tapping into the distance.

Seeing the dreaded black spot, the captain has a fatal stroke. Jim weeps, shaken by this second death in a week.

Technique: The senses of hearing and touch are very important in this chapter: Pew's iron fist, the tapping of his stick, his voice at first singsong, then cold and cruel.

\* d.t.'s--severe alcohol withdrawal syndrome in which one can experience terrifying hallucinations

\*\* This phrase, which means to create a big disturbance, refers to Adam and Eve's oldest child. According to the Book of Genesis, Cain committed the first murder when he killed his brother Abel out of jealousy.

***Questions on Chapter 3: "The Black Spot"***

1. What is the black spot?

*The captain says that it is a summons.*

2. What does the captain promise if Jim will help him?

*He says that he will "share with you equals, upon my honor." He has referred to something in his sea chest, which he received from Flint when he lay dying in Savannah.*

3. Which pirate is most frightening so far? Why?

*Answers will vary, but probably Pew, with his cold cruel voice, his harsh grip, and his arm-wrenching threats. Like the one-legged man of Jim's nightmares, Pew can run accurately and nimbly despite his disability.*

4. Why is 10:00 important? What time is it when the captain dies?

*The paper from Pew says 10:00 o'clock. It is 4:00 o'clock when the captain dies, because he says he has six hours.*

5. Why does Jim burst into tears when the captain dies?

*It was the second death he had ever seen, and he was still freshly grieving for his father.*

#### **Chapter 4: "The Sea Chest" (pp. 23-29)**

**Summary:** Chapter 4 concerns a "the dead man's chest" like the one in the captain's song. Jim's mother thinks that Billy Bones' chest must hold the money that he owed her husband. He had not paid his bill for months. Certain that Bones' enemies will break into the inn to get whatever is in the chest, Jim and his mother go to the neighboring hamlet for help, but the name of Captain Flint and the sightings of the smuggler's ship in the cove are too much for the fearful villagers. Despite their warnings, Mrs. Hawkins is determined to get the money that is owed to her fatherless son, so she and the boy return to the inn alone. Building tension, Stevenson describes Jim overcoming his natural disgust, and searching the pockets and the dead body of the captain for the key to his trunk all the while fearing Pew's arrival at any moment. Inside the chest they find a bag of gold coins from many different countries. Because she can recognize only English guineas and will not take a farthing more than she is due, Mrs. Hawkins is slow to count them. The tapping of the blind man's stick on the frozen road and a low whistle alert them to the pirates' approach. The mother decides to be satisfied with what she has, while Jim grabs an oilskin packet "to square the count" (p. 28). They run out of the inn, but before they get very far, to Jim's dismay, his mother feels faint. The boy manages to pull her under the arch of the nearby bridge "within earshot of the inn" so that in the next chapter he will be able to tell us what the pirates do inside the inn.

**Technique:** In Chapter 4 Stevenson develops suspense through sound. Because their eyes must be on the captain's body and the coins, Jim and Mrs. Hawkins must listen carefully for sounds of danger. Stevenson deftly uses onomatopoeia to heighten the tension. First they hear only "the wash of ripples" but are electrified by the "tap-tapping of the blind man's stick on the frozen road." Even the sounds of the words "ripple" (sounds watery) and "stick" (sounds sharp), though perhaps not strictly onomatopoeia, combine to imitate the sounds of what Stevenson is describing.



***Questions on Chapter 4: "The Sea Chest"***

1. Why won't the villagers help Jim and his mother?

*Even the name "Captain Flint" scares them; besides, they've already seen smugglers around.*

2. Where does Jim find the key to the dead man's chest?

*On a tarry string around Billy Bones's neck.*

3. What is the piece of paper near the captain's hand? What does it say? What does it look like?

*It is the black spot. One side is colored black and the other says "You have till ten tonight."*

4. Why does Jim's mother take so long to count the money?

*The coins are from all the countries of the world. She can count only the English coins, so that she must search through the moneybag.*

5. What does Jim take from the captain's chest?

*He takes an oilskin packet, which he thinks must be valuable, though he doesn't yet know what is inside of it.*

## ***Theme***

In chapter 3 Stevenson explores the limits of courage and desire for money and notes that both must be accompanied by strength or luck.

### ***Courage and the Golden Mean***

The philosopher Aristotle said that every good quality was a mid-point between two bad extremes. Too much of a good thing is as bad as too little. To illustrate this mid-point, which he called "The Golden Mean," Aristotle used courage as his example. He thought that courage was arguably the most important virtue, because without it, a person isn't capable of being good in any difficult situation. Of course courage is also, almost by definition, the cardinal virtue in an adventure novel. But it is possible to have too much of a good thing. Too much courage is recklessness, or being "foolhardy" as the villagers call Jim and his mother, but too little is cowardice, or being "chicken-hearted" as Mrs. Hawkins terms her neighbors. Who was closer to achieving the golden mean in this case?

The Greek ideal of moderation can also be applied to desire for money, or the "treasure theme." Jim's mother goes back to the inn at great risk to herself and her son to get money. But she wants only what she is owed, saying "I'm an honest woman. . . . I'll have my dues and not a farthing over" (p. 26). She will not cheat even a dead man or the pirates coming to loot his chest. Students should consider whether in the subsequent quest for money other characters are as honest as Jim's mother. How much love of money is practicality and how much is greed? Was Jim wrong to take the map? Who is really entitled to the treasure?

Aristotle drew a diagram like the one below to show what he meant about every virtue (good quality) being a golden mean between two extremes. Students can see if Aristotle's idea holds true for other virtues, for example generosity, or honesty, or loyalty. See if they can name or describe the two bad extremes these good qualities become if taken too far.

cowardice \_\_\_\_\_ courage \_\_\_\_\_ recklessness

## Chapter 5: "The Last of the Blind Man" (pp. 30-36)

**Summary and Theme:** The first sentence of chapter five alludes to the courage theme: "My curiosity was stronger than my fear," says Jim. Is he being brave or foolhardy as he comes out of hiding to hear the pirates better? Inside the inn Blind Pew is boss, shouting orders and curses. They find and search "Bill's" body. They are horrible in their single-minded quest for the treasure map. They care nothing about their dead comrade. Blaming Jim for taking "Flint's fist," Pew wishes he had poked the boy's eyes out. They ransack and then smash the contents of the inn. When they hear Dirk's warning signal, the crew want to take the doubloons and run. Pew calls them cowardly. If they had "the pluck of a weevil in a biscuit," he says, they would stay to find what they're really looking for. Because the pirates waste time quarrelling about their courage and are controlled by desire for money, Jim and his mother are saved. At the final warning, a gunshot, the pirates scatter. Deserted by his companions and disoriented, Blind Pew runs into the path of some revenue officers (customs agents) in pursuit of the smugglers. He falls under their horses' hooves and is killed. Jim reveals to the officers that he has the oilskin packet that was apparently the object of the buccaneers' search. He will take it to Dr. Livesey who is a magistrate.

Readers should note that though Pew is blind, his courage has made him the leader of the pirates. He berates their lack of pluck and boasts that he was the only one who dared to face Bill with the black spot. (Similarly Jim was the only one besides the doctor who was unafraid of the captain.) Some critics say that the qualities of Billy Bones and Pew are later combined in the character of Long John Silver.

**Technique:** Sound is really important in chapters 4 and 5 as Jim listens to the pirates but must stay out of sight. An especially heart stopping use of sound is "Suddenly I heard the tap-tapping of the blind man's stick upon the frozen road," (p. 28) as Jim's mother tries to count the money. When the pirates get inside the inn, Jim hears their feet "rattling up our stairs" and then "a slam and a jingle of broken glass."

***Questions on Chapter 5: "The Last of the Blind Man"***

1. How do the buccaneers react to finding out that Billy Bones is dead?

*They don't care. When they tell Pew that he is dead, he just orders some to search his body and others to search for the chest.*

2. What are Pew and his men looking for?

*They are looking for "Flint's fist," apparently a treasure map.*

3. Why does Pew begin to strike the other men?

*They want to leave after hearing the second warning. They are satisfied with the doubloons, but Pew says, "You have your hands on thousands, you fools, and you hang a leg! You'd be as rich as kings if you could find it, and you stand there skulking." He is so angry at their lack of courage that he lashes out at them with his stick.*

4. How does Pew die?

*In a frenzy and deserted by his men, he runs into the path of revenue officers and the boy who was sent to the doctor. He is trampled to death by their horses.*

## Chapter 6: "The Captain's Papers" (pp. 37-43)

*Summary and Themes:* Jim and Officer Dance arrive at Dr. Livesey's where he and the squire sit smoking their pipes on either side of a bright fire. Once again the comfortable bachelor life is shown in contrast to the abnormality of the dark, scary buccaneers. Mr. Dance tells the whole story. The doctor and the squire heartily approve of Jim's mother's courage in going back to the inn. They get rid of Dance and feed Jim a pigeon pie before looking into the packet. Then after exclaiming on Flint's bloodthirsty reputation ("Blackbeard was a child" compared to Flint), the squire resolves that if there really is a map of buried treasure in the packet, he will outfit a ship to seek it. Building suspense, Stevenson slowly reveals the contents of the packet. Inside are a book and a sealed paper. First the doctor looks through the book, a record of ships sunk and towns plundered and booty acquired by Billy Bones. As the amounts entered into his account book went up, Billy Bones rose in rank. Later Long John Silver will make the same connection between gaining money and gaining status. Finally the paper, opened with great care, turns out to be the map. Shaped like a fat dragon standing on its hind legs, Treasure Island is marked with three crosses in red ink, one labeled "Bulk of treasure here." Delighted, the squire and the doctor begin their plans to get easy money. Notice that the doctor speaks for Jim, telling the squire, "I'll go with you. . . . So will Jim"(p. 42). He seems to be one of the several father substitutes who attach themselves to Jim in this novel. "We'll have no difficulty in finding the spot, and money to roll in, ever after," the squire exclaims optimistically. The less naive doctor expresses his concern that the squire talks too much, and reminds him that secrecy is essential, especially considering that the men who attacked the inn are equally determined to get the money.

Are the doctor and the squire being foolhardy to pursue treasure with so much danger attached? Do either of these men seem to need the money, or are they really just looking for adventure?

***Questions on Chapter 6: "The Captain's Papers"***

1. How do the doctor and the squire show their approval of Jim's mother's courage and determination?

*The doctor slaps his thigh and the squire cries, "Bravo!"*

2. What are some of the outstanding features of the island on the map?

*A safe anchorage, a hill called "The Spyglass," three crosses of red ink, the notation "Bulk of treasure here."*

3. What will be Jim Hawkins' role in the project?

*He'll be the cabin boy.*

4. Why must they keep the map and their planned voyage a secret?

## Chapter 7: "I Go to Bristol" (pp. 46-51)

*Summary and Themes:* Jim stays at the Hall "full of sea dreams" (p. 46), as he and the doctor wait for the squire to send for them. He spends his time brooding over the map and in his imagination he climbs all over the island, exploring "every acre of its surface." Thus Jim prepares for his adventures and makes his exploits on the island more believable. But reality, readers are told, will exceed Jim's imaginary adventures (p. 47) in strangeness and tragedy.

At last a letter arrives from the squire describing the Hispaniola and Long John Silver, the cook. The squire pities the one-legged old sailor, whom he believes to have lost his leg doing his patriotic duty. Stevenson notes that the squire trusts Silver because he has a bank account, which has never been overdrawn. Again money confers respectability. But Jim and the reader are already cued in to the danger of a one-legged man. Silver's wife, "a woman of color" is only the second female in the novel. The bachelor squire suggests that Silver is anxious to go back to sea more to escape her than to improve his health. The alert reader will note that Silver seems to have taken over the hiring of hands for the voyage, and has fired two of the squire's choices (p. 48).

Jim leaves his mother "in good health and spirits" with a "cozy new armchair." In that simple phrase Stevenson captures the snug comforts of home, which he contrasts throughout, with the hardships of adventure. Jim finds that he is jealous of the apprentice hired to help his mother and he cries for the first and only time about leaving home. His tears are soon forgotten in his infatuation with the sea. The smell of the salt, the figureheads, the tarry pigtailed and gold earrings of the old sailors are a "delightful dream" to Jim. The squire's head is turned by the romance of it all too; he dresses like a sea officer and imitates a sailor's clumsy walk.

***Questions on Chapter 7: "I Go to Bristol"***

1. How does Jim spend his time at the Hall while waiting for the squire to send for him and the doctor?

*He studies the map of Treasure Island in detail and imagines the savage men and wild animals he'll encounter there. This knowledge helps Jim later when he leaves the stockade and sails out alone in the coracle.*

2. According to the squire's letter, how did Long John Silver lose his leg?

*He was wounded while serving his country.*

3. What does Long John Silver do for a living?

*He runs an inn or public house.*



## Chapter 8: "At the Sign of the 'Spyglass'" (pp. 52-55)

*Summary and Themes:* The name "Spyglass" ought to connect Long John Silver to Treasure Island in the reader's mind. But Jim doesn't catch on right away. The inn, like Silver himself, is more than meets the eye: it is a "bright little place" with a newly painted sign, neat red curtains, and a cleanly sanded floor." But despite its appearance of cleanliness and respectability, Jim is almost afraid to enter because the customers, mostly sailors, talk so loudly.

Long John Silver is described after so many ominous previews as eminently likable and trustworthy. Just as in Jim's dreams, his missing leg does not impair his strength or mobility. He hops about on his crutch "like a bird," whistling cheerfully and giving favored guests a merry "slap on the shoulder." Despite the coincidence of his inn's name, Jim thinks there is no way that this "clean and pleasant land-lord" could be the one-legged man that the captain had been so afraid of. Suddenly, though, Silver announces loudly who Jim is, and a man missing two fingers gets up and runs out. When Jim identifies him as Black Dog, Silver pretends not to know him, but vaguely to remember having seen him with a blind man. Jim is completely – if temporarily – taken in by Silver's pretense, which he says would have "convinced a judge." For the rest of the chapter, indeed for the rest of the novel, Jim's suspicions of Silver ebb and flow. The older man's flattery ("You're as smart as paint") and knowledge of seafaring convince the boy that the cook is the "best of possible shipmates." Stevenson skillfully weaves Jim's doubts about Silver together with descriptions of his attractions so that the reader is almost as confused as the narrator: is he good or bad? When Long John and Jim report on Black Dog's escape to the squire and the doctor, the latter says, "I don't put much faith in your discoveries, as a rule, but John Silver suits me."

### ***Questions on Chapter 8: "At the Sign of the 'Spyglass'"***

1. Silver's Tavern is named the Spyglass. Why might he have chosen that name?

*Spyglasses are used by seafaring men, so "The Spyglass" is an appropriate name for a seaside tavern. However, some very alert students may also recall that the Spyglass is a hill on Treasure Island.*

2. What things does Jim like about Long John Silver?

*His inn is clean, neat, and cheerful. The landlord himself is merry. He's an interesting guide as they walk along the quay because he knows so much about seafaring life.*

3. Billy Bones asked Jim to be on the lookout for a one-legged man. Long John Silver is a one-legged man. Why does Jim decide Silver is the same man? Are you persuaded by his reasoning?

*Students may trust Jim's judgment, or they may be suspicious of Long John, particularly since the pirate Black Dog turns up in Silver's pub. Silver claims not to know Black Dog, and at this point it is impossible to be sure he is lying. However, it turns out later that Long John is a pirate himself. Students may not notice the foreshadowing in this chapter at this point, and you probably will not want to tell them about it. Later, once they find out the truth about Long John, you may want to have them come back and re-read this section.*

## Chapter 9: Powder and Arms" (pp. 58-64)

*Summary and Themes:* Chapter 9 develops the contrast between charming but treacherous Long John Silver and dutiful, plainspoken Captain Smollett. While Jim, Squire Trelawney, and Dr. Livesey all put their faith in Silver, the squire, for one, is unhappy with the captain. Smollett speaks in short sentences and says nothing but the truth. Silver can go on for paragraphs to obscure the facts. The upright captain plainly states his dissatisfaction with the treasure voyage: "I don't like this cruise. I don't like the men, and I don't like my officer" (p. 59). Himself a man of few words, he objects when the purpose of a trip is supposedly a secret, but "the secret has been told to the parrot." To prove to the naive squire that everyone on board knows what they're sailing for, he tells the exact longitude and latitude of Treasure Island and even mentions the three red crosses on the map. He further informs the gentlemen that he will resign if he learns who has the map and warns them that this affair will be life or death, not the pleasure trip that they seem to expect. The keystone to Captain Smollett's character is duty. He knows that he is responsible for the life of every man on the ship. "You'll find I do my duty," he tells the squire. Smollett will sound this note again and again in *Treasure Island*. While the doctor thinks Smollett is one of the two honest men on board (Silver is the other!), the squire calls him "unmanly, unsailorly, un-English." Even Jim dislikes the discipline implied in the captain's manner. When he tells Jim, clearly treated by Silver as a pet, "I'll have no favorites on my ship!" and orders him to get to work, Jim takes the squire's side and hates Smollett "deeply." The captain is admirable, but Silver is exciting.

**Questions on Chapter 9: “Powder and Arms”**

1. What precautions does the captain insist on before they leave port?

*He wants the powder and arms (gunpowder and weapons) put toward the stern near where the squire's men are berthed beside the captain's cabin instead of in the front where the common sailors will be.*

2. What does the captain seem worried about?

*Although he will not say that he fears a mutiny, he doesn't trust most of the crew, he doesn't like voyages to hunt treasure, and he doesn't want to know where the map is for fear that he will be forced (under torture) to reveal it.*

3. How does Silver attempt to persuade them not to move the powder?

*He claims that if they take time to do it, they'll miss the morning tide. The captain insists and orders Silver to go below and begin cooking.*

4. Is the Captain too strict?

*Answers will vary. He may seem too strict at this point, but students may change their minds later, when they learn he is justified in his suspicions. With the character of the captain still fresh this would be a good time to discuss the concept of duty, which is so central to his personality.*

## **Chapter 10: "The Voyage" (pp. 65-71)**

*Summary and Themes:* As the crew pulls up the anchor, Long John leads them in the familiar pirates' song. Jim Hawkins doesn't describe much of the voyage except the disappearance of the first mate, Mr. Arrow. Arrow has no control over the men and is usually drunk, though when sober he swears that he drinks nothing but water. No one knows where he gets the liquor--but Jim and we find out later. Arrow disappears one night, apparently having fallen overboard. We get brief character sketches of the boatswain, Job Anderson, and the coxswain, Israel Hands, who praises "Barbecue" as he calls Silver, for his ability to "speak like a book" and his courage.

The contrast between the hearty Silver and the stiff Captain Smollett continues. Silver keeps his galley shiny clean. He likes to "have a yarn" with Jim and feed sugar to his parrot. This 200-year-old bird, another of the very few females in the book, according to Silver has seen more wickedness than anyone but the devil; she curses and screams "Pieces of eight!" (A piece of eight is an old Spanish silver coin.) Since parrots repeat what they hear, her sayings give us a picture of the content of pirate conversation. Silver tells Jim stories about her buccaneer past. On the other hand, the captain "never spoke except when spoken to, and then short and dry" (p. 69). The squire despises the captain, while Jim thinks that Silver is "the best of men." The chapter ends with Jim's crawling into the barrel to get an apple, and nearly falling asleep, setting the stage for the next chapter in which he overhears the conversation that reveals Silver's true nature.

### ***Questions on Chapter 10: "The Voyage"***

1. What song do the men sing as the crew pulls up anchor? Where have we heard this song before?

*They sing "Yo ho, ho," the same song the pirates had sung earlier. This is another hint that some of the men are really pirates, although it is a subtle one which many readers miss on first reading.*

2. What phrase does Silver's parrot repeat? Why might he repeat this phrase.

*"Pieces of Eight." It could be that someone has taught him this phrase, but in fact it is a phrase often used by pirates, who went searching for pieces of eight. This is another hint that Silver is not what he seems to be. Again, however, it is a subtle hint, and it is fine to let students go on trusting Silver until his wickedness is revealed in the next chapter.*

3. What does Captain Smollett disapprove about the squire's treatment of the crew?

*Smollett thinks that the squire is too nice to them--giving them "double grog" (rum) and pudding for special occasions, and providing a barrel of apples for the crew. The captain warns, "Spoil the hands, make devils."*

## **Chapter 11: "What I Heard in the Apple Barrel" (pp. 72-78)**

*Summary and Themes:* Jim points out that good does come from the apple barrel that the captain warns against. (Once again Stevenson seems to show that strict adherence to discipline isn't always the best policy.)

Hiding in the apple barrel, Jim finds out that Silver was a pirate. He was Flint's quartermaster (a petty officer in charge of navigation), and that he actually lost his leg in the same battle in which Pew lost his eyes. Jim wants to kill Silver when he hears him flatter Dick with the same words he used on Jim. Silver explains how, unlike the rest of the "gentlemen of fortune" as he calls pirates, he saves his money rather than throwing it away on rum and "a good fling." His goal, he reveals, is to "set up as a gentleman" (again we see that rank comes through money). Once the "brave lad" agrees to join forces with the buccaneers, Israel Hands arrives to urge Silver to strike soon. Silver scolds Hands for being too hasty – immoderate like the rest of them – when, if they were patient, they "could ride in carriages," another allusion to the fact that instead of being gentlemen of fortune, they could live the life of "gentlemen born."

We learn for sure during this chapter that genial Long John Silver, so well liked by the squire and the doctor, is a ruthless villain. When Dick asks what they will do with the honest men once they have the treasure, Silver agrees with Hands: "Dead men don't bite." He says, "When I'm in Parliament riding in my coach, I don't want these men coming home, unlooked for, like the devil at prayers." Silver quotes the doctor's motto, "Duty is duty" ironically in this chapter. The "duty" Long John refers to is killing all of the honest men to keep them silent. He claims for himself the pleasure of killing the squire – "I'll wring his head off!" Suddenly the cook asks for an apple, and Jim tensely fears discovery, but his luck holds; Hands asks for rum instead. As Silver directs Dick to the keg, Jim realizes that it was Silver who deliberately destroyed Mr. Arrow with rum.

The cry "Land ho!" and the subsequent excitement save Jim from being discovered.

*Technique:* Stevenson skillfully shifts the levels of knowledge of his characters, raising suspense by using dramatic irony. (The readers know the truth, though various characters don't.) Until this point in the novel, knowledge has been on the side of the pirates, though Jim occasionally suspects Silver and friends. In Chapter 11 Jim learns of their scheme, and the knowledge shifts from the scheming pirates to the honest men. Now they know what the pirates are up to, while the pirates don't know that they know.



## **Questions on Chapter 11: "What I Heard in the Apple Barrel"**

1. Where are Long John Silver's savings now?

*His wife has the money and is waiting to meet him and has the proceeds from. She has sold the "Spyglass" and has the proceeds of the sale with her as well.*

2. What is a "gentleman of fortune"?

*It is the pirates' term for a pirate--as opposed to a born gentleman; these men are gentlemen based on their luck or their money (both are meanings of the word fortune).*

3. Why does Long John Silver want to wait until the last minute to take over the ship?

*The captain, "a first rate seaman," is sailing the ship for them, the squire and the doctor have the map, and the rest of the hands will help them find the treasure and carry all the heavy stuff on board the ship. Silver would like to let the captain sail them halfway back before striking, but knows that his crew will want to kill the honest men on the island as soon as they get the treasure on board and that he probably won't be able to stop them.*

4. What does Silver plan to do once this "cruise" is over?

*He will live on his savings, become a gentleman, perhaps even a Member of Parliament, and ride in a coach.*

5. Why does Silver say that he votes for death (page 76)?

*He doesn't want just to maroon the honest men because they might get back to England somehow once he's established as a gentleman and disclose his past.*

6. Whom does Silver himself want to kill?

*Squire Trelawney. Note that the captain seems to be right: Spoil the hands, make devils. Though the squire is quite admiring of Silver and has been very generous with the crew, Silver wants to "wring his head off."*

7. What happened to Mr. Arrow?

*Apparently Silver had been giving rum to him from the start. Since he warns Dick that he has a gauge on the keg (so that he can tell if any is stolen), he must have been the one supplying the first mate with the liquor that finally killed him.*

**Chapter 12: "Council of War" (pp. 79-85) and**

**Chapter 13: "How I Began My Shore Adventure" (pp. 88-93)**

*Summary and Themes:* Now that Jim has overheard the conversation in the apple barrel, he is horrified by Silver. But Barbecue still treats Jim as a favorite, telling him that exploring a place like Treasure Island will be a boy's dream come true. In fact, for some time at the Squire's hall, Jim did study the map of Treasure Island and dreamed of exploring it. After all hands on deck give a cheer to the squire and drink to everyone's health and luck, Jim tells his news to the captain, the squire, and the doctor. The squire makes the captain a manly apology and awaits his orders. The captain knows that they can't turn back, and that there will be a battle, though probably not till the treasure is discovered. He wants to pick a time to fight when the mutineers least expect it. They are only 7 honest men against 19 bad men and Jim, merely a boy, must be their spy.

In Chapter 13 we get our first view of the island of adventure, with its "spires of naked rock," and its grey gloomy woods. Jim hates it from first sight--far from a paradisaical tropical island, it is windless and sweltering. "Poisonously bright" marshes give off a rotten smell and the doctor bets his wig that there is malaria.

All of the honest hands are issued pistols and told of the buccaneers' plans. The captain decides to give the crew an afternoon ashore, so that Silver can keep the impending mutiny at bay a little longer. The captain knows that the rebellious crew members want to wait until they find the treasure before they fight, but one order might cause them to break into mutiny immediately. Ashore for the afternoon maybe Silver can get them under control. As thirteen men, including Silver, board boats, on impulse and "in a jiffy" Jim sneaks into one of them. When Silver sees and calls out to him, the boy regrets his foolhardiness. As soon as his boat gets to shore, he breaks into a run. Once again Jim has behaved recklessly, yet his boyishly brave action eventually saves them all.

***Questions on Chapters 12 and 13: "Council of War" and "How I Began My Shore Adventure"***

1. Why does the squire admit to the captain that he was wrong? What was he wrong and the captain right about?

*The captain didn't like the voyage from the start, and didn't trust the crew, though he wasn't willing to say that he feared an outright mutiny. His foresight in moving the powder and arms now looks like wisdom. The squire, who thought he would play the role of "admiral," now sees that the captain is the proper leader. He understands that the squire's emphasis on duty and discipline is necessary.*

2. What does Treasure Island look like from the sea? Why does Jim say that he hated it (p. 89)?

*It is gloomy and marshy. The woods are grey, the marshes stink, it's really hot, and the ship is just rolling around like a bottle because there is no wind.*

3. Why does Jim jump into one of the boats bound for shore? What do you think that he was planning to do?

*Apparently he wants to spy on the potential mutineers. Unfortunately for him, Silver calls aloud to him--and maybe thinks he's joined their party or that the boy wants to explore the new place.*

4. Why does Jim begin to regret his decision to go ashore?

*Silver spots him sneaking into one of the gigs. He is afraid of Silver now.*

## Chapter 14, "The First Blow" (pp. 94-99)

*Summary and Themes:* The theme of duty, of remaining loyal to a code of behavior, is underscored while Silver's treacherous nature is further revealed. Earlier Jim encounters a hissing snake; now he sees Silver "watching like a snake about to spring." Long John tries to persuade Tom to join the mutineers, but Tom stands firm for duty. Suddenly from a distance Jim hears the shriek of another of the honest hands being killed. Tom remarks that John's conscience makes him leap away from the hand he has offered in peace. Realizing that he has just heard Alan's death cry, Tom says bravely, "If I die like a dog, I'll die in my duty. You've killed Alan? Kill me, too, if you can. But I defy you." Stevenson shows that doing one's duty demands great courage and also reveals Silver's utter contempt for duty.

Again Silver is not hampered by his apparent infirmity. When honest Tom bravely turns his back on the perfidious cook, Silver kills him by throwing his crutch so forcefully at him that it breaks his back. Then, even without the crutch, "agile as a monkey" Silver jumps him and buries his knife in the stunned seaman. Jim almost faints from having witnessed these brutal actions; as he glances back, he sees "the monster" blandly cleaning the blood off of his knife. Jim comments that the whole scene seems unreal--this is the stuff of nightmares. Then Long John whistles for his comrades, and Jim realizes that if found, he will be next to die. He runs in a frenzy. The ending of this chapter hints at a new and surprising danger, as Jim stops short with a thumping heart. This cliff-hanger ending was perfect for the serial format in which *Treasure Island* first appeared.

Jim does find some pleasure in exploring, but the island of boys' dreams has become a nightmare.

*Technique:* Sound is really important in this chapter. Note the many sounds of nature and Jim's overhearing the confrontation between Silver and honest Tom.

***Questions for Chapter 14: "The First Blow"***

1. What "warning" does Silver seem to be giving Tom?

*He warns him that he will be killed if he doesn't join the mutineers. When they hear the cries of Alan, Tom realizes how grave his situation is.*

2. How does Silver kill dutiful Tom?

*He grabs a tree branch to steady himself and hurls his crutch at Tom's back, breaking it. Then Silver leaps on his motionless body and stabs him to death.*

3. What are the cries that Jim, Silver and Tom hear?

*First there are two angry cries and a horrid scream. The mutineers have killed Alan, Silver acknowledges with a frightening gleam in his eye as he is ready to get rid of Tom.*

### *Visual Imagery: Making a Mental Movie*

Stevenson is really good at making the reader visualize a scene. He does it partly by describing a characteristic or even symbolic gesture that is easy for the reader to picture--like the men lighting their pipes, Ben Gunn kneeling with outstretched hands, Tom's hands flying up as he falls, Silver "twice bury[ing] his knife up to the hilt in that defenseless body." Even more Stevenson helps readers imagine the actions of his characters by comparing them to something familiar and instantly recognizable. Silver watches his adversary like a snake about to strike. With just a few words Stevenson depicts the sea breeze in "a tossing and grinding of boughs" and "the surf tumbling its foam along the beach."

- Have each student find and list 5 similes and 2 metaphors from *Treasure Island*.
- Make a master list and decide what Stevenson's similes and metaphors have in common. (Not only are they vivid and easy to picture in the mind's eye, but they are comparisons to ordinary things, especially taken from rural seaside life--just the sorts of things Jim Hawkins would know about.)
- Have students explain how each comparison is appropriate. For example the squire eats like a bull and sleeps like a tree. A bull is more dignified than a hog, more masculine and powerful than a horse.
- Have students supply their own comparisons in Mad-Lib fashion:

## Comparisons

1. Hermione is as smart as \_\_\_\_\_.  
(noun)

2. Grumley has the pluck (boldness) of a \_\_\_\_\_ in a \_\_\_\_\_.  
(noun) (noun)

(This one is used sarcastically in *Treasure Island*--to show lack of courage or initiative.)

3. Toby eats like a \_\_\_\_\_.  
(noun)

4. Trouble \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ us like \_\_\_\_\_.  
(verb) (preposition) (plural noun)

5. His room was clean as a \_\_\_\_\_.  
(noun)

6. Kerry made a face like someone tasting a \_\_\_\_\_.  
(adjective and noun)

7. The Pirates leaped upon the treasure map like \_\_\_\_\_ on a \_\_\_\_\_.  
(plural noun) (singular noun)

### **Similes in *Treasure Island***

- Jim is flattered by being called “as smart as paint.” (p. 56)
- Even without his crutches Silver is agile, “like a monkey.” (p. 62)
- He can “speak like a book.” (p. 68)
- The talkative Squire vows to be “as silent as the grave.”(p. 43)
- The Squire eats “like a bull” (p. 48) and is “sleeping like a tree” (p. 48) as he prepares to go to sea.
- LJS hops about on his crutch “like a bird.” (p. 53)
- His face is “as big as a ham.” (p. 53)
- His galley is “clean as a pin.” (p. 68)
- Gentlemen of fortune “eat and drink like fighting cocks.” (p. 73)
- The doctor makes a face “like someone tasting a bad egg.” (p. 90)
- “Mutiny hung over us like a thundercloud.” (p. 90)
- Silver “watches like a snake.” (p. 96)
- Trelawney was as “cool as steel.” (p. 120)
- Ben Gunn’s voice is “like a rusty lock.” (p. 101)
- The ship’s “bucking like a vicious horse.” (p. 176)
- His was a roar of fury “like a charging bull’s.” (p. 187)
- Jim picks up O’Brien’s corpse “as if he had been a sack of bran.” (p. 192)
- Jim’s heart is “going like a sledge hammer” (p. 206) as Silver faces down the other buccaneers but Silver remains “as calm as though he had been in church.” (p. 206)

### **Metaphors from *Treasure Island***

- “the pluck of a weevil in a biscuit” (p. 32)
- “a slave to tobacco” (p. 81)
- “master of himself” (p. 82)
- “train of circumstances” (p. 85)
- “the cords of discipline” (p. 89)
- “filthy scarecrow of a pirate” (p. 5)
- “Dead men don’t bite.” (p. 76)
- Rum and climate are “powerful allies of the honest men” (p. 138)



“courage glowed in my heart” (p. 101)

the Black Spot “ain’t worth a biscuit” says Silver (p. 212)

the mutineers don’t even have “the invention (i.e. imagination) of a cockroach,”  
according to Silver (p. 215)

## **The Sound Track**

We've looked at Stevenson's ability to describe scenes, at his imagery and at his use of onomatopoeia to make his novel even more like a mental movie. By comparing noises to easily recalled everyday experiences and exploiting the sounds of ordinary words like "gasp" and "rustle," RLS helps readers enter the narrator's experience more fully.

Stevenson seems to have naturally expressed himself in onomatopoeia. In a letter to a friend once he wrote that he was paid "a hundred jingling, tingling, golden minted quid" for *Treasure Island*.

### ***ONOMATOPOEIA: Name That Sound***

I. Underline examples of onomatopoeia and sound imagery in the paragraph below:

Jim hears the hiss of a snake, the warning quacks of wild ducks, the rustle of descending birds, and the boom of distant waves. In Chapter 14 Stevenson uses onomatopoeia to let the reader hear Jim's experiences as he explores the island. He hears angry shouts and a horrid scream, and hears them again as they echo off the rocks of the Spyglass. He hears Tom's last gasp and Silver's signal whistle. The final sound in this noisy chapter is the thumping of Jim's own heart.

II. Complete the following sentences using onomatopoeia. Use verbs that sound like what they mean. Examples:

The siren shrieks.

(The word shriek has "eeee" in it)

You crack the whip.

(The k in crack snaps like the sound of a whip.)

Ducks \_\_\_\_\_.

Geese \_\_\_\_\_.

Cats \_\_\_\_\_.

Bees \_\_\_\_\_.

Owls \_\_\_\_\_.

The wind \_\_\_\_\_.

The storm \_\_\_\_\_.

The cricket \_\_\_\_\_.

The door \_\_\_\_\_.

The waves \_\_\_\_\_.

You \_\_\_\_\_ steaks.

You \_\_\_\_\_ celery.

You \_\_\_\_\_ secrets.

You \_\_\_\_\_ your hands.

You \_\_\_\_\_ pans.

Make your own word bank by listing all of the words that name sounds made by water.

III. Fill in the blanks with the onomatopoeia that fits best. Use a different word in each blank. Add the ending if one needs to be there to make the sentence grammatically correct.

	slosh	
ripple		drip
plop		crash
	pitter patter	splash
swish		gurgle
	dribble	
lap		slap
trickle		

The water in the pipes \_\_\_\_\_.

The water \_\_\_\_\_ gently against the side of the ship.

The water \_\_\_\_\_ out of the leaky faucet.

The water \_\_\_\_\_ against the sides of the tin bucket.

The Olympic diver enters the water without a \_\_\_\_\_.

The children \_\_\_\_\_ water on each other.

The rain \_\_\_\_\_ on the roof.

The surf \_\_\_\_\_ on the beach.

The glistening spring water \_\_\_\_\_ down the rocks.

Which sounds make the liquid sounds? Notice that sh, l, and r are main ingredients.

IV. Composition: Write a paragraph describing action--a soccer game, a wrestling match, a skier, a robbery, a sailboat ride, a train wreck--and use onomatopoeia at least five times. Circle the words that make the sounds that they mean.

## Chapter 15: "The Man of the Island" (pp. 100-107)

*Summary, Themes and Technique:* Stevenson's portrait of Ben Gunn obviously owes a great deal to *Robinson Crusoe*. He has the same sturdy self-reliance, and tells Jim that "Wherever a man is, . . . a man can do for himself" (p. 102). Again sound is prominent. Gravel rattling down the steep hill alerts Jim to the presence of some creature. Then he sees it flitting through the trees like a deer but on two legs; first he worries about cannibals, but he remembers his pistol, and "courage [glows] in [his] heart" (p. 101). Stevenson's skill in sketching a vivid mental picture with just a few words is exemplified in his description of Jim's confrontation with the wild man--"he threw himself on his knees and held out his hands." His voice, we are told, "sounded like a rusty lock." Like Defoe's hero, Ben Gunn has become religious as a result of his solitude. He longs for Christian conversation and a Christian diet. He has even sworn off rum--except for "just a thimble-ful for luck, of course." Not only is Ben Gunn pious, he is rich. But he is also worried about that scary one-legged man. As Jim finds out, Ben Gunn is actually a reformed pirate, the kind that Silver repeatedly seems to be. Beginning to think that Gunn is an ally, Jim tells him all about their trip on the *Hispaniola*. In return, Jim hears Ben Gunn's story of the voyage of the *Walrus*. Flint went ashore with his treasure and six strong men, and came back by himself – the others all murdered and buried. He commanded his mate Billy Bones and his quartermaster Long John Silver to sail away or be left ashore with the treasure. Seeing the island on a later trip, Gunn tells his shipmates about Flint's treasure. After spending twelve days failing to find it, the frustrated sailors maroon Ben Gunn with a musket, a spade, and a pickaxe. With these tools he has spent three years digging up the treasure. More good news is that Gunn has made himself a little boat, so that they will be able to get back to the ship. They hear the thunder of cannonfire and a "volley of small arms." Running toward the sound, they see the British flag, the Union Jack, flying above the woods and realize that the fight has begun between the mutineers and the loyal men.

***Questions on Chapter 15: "The Man of the Island"***

1. What do Ben Gunn's clothes look like?

*They are made of scraps of canvas held together with brass buttons and bits of sticks.*

2. Why was Ben Gunn marooned?

*His shipmates were punishing him for letting them spend twelve days in vain searching for Flint's treasure. They mockingly leave him there to find it for himself, and luckily for him, they also leave a spade and pickaxe (and a musket).*

3. Besides digging up the treasure, how has Ben Gunn spent his time?

*He prays, thinks of his old mother, and presumably hunts goats and catches oysters.*

4. What does Ben Gunn want in return for helping the squire and his men?

*He wants 1,000 pounds of the treasure and a trip home (page 105).*

**Chapter 16: "How the Ship Was Abandoned" (pp. 110-117)**

**Chapter 17: "The Jolly Boat's Last Trip" (pp. 118-123)**

**Chapter 18: "End of the First Day's Fighting" (pp. 124-130)**

*Technique:* Even young readers will probably think that Stevenson's narrative technique in this section is very odd. Because Jim could not know what was going on aboard ship or in the stockade while he was in the forest meeting Ben Gunn, Stevenson switches narrators in midstream. By all accounts of the composition of this novel, Stevenson wrote the first 15 chapters almost at once and effortlessly. Then he was stuck for a while and continued it some months later at a convalescent home in Switzerland. Maybe the narrative problem was one of the things that blocked his progress. Once he solved it, albeit rather clumsily, he went on to finish the book with ease.

*Summary and Theme:* Whereas Jim describes the sounds and sights of Treasure Island, the doctor notices the smells: its stench means fever and dysentery (severe diarrhea). Rather than wait aboard the Hispaniola, the doctor and Hunter take the jolly boat ashore and follow the chart to the stockade. Atop a knoll they find a six-foot high stockade with no door, enclosing a stout log house built to hold forty people and a spring of clear water. Aware of the terrible temper of the rebellious crewmembers, when the doctor hears the death shriek of Alan, his first thought is that Jim has been killed. He and Hunter rush back to the schooner in the jolly boat. The squire is white as a sheet, regretting the danger he had put them in, and one of the six rebels nearly faints. Captain Smollett comments that this lad, Gray, is new to piracy and with a little guidance ("a touch of the rudder") he'll return to his duty. They make two trips in the jolly boat with supplies and weapons, leaving Hunter and Joyce to guard the blockhouse. As they leave for the second trip the Captain persuades Gray to do his duty and "follow your captain." Notice Captain Smollett's belief in the essential goodness of man: "I daresay not one of the lot of you's as bad as he makes out" (p. 116). Abraham Gray escapes from the scoundrels and joins the "good gentlemen," but not without penalty – a knife cut on his cheek.

On its final trip the seriously overloaded jolly boat sinks under fire from the Hispaniola's cannon. "Cool as steel" the squire picks off one of the gunners. But without even pausing



to check on the condition of their comrade, the mutineers reload. In an attempt to avoid the shot they sink the boat, losing half their gunpowder and provisions.

Because the squire is so good with a gun ("a dead shot"), the captain gives him the best musket. Now it's the squire's turn to prove himself in the captain's eyes. Gray also shows his willingness to fight the mutineers. Seven buccaneers start the attack on the blockhouse. Pistols crack and musket balls whistle past. When the squire's faithful old servant Tom Redruth falls in battle, the captain wraps his corpse in a British flag and comforts Trelawney with his confidence that all who do their duty go to heaven. "All's well with him. No fear for a hand that's been shot down in his duty."

The captain's notion of duty is illustrated again when the squire asks if they should take in the Union Jack, since it is all that the pirates can see of the stockade from their ship and thus allows them to aim. The captain's stout refusal to strike his colors inspires the others, for the doctor says "it showed our enemies that we despised their cannonade" (p. 128). The captain sticks to his duties even without his ship, and notes events in his logbook as usual.

Just as the doctor wonders about the fate of Jim Hawkins, the boy climbs over the stockade, ready to resume narration in chapter 19.

***Questions on Chapters 16, 17, and 18: "How the Ship Was Abandoned," "The Jolly Boat's Last Trip," "End of the First Day's Fighting"***

1. Who is the narrator in chapter 16? Why do you think that Stevenson changed narrators?

*The doctor narrates because otherwise Stevenson wouldn't have a way to tell the readers why and how the good guys abandoned ship and moved to the blockhouse. Students could try to think of other ways the author might have handled this problem--like having Jim report what the doctor has told him.*

2 What makes Abraham Gray decide to remain loyal?

*He hears the death cries of Alan and knows these pirates to be ruthless. He's not a bad man by habit, and the Captain's words bring him back to his conscience.*

3. How many trips does the jolly boat make? Why so many?

*It makes 5 trips to bring supplies for a long stay in the blockhouse. They need enough food and drink for seven men and weapons and ammunition as well.*

4. How does the jolly boat sink?

*The men on board try to avoid a cannonball and the stern goes underwater. They slowly sink in a few feet of water.*

5. Why does the doctor agree that even though the flag gives the pirates something to aim at, the Union Jack should not be taken down?

*It shows their enemies how brave they are--that they are not afraid of their cannonade.*

6. What words of comfort does the captain have about the death of Tom Redruth?

*He says "No fear for a hand that's been shot down in his duty."*

**Chapter 19: "The Garrison in the Stockade" (pp. 131-138)**

**Chapter 20: "Silver's Embassy" (pp. 139-146)**

*Summary and Themes:* Once again the narrator, Jim Hawkins tells us of his arrival at the stockade with Ben Gunn, who convinces him that the faithful party, not the pirates, is inside. Gentlemen of fortune would be flying the Jolly Roger, not the Union Jack. He also tells Jim that it was Flint who built the stockade. Flint, like Billy Bones, was killed by rum, but during his life he feared no man except Long John Silver. Ben Gunn won't approach Jim's friends right away. Protected by a flag of truce he will negotiate only with a born gentleman to get his word of honor—we assume about his trip home, protection from Silver, immunity from prosecution for past acts of piracy, and the disposition of the treasure.

Jim describes the layout and contents of the log house, sandy and smokey and depressing, especially with the flag-draped corpse of Tom Redruth. To keep up their spirits, the captain assigns duties: he divides them into work parties.

In Chapter 19 the doctor admits to Jim, "That man Smollett. . . is a better man than I am." Many critics have written about the doctor's being Jim's father figure and the moral center of *Treasure Island*, but here the doctor himself points to Captain Smollett as the man Stevenson most admires. He is the perfect counterpoint to Long John Silver—they are both courageous and are natural leaders; in dangerous situations neither is at a loss for long. But for Silver, duty just means doing what must be done to get what he wants; for the Captain, it means loyalty to a greater goal. This is nicely symbolized by his regard for the British flag, which he proudly flies in spite of the cannonade and which he sees as a tribute to a sailor fallen in the line of duty. (Just how patriotism enters in here is not clear. Captain Smollett and his crew are not serving England. The Squire who is on a private quest for a dead pirate's buried treasure has hired him. There is no sign that they mean to enrich the English treasury rather than keep the gold for themselves.)

In Chapter 20 Silver and the captain have a confrontation. Long John wades through ground fog carrying a flag of truce. The captain suspects a trick, but after ordering each of his men to a watch, he speaks to the pirate who now calls himself "Cap'n Silver." The captain refuses to acknowledge this rank, though Silver claims that he was chosen captain by the "poor lads" after Captain Smollett's "desertion!" With great dignity Captain Smollett allows Long John to come inside stockade. Jim commits another breach of his duty, leaving his sentry post and creeping up behind the captain so that he can watch the interaction. Silver jumps the stockade with amazing agility. He is dressed in his finest. But when the mutineer asks the captain to invite him into the blockhouse, the captain doesn't budge, reminding Silver that if he were an honest man he'd be cooking in his own galley. "You're either my ship's cook or Cap'n Silver, a common pirate!" he shouts. Undaunted, Long John takes a seat on the sand and greets Jim. But Smollett is impatient with pleasantries and tells Silver to get to the point. "Duty is duty," says Silver, who begins to talk about their attack on the drunken buccaneers last night. The captain's coolness in this situation really impresses Jim, who knows that Smollett has no idea what Silver is talking about (since it was Ben Gunn who presumably attacked the pirate camp). Silver finally gets down to business and asks for the treasure map in return for their lives. He gives his "word of honor" not to harm them and even suggests taking them home on the Hispaniola once the treasure is shipped. Captain Smollett has absolutely no regard for either Silver's worthless word of honor or his threats of musket balls. His counter offer is to take the mutineers back to England in irons to stand trial. The captain's obvious contempt of Silver, who is used to being feared by everyone, even Captain Flint, enrages him. When no one will give him a hand so that he can get up from the sand, the strong cripple struggles to stand up for several moments. He spits into the spring and vows to blow up the blockhouse and torture the survivors. Clearly the better man has won.

*Technique:* On page 135 an interesting point of style may be noted: Stevenson's artistic use of repetition. To illustrate the effect of the "continual rain of sand" inside the drafty blockhouse, he writes "There was sand in our eyes and our teeth, sand in our suppers, sand dancing in the spring at the bottom of the kettle." Young writers should note that this technique is good for emphasis, but must be used sparingly.

***Questions on Chapters 19 and 20: "The Garrison in the Stockade" and "Silver's Embassy"***

1. What gift does the doctor have for Ben Gunn?

*He has a chunk of parmesan cheese because cheese is what Gunn seems most to have missed in his three years alone on the island.*

2. How does the captain keep the garrison in the stockade from becoming "blue" or depressed by their situation?

*He divides them into "watches" or work parties, thus keeping them busy; they gather firewood, dig Redruth's grave, act as sentry.*

3. What does Jim mean when he says that they have "two able allies--rum and climate"?

*He means that, as the doctor has said, the buccaneers will either incapacitate themselves by drinking too much or they will die of malaria, since they don't know better than to camp in a swamp. Students may be interested in researching a bit about malaria, its symptoms, its causes, its cure.*

4. What does Silver want from the party inside the Stockade?

*He wants the treasure map and in return says that he'll let them live and even give them a ride back to England.*

5. How does Captain Smollett show his distrust and disrespect of Long John Silver?

*He refuses even to entertain his bargain, and he refuses to help him up from the sand even though he's handicapped. His only offer is to let the pirates do the right thing –their duty– like honest men.*

6. Who really attacked the pirates' camp when they were drunk?

*Ben Gunn apparently sneaked into their camp and killed one of the men, reducing their number to 14.*

7. Do you think that the captain should have been nicer to Long John Silver? Why?

*Answers will vary.*

## **Chapter 21: "The Attack" (pp. 147-153)**

*Summary and Themes:* More brushstrokes go into the portrait of the ideal Captain Smollett. Jim sees him get angry for the first time, and it is not at the mutineers, but at his own men, who have all deserted their posts except Gray. He praises the latter, "You've stood your duty like a seaman," while he expresses surprised disappointment in Trelawney and Livesey. They return to their loopholes with red faces. He warns that the attack is coming very soon. Smollett is just the man to lead them through such an uneven battle. He gives sensible commands for their preparation and warns them of what to expect. They wait on pins and needles for an hour. Finally pirates roar, the walls are struck with bullets, rifle balls sing by, and muskets are knocked to bits. This chapter is action packed. Anderson's cutlass flashes in the sunlight, Jim leaps to one side and rolls down a hill to escape being slashed. Gray finishes off Anderson, the doctor kills two men. Students should try to imagine choreographing this battle for a movie. By the end five pirates are dead. But the good guys have lost Joyce, and Hunter is wounded. Worse, the Captain has been hit. His wound takes him off stage, (he can't even talk) and leaves Jim free to slip out of duty's leash and take matters into his own hands in the next chapter.

***Questions on Chapter 21: "The Attack"***

1. How many are left on each side after the battle?

*The captain says that they are now 4 against 9.*

2. How does Jim escape from being slashed by Anderson's raised cutlass?

*He leaps to the side and rolls down the hill.*

3. What is the captain's role in the battle?

*He gives orders, tells his men what to expect, and warns them of enemy positions. He and Jim help load the guns.*

4. What does Doctor Livesey do during the fight?

*He gets rid of at least two pirates apparently with his cutlass.*

5. Does Jim wound any of his adversaries?

*No. (Only in the next chapter does he become an action hero.)*

## **Chapter 22: "How I Began My Sea Adventure" (pp. 156-161)**

*Summary and Themes:* Chapters 22-26 are about Jim's adventures all alone as he single-handedly recaptures the Hispaniola, and kills Israel Hands, the least appealing of all the pirates. Though he deserts his post and causes the doctor, the squire, and the captain to lose faith in either his honor or his good sense, in the end he is the hero of the tale. (This characterization and the fact that Silver gets away in the last chapter causes some readers to claim that *Treasure Island* is a tale of "questionable morality.")

In Chapter 22 Dr Livesey leaves the stockade to visit Ben Gunn. Jim is overcome with restlessness and envies the doctor's freedom. Then he commits what he calls "my second folly, far worse than the first." The older Jim who narrates this novel admits that his action was wrong, excusing it only with, "but I was only a boy, and I had made my mind up" (p. 158). Still, we see Stevenson's ambiguous attitude toward duty, as he can't forget that this desertion "like the first [folly] was a help towards saving all of us."

*Technique:* The description of the Hispaniola completely still, reflected in "the unbroken mirror" of the sea, and the "unearthly screaming" of the parrot are visual and aural descriptions typical of Stevenson. Little details like O'Brien's red cap aid readers in visualizing the scene Jim sees. As the defeated pirates carouse beside a great fire, Jim launches his coracle.



**Questions on Chapter 22: "How I Began My Sea Adventure"**

1. How is the captain wounded ?

*He is wounded in the shoulder and the calf by Job Anderson, who is subsequently killed by Gray.*

2. Jim describes his leaving the stockade as his "second folly" and says that it is worse than the first. What was his first folly? Why is this one worse?

*Jim's first folly was leaving the Hispaniola, jumping aboard the gigs as they left for shore. This time it is worse since he knows that the pirates are ruthless, and he is leaving only two men to defend the fort, whereas the first time, he knew that there were enough good guys to hold the ship against the buccaneers.*

3. What is Jim's plan?

*He is going to take Gunn's coracle and row out to the Hispaniola. He will cut her loose and let her drift ashore. That way he will prevent the mutineers from escaping (and leaving the captain's party marooned on the island).*

4. What are the pirates doing after the battle?

*They have lit a huge fire on the beach and are drinking.*

## **Chapters 23-27**

### **Chapter 23: "The Ebb Tide Runs" (pp. 162-167)**

**Summary:** An intelligent seaman, Jim waits for the hawser to slacken before he cuts the ship free. The schooner begins to spin end for end now that it's loose. Jim grabs a rope that is trailing over the bulwarks of the Hispaniola, and looks into the cabin window "at infinite risk" (p. 165). On the ship are Israel Hands and "red nightcap." The two pirates are drinking, cursing, quarreling and throwing bottles out the window. Though the ship is making noise, the two watchmen don't notice. As it begins to move out toward open sea they are "locked in a deadly wrestle," their hands at each other's throats. A violent lurch makes them finally realize their danger. They run down the companion way, as Jim lies down flat in the coracle and prays, fearing that he will go into the "raging breakers." Befitting a character in a serialized bedtime novel, despite his danger Jim falls asleep and dreams of the Admiral Benbow.

### **Chapter 24: "The Cruise of the Coracle"(pp. 155-161)**

**Summary:** Jim awakes to broad daylight. After figuring out how the coracle rides the waves, Jim sees the Hispaniola in front of him in full sail, but no one is steering her. He decides to return the vessel to her captain. Driven by thirst, he paddles to the schooner. He leaps from coracle to schooner and hangs on to the jib boom. The ship strikes the coracle and it sinks, leaving Jim without a means of retreat.

## **Chapter 25: "I Strike the Jolly Roger" (pp. 162-166)**

*Summary and Themes:* This chapter opens suspense fully with Jim trapped aboard the Hispaniola with two drunk and angry pirates. Seeing Israel Hands and his adversary sprawled on the afterdeck, he thinks they are both dead until Hands moans. Jim pities them momentarily until he remembers the conversation he heard in the apple barrel. He tells Hands to regard him as his captain (trying on the title that both Billy Bones and Long John Silver had taken). With sentiment worthy of patriotic Captain Smollett, he hands down the Jolly Roger and throws it overboard, crying "God save the King!" Hands reminds Jim that he won't be able to navigate the ship without some advice, so Jim agrees to tie up his wound and give him some more brandy in exchange for sailing instructions. Elated with being captain and in charge of the vessel, Jim says "my conscience, which had smitten me hard for my desertion, was quieted by the great conquest I had made." The end apparently justifies the means--Jim knows he should not have deserted, but the lucky outcome makes him feel better about failing in duty.

### **Chapter 26: "Israel Hands" (pp. 167-176)**

*Summary and Themes:* Chapter 26 is the peak action of the novel. Jim goes man to man with a really bad guy. After discussing the afterlife with Jim, Hands sums up his devilish religion: "Well, I tell you, I never seen good come o' goodness yet. Him as strikes first is my fancy. Dead men don't bite. Them's my views--amen." Like Pew and Silver, Stevenson's other personifications of evil, Israel Hands is not physically intact but still very dangerous; in fact Jim later comments "Wounded [in the thigh] as he was, it was wonderful how fast he could move." Jim tricks Hands into telling him how to get the boat off shore again once they have beached it. Then preoccupied with sailing maneuvers, Jim suddenly turns to see Hands approaching. All of Jim's practice in boys' games—feints and dodges—comes in handy and are done in earnest. Fortunately for Jim the Hispaniola hits the beach, careens so that the deck slants at a 45 degree angle, and he and Hands roll down into the scuppers, where they become entangled with the dead body of O'Brien. Jim springs into the shrouds, while Hands hauls himself up after, clutching his bloodstained knife in his teeth. After Hands' dirk misses him, Jim loads his pistols, and mocks his enemy with his own motto, "Dead men don't bite." Jim, who describes himself at this point as conceited as a rooster on a wall, has underestimated his opponent. After cursing his luck and agreeing to give up the ship, Hands suddenly zings his dagger into Jim's shoulder, pinning him to the mast. Jim shoots Israel Hands—but "without a conscious aim"—and both the pistols and Hands fall into the water below. Note that Jim is wounded when he is most self-confident and proud. But his luck holds.

### **Chapter 27: "Pieces of Eight"\* (pp. 177-182)**

*Summary and Themes:* Chapter 26 left Jim pinned to the mast with a knife through his shoulder watching the man he shot sink into the sea in "a lather of foam and blood." Shuddering at the thought that he might fall into the water near Hands, he tears away his skin, and breaks through his shirt and coat. He is bleeding, but not seriously hurt. He throws O'Brien's body overboard and has the ship all to himself. He runs it aground, cuts the halyards, and says that the Hispaniola must "trust to luck" as he himself has done so successfully. Jim hopes that having taken the ship and hidden it from the pirates will

redeem him even in Captain Smollett's eyes. Jim goes to the blockhouse to tell his friends of his accomplishment only to find them snoring, with no one keeping watch. He blames himself for having left them so short-handed that no one stands guard. Naturally these careless men are actually the buccaneers, which Jim realizes with a shock when he recognizes the voice of the parrot screaming "Pieces of eight!" The pirates capture Jim.

\*Pieces of eight are pieces of metal stamped with either the Dutch or Spanish coat of arms. Not finished coins, their weight determines how much they are worth.

**Questions for Chapters 23 – 27: “The Ebb Tides Run,” “The Cruise of the Coracle,”  
“I Strike the Jolly Rodger,” “Israel Hands,” and “Pieces of Eight”**

1. What are Hands and "red nightcap" doing as Jim peeks into the cabin?

*They are wrestling, each with a hand on the other's throat, and have not even noticed that the boat is adrift from her anchor and staggering in her course.*

2. Why does Jim paddle to the Hispaniola and how does he board her?

*He wants to try to return the vessel to her captain. As the coracle reaches the peak of a wave he stands and leaps, catching the jib-boom. The ship hits the coracle and it sinks.*

3. What does Jim tell Israel Hands to call him?

*Captain Hawkins--like Silver, Jim enjoys that lofty title.*

4. What signs are there in chapter 26 that Israel Hands is not very smart?

*(1) he tells Jim that the brandy's too strong, and that he wants wine. When Jim asks whether he wants white or red, he says he doesn't care, as long as it's strong.  
(2) he acts so guilty and embarrassed that Jim says "even a child could have told that he was bent on deception."  
(3) when he tries to think as Jim points his pistols at him, his expression of "perplexity" is so extreme that Jim laughs.*

5. How is Jim wounded?

*Israel Hands pins him with his dagger to the mast.*

6. Does Jim deliberately shoot Israel Hands?

*Answers will vary. He certainly had his pistols ready to shoot, but they went off without his consciously aiming them, and he drops them after they fire.*

7. How does Jim get free from the mast?

*He shudders violently, and the bit of skin pulls away. His coat and shirt tear away too, and he climbs down.*

8. What clues indicate that Jim's friends no longer control the stockade?

*They have built a huge, wasteful fire. No one is standing guard. Finally the voice of the parrot Captain Flint lets him know that he is in enemy territory.*

## **Chapter 28: "In the Enemy's Camp" (pp. 200-208)**

*Summary and Themes:* As Jim's adventures alone continue, his courage and devotion to duty are severely tested. Captured in the enemy's camp, Silver tempts the boy to join them and have a share of the treasure. Inside the stockade are the remaining 6 buccaneers, one seriously wounded. Silver is clearly in charge; he orders Dick to light his pipe for him. Long John expresses surprise and admiration for Jim's intelligence, calling him "a lad of spirit." He confirms Jim's fears when he tells the boy that Captain Smollett and the doctor have given up on him. The captain, he says is "stiff on discipline" and the doctor called Jim "ungrateful scamp." Now, says Silver, Jim will have to join the pirates: "You can't go back to your own lot, for they won't have you."

Jim is more glad to learn that his friends are still alive than distressed because they are angry at him. He tries hard to act "plucky" while his heart is pounding. Silver tells him about the bargain he made with the doctor, and adds that the doctor had not included Jim in their party, saying "I don't know where he is, and I don't much care."

Far from agreeing to join the pirates, Jim boldly tells Silver that he was the one who learned of their plan and told the captain, he was the one who cut the schooner cable, he killed the men aboard her, and he hid the ship as well. He underscores his courage: "I no more fear you than I fear a fly," and tells them to kill or spare him as they please. But, he adds, if they spare him, he'll be a witness on their behalf when they are tried in court for piracy. Though Jim can't tell whether Silver is favorably impressed with his courage, he asks that the doctor be told that he took his death well. (Remember that Silver was not impressed with the courage or devotion to duty of Tom, whom he stabbed after hitting him in the back with his crutch.) The pirates realize that it was also Jim who recognized Black Dog and stole the map from Billy Bones. "First and last, we've split upon Jim Hawkins!" Silver cries, and Morgan draws his knife. Silver saves Jim's life by reminding them that the boy can be more useful to them as a hostage than as a corpse. Silver calmly faces down his companions. He mocks, "That boy is more a man than any pair of you." They demand, under "the rules," the right to step outside for a council. Silver agrees. When left alone with Jim, Silver warns the boy that he is in danger of death, and worse,



torture. But, the old seaman offers a pact: "I'll save your life if I can –from them. But, tit for tat, Jim, you save Long John Silver from swinging." Jim agrees. And now Silver switches sides, once again complimenting Jim's courage, "I know a lad that's staunch." Then he adds, "Ah, you that's young –you and me might have done a power of good together!"

The chapter ends with the two of them ready to face the other five pirates, while Silver wonders why the doctor gave him the treasure map when they left the stockade.

**Questions on Chapter 28: "In the Enemy's Camp"**

1. How does Silver keep Tom Morgan from killing Jim Hawkins?

*First he draws his knife and warns them that he'll "see the color of his inside" and then when no one is brave enough to fight "as gentlemen o' fortune should" he commands them to obey.*

2. Why do the pirates want to have a council?

*They want to "throw Silver off"--mutiny against him, and then presumably they'll kill Jim.*

3. What deal does Silver make with Jim?

*Long John will save Jim from the other buccaneers if Jim will save Long John Silver from "swinging," I.e. from being hanged for piracy.*

4. How did Silver get the chart?

*The doctor gave it to him, but Silver cannot figure out why. We learn later that the chart is useless since the treasure has been moved.*

## **Chapter 29: "The Black Spot Again" (pp. 209 -216)**

*Summary and Themes:* In Chapter 29 Silver's courage is tested and we learn that even lawless pirates have rules that they follow –when it suits their purposes, that is. A final theme touched on in this chapter is luck, which blends in with superstition.

Silver's courage as he waits to be given the Black Spot certainly contrasts with the fear and trembling of Billy Bones in the first section of the book. He cheerily, "Let 'em come," and tells the man whom they have forced to actually give him the piece of paper, "I won't eat you . . . Hand it over" (p. 211).

Having given Silver the Black Spot, the pirates become positively parliamentary in their concern for rules. "As in duty bound" they have given him the spot in full council. The cook expresses appreciation for George Merry's knowledge of the rules—"you always was brisk for business, and has the rules by heart." But when Merry suggests that Silver step down off his barrel, the wily sea cook shows that he's as familiar with the rules as any lawyer. The crew must tell the captain their grievances and he must reply—and until then "your black spot ain't worth a biscuit." Merry replies with four counts against him ending with the accusation that they'll all hang because Silver had bungled the cruise.

Point for point Silver smoothly defends himself, emphasizing that having the boy as a valuable hostage and the chance to have a real college doctor to treat their wounds and their malaria is not bungling. Then he shows them his trump card, the treasure map, as evidence of the smart bargain he drove with the doctor. The sight of the map makes them forget almost all of their grievances, and they cry "Barbecue for cap'n!"

As a souvenir, a "curiosity," Silver tosses Jim the back spot, which has been cut out of the Dick's bible. From the book of Revelation, the words are appropriate: "Without are dogs and murderers." All of the pirates are superstitious and Silver's comment that "Dick's crossed his luck and spoiled his Bible" comes back to haunt them.

That night Jim has trouble falling asleep, thinking about his dangerous position and the man he had killed that afternoon. Silver, in equally great danger "slept peacefully, and snored." Oddly, Jim says "Yet my heart was sore for him, wicked as he was, to think on the dark perils that awaited him." Here is perhaps more of the questionable morality of *Treasure Island*, which has seemed to some readers to have too much sympathy with evil. Were passages like this what made boys feel that they had to hide the book from their parents?

***Questions on Chapter 29: "The Black Spot Again"***

1. Where do the pirates get the paper to make the black spot?

*They cut it from Dick's bible.*

2. What does Long John Silver say about their having cut up a Bible?

*That it's unlucky.*

3. How does Long John Silver convince the conspirators that they still want him for captain?

*First he defends himself against their charges that he's bungled things, and finally to prove it, he shows them the treasure map that he got from Dr. Livesey.*

### **Chapter 30: "On Parole" (pp. 217-224)**

*Summary and Themes:* In the morning they are awakened by the hearty call of the doctor who has come to treat the wounded and sick pirates. Shocked to see Jim, the doctor says nothing but "Not Jim?" and "Duty first and pleasure afterwards." The doctor is as concerned to heal these wicked men as he was to save Billy Bones. He sees himself as a "prison doctor," and says "I make it a point of honor not to lose a man for the gallows." When he diagnoses Dick as having malaria ("fever") Morgan repeats Long John's superstitious warning, "That came of spoiling Bibles." The doctor retorts that it came from ignorance—"not knowing honest air from poison." Then in a play on John's superior knowledge of the rules in the preceding chapter, the doctor says that Silver doesn't know much about the "rules of health."

His duty done, the doctor now requests a private talk with Jim Hawkins. George Merry, who had tried to replace Silver as captain says no, but Silver allows Jim to go after he gives his "word of honor as a young gentleman" not to escape. The dual nature of Silver, his amazing ability to play double, is highlighted in this chapter. He roars orders and curses at his grumbling men, but once he reaches the doctor, he acts very differently: "His voice trembled, and never was a soul more in earnest." Dr Livesey is surprised that he seems afraid. It is fear of the gallows that has shaken him, and he asks the doctor to consider what he's done for Jim and to have mercy.

Alone, the doctor scolds Jim for running off with Captain Smollett ill—"it was downright cowardly!" he says sadly. Jim cries in shame, but confesses that he fears torture, and that Silver has saved his life. The doctor wants Jim to run for it, but the boy refuses to break his word of honor—he would rather be tortured and killed. The doctor, like Silver, also gives Jim credit for saving them, once he hears about the Hispaniola. was Jim found out the plot, Jim found Ben Gunn, and Jim hid the ship safely. "Every step, it's you that saves our lives," acknowledges Dr. Livesay. Jim is now back on the side of the honest men despite the fact that he must temporarily return to the pirates having given Silver his word of honor.

As Jim returns to Silver, the doctor advises Long John not to look for the treasure, and if he must to "look out for squalls" when he finds it. He, like Jim, promises "I'll do my best to save you" if they get off the island.

*Questions on Chapter 30: "On Parole"*

1. Why does Doctor Livesey come to take care of the enemy pirates?

*Apparently that is part of the bargain they made when the Squire and friends left the stockade. Furthermore, the doctor says that it is a point of honor to save them so that they receive their just punishment under the law (the gallows).*

2. Why does Jim return to Long John Silver instead of running for it, as the doctor suggests?

*He has given Silver his word of honor.*

3. What advice does the doctor give Silver before he leaves the stockade?

*First he tells him not to look for the treasure, then to expect a fight when he finds it, and finally to keep Jim close to him at all times.*



### **Chapter 31: "Flint's Pointer" (pp. 225-231)**

*Summary and Themes:* Silver thanks Jim for saving his life--now they are even. He vows that they'll stick together and challenge fate. Readers should note the wastefulness of the pirates: they have built a huge fire, cook three times as much as needed and throw the leftovers on the fire. Jim is surprised that even Silver doesn't blame them for their carelessness. "Hand to mouth" without a thought for tomorrow is how they live. The honest men by contrast are moderate.

Silver tells them his plan for the treasure hunt. Jim will be tied to him and kept "like so much gold" in case of trouble. The pirates are in good humor, but Jim is depressed. He knows that Silver, "doubly a traitor" and having "a foot in either camp," would not hesitate to betray him.

They proceed to the hill, and find the skeleton of the corpse that Flint left with arms outstretched in the direction of the treasure. It's Silver, of course, who figures out that the skeleton is a pointer. They recognize the bones to have been Allardyce and the superstitious sailors are spooked, thinking it unnatural that his knife is nowhere around, nor is his tobacco box. They remember Flint's bad death, and wonder if his ghost walks. Silver hushes their foolish talks and urges them on despite their fallen spirits.

***Questions on Chapter 31: "Flint's Pointer"***

1. What does the title of this chapter mean? What is Flint's pointer?

*It is the skeleton place pointing out the direction of the treasure.*

2. What do the mutineers begin to worry about after they find the skeleton?

*They worry about being haunted by the ghost of Captain Flint; because he had such a bad death, they figure his spirit is likely to walk.*

3. What does Jim mean when he says that Silver has "a foot in either camp"?

*If the mutineers find the treasure, Silver will stick with the plan to kill the honest men, probably including Jim, and get away with the money. If that fails, he'll throw in his lot with the Squire's party, and return home with the rescue ship and remind the doctor and Jim of how they promised to testify on his behalf.*

## **Chapter 32: "The Voice Among the Trees" (pp. 232-239)**

*Technique, Summary and Themes:* In Chapter 32 sounds are again very important and help to heighten the tension as the pirates close in on the treasure. At first they hear nothing but the distant breakers and "the chirp of countless insects." The pirates continue to worry in whispers about the ghost of Captain Flint, despite Silver's reassurances. When a "thin, high, trembling voice" begins to sing the well-known pirate's song," they are "dreadfully affected," Morgan even rolling around on the ground, because they are sure that it's Flint. Silver again stays reasonable, saying, "This is someone playing a joke." Then the voice pronounces Flint's last words--a call for rum--and the buccaneers almost bolt. Silver alone is steadfast: he is afraid (his teeth rattle in his head) but unconquered. He vows to get the treasure despite any ghost. His wits return as talking gives him courage. Silver reminds his terrified crew that just as ghosts don't have shadows, they don't have echoes either, and so this can't be a spirit. Suddenly, they recognize the voice to be Ben Gunn's, whom nobody fears, dead or alive, and they set forth again. Silver notices that Dick is carrying his Bible as if to ward off bad spirits, and he tells him again that he's spoiled it.

As they near the money, they move faster, envisioning their future splurges. Silver hobbles on his crutch, grunting with exertion, not hiding his murderous thoughts as he looks at Jim. He has switched sides again and Jim knows it. Meanwhile unlucky Dick babbles prayers and curses as his fever rises.

The climax occurs when they finally run to the top of the hill and give a low cry as they find the empty excavation. We leave them looking into the hole and realizing that the seven hundred thousand pounds are gone.

***Questions on Chapter 32: "The Voice Among the Trees"***

1. How do the pirates react to the voice singing "Fifteen men on the dead man's chest"?

*They are scared to death. They think that it must be Captain Flint, a man who was very frightening in life and whose ghost they don't want to cross.*

2. How does Silver convince them that the voice is not that of a spirit?

*He points out that the voice has an echo, and spirits don't have shadows, so they shouldn't have echoes either.*

3. What is inside the excavation?

*A broken pick and some boards, one bearing the name Walrus, are all that they find.*

### **Chapter 33: "The Fall of a Chieftain" (pp. 240-248)**

*Summary and Themes:* Silver quickly recovers from the blow of finding the treasure gone. Now he's back on Jim's side. His deadly looks are gone as he warns the boy, "Stand by for trouble," and passes him a pistol. Jim can't help whispering, "So you've changed sides again." Silver puts the dug out hole between them and the other five pirates, who, finding that there are only two guineas in the excavation, are ready to fight. Silver is ready too. Jim acknowledges his courage: "He watched them, very upright on his crutch, and looked as cool as ever I saw him. He was brave." Merry begins the charge swearing to have Jim's heart, when three musket shots are fired. One buccaneer dies, Merry falls into the excavation, and Long John finishes him off, telling the struggling man, "George, I reckon I settled you." Gunn, Gray, and the doctor arrive with smoking muskets. The other three mutineers have run away and the doctor wants to head them off before they reach the boats, but they stupidly have gone the other way.

Gunn tells Silver the story of how he found and moved the treasure. Now it is clear why the doctor gave up the map, and why Jim's friends surrendered the stockade to the pirates--to get away from the malarial swamp but even more so that they could guard the money. They were willing to abandon Jim, the doctor explains, because he was not one of those who stood by their duty (p. 226). However, the doctor admits, had Silver not had Jim with him, they would have let the cook be killed without a thought.

They row the gigs past Ben Gunn's cave and cheer the squire standing guard there. Then they reach the Hispaniola, leave Gray to spend the night guarding the ship and return to the squire at the cave. Silver, who joined heartily in cheering the squire, salutes him. The squire calls him a villain to his face, but acknowledges that he is bound not to prosecute him. When Silver thanks him, the angry squire cries, "I dare you to thank me! . . . It is a gross neglect of my duty."

Back at Ben Gunn's cave the money theme and the duty theme are sounded again. Inside the cool ferny cave, by the flickering light of a fire lie Captain Smollett and the treasure. Jim thinks of the seventeen men who had died for it, and the untold "blood and sorrow,"

"lies and shame" spent in amassing it. The Captain forgives Jim pronouncing him "a good boy, in your line" but declines to go to sea with him again.

He asks John Silver what he is doing in the cave, and Silver replies apparently without irony, "Come back to do my duty, sir." The traitorous sea cook eats heartily and laughs along with the rest, "the same polite, obsequious seaman of the voyage out."

***Questions on Chapter 33: "The Fall of a Chieftan"***

1. Why is this chapter called "The Fall of a Chieftain?" Who is the chieftain? In what scene does he fall?

*Some may think that George Merry, who tried to take over as captain, is the chieftain, since he dies in this chapter. Others may think that the title refers to Long John Silver, now no longer "Cap'n Silver" but a "polite, obsequious seaman."*

2. Why had the doctor given Silver the map?

*It was no longer valuable since the treasure was now in Ben Gunn's cave.*

3. Why had the squire's party wanted to leave the stockade?

*They wanted to get away from the malaria swamps and they wanted to guard the treasure.*

4. How does Long John change once they discover that the treasure is already gone?

*He's back on Jim's side and shoots George Merry gladly.*

5. Why had the doctor not made arrangements for Jim when they left the stockade?

*Jim had not stayed to do his duty.*

6. Why does Silver say he has he come to Ben Gunn's cave?

*He says he's come back to do his duty.*

### **Chapter 34: "And Last" (pp. 249-255)**

*Summary and Themes:* In the final chapter the treasure is loaded onto the Hispaniola, the three mutineers are marooned on the island, and the ship sails away. When they stop in Spanish America for supplies and are greeted warmly by native people bearing tropical fruits, Long John (aided by Ben Gunn) makes his escape with three or four hundred guineas. Captain Smollett retires; stalwart Gray becomes ship owner and mate. Ben Gunn got a thousand pounds of the treasure he found, and like the pirate he was, spent or lost it all in nineteen days. Given a lodge to manage, he becomes a popular landlord. He retains the piety he found in his solitude on the island, and sings in the church choir. Silver and his parrot, Jim speculates, are with his wife in comfort, but Jim predicts that he will not be so comfortable in the afterlife.

In the final paragraph we learn that not only is Long John Silver still at large, but all of the bar silver that Flint buried remains on Treasure Island. Jim Hawkins swears that nothing could ever make him go back to that place, the sounds of which still trouble his dreams. But Robert Louis Stevenson implies that adventure awaits anyone bold enough to risk it.



### ***Questions on Chapter 34: "And Last"***

1. How do the men treat Long John Silver while they move the treasure to the ship?

*Though he is really polite and tries hard to make them like him, they are rude to him. Only Ben Gunn and Jim are halfway nice to him-Gunn out of fear, and Jim because Silver had saved his life. Jim admits, however, that he has cause to think worst of all about the sea cook since he had seen him plotting his own death on the plateau before they found the treasure.*

2. What happens to the three pirates left alive?

*They are left marooned on the island because the captain and squire do not want to risk another mutiny. Besides they would be taking them home only to face the gallows.*

3. How does Silver get away?

*Ben Gunn helps him to leave in a shore boat while the Jim, the squire, and the doctor are ashore.*

4. What does Ben Gunn do with his thousand pounds?

*He spends it all in nineteen days, and must beg on the twentieth.*

5. What are Jim's feelings about the possibility of returning to Treasure Island for the bar silver?

*He will never do it. He still has nightmares about his time there.*

## Weeding Out Unnecessary Words

### Exercise 1

Stevenson said of style that his chief temptation was “to cut the flesh from the bones.” He gave his writing student (named Adelaide Boodle) two cardinal rules: “Omit” and “Never let a long sentence get out of hand.”

Rewrite the sentences below by taking out any words that don’t contribute to the meaning of the sentences. You should also substitute simple words for bulky phrases. Keep the original meaning without leaving any dead wood behind.

**Example:** Before you go to bed the thing you should do is to look and make sure that all the windows and doors are locked.

Before you go to bed, make sure all the windows and doors are locked.

1. There were swarms of butterflies on account of the fact that the milkweed bloomed heavily during the summer.

2. What kids have to be careful of if they are on a trampoline is an accident that might happen on the trampoline.

3. What Belle likes to do most is curl up on her couch, which is in the living room, and read a book.

4. The shoes that Colette uses for ballet, which are Capezio, are very expensive shoes.

5. What I have just found out is that the date of Daniel's birthday was last week.
  
6. What I believe is that women who work should get equal pay when they do work that is the same as men's.
  
7. What Mrs. Woodward said was that the homework that she assigned us is due tomorrow.
  
8. The movie critic who was employed by the Times said that although the actors in the movie were fairly poor, the movie overall was exciting.
  
9. My Aunt Judy, who is a doctor, takes care of patients at Mercy Hospital.
  
10. The point is that we were told that if we raised enough money, the class could have a class picnic.

## Weeding Out Unnecessary Words

### Exercise 2

Directions: Rewrite each sentence cutting out every word that doesn't add to its meaning. Be sure that your revision keeps the meaning the same, though.

1. Many city streets in downtown Boston are surprisingly narrow.
2. Teddy shouted in a loud voice, "Watch the second baseman!"
3. Jeremiah Dotson is rather tall for his age on account of the fact that both of his parents are tall.
4. It was last summer that I decided to become a photographer.
5. My very worst fault is my very quick temper and the way I get mad very easily.
6. Just pack the necessary items that you'll need for an overnight hike.
7. The very narrow road took a really sudden turn.
8. Is the ferry to Breezy Point still running any more is what I want to know?
9. Please send me the following compact discs listed below.

10. In my opinion I think a good cat is a better pet than a good dog.

## Who Was Admiral Benbow?

According to the *Columbia Encyclopedia*, John Benbow (1653-1702) fought many a victorious battle against the French and the Spanish in the late 1600's. His final battle was against the French fleet in the Caribbean. During this four-day fight his flagship was deserted by all but one of his ships. Benbow was mortally wounded. Afterwards two of the captains who failed to do their duty were court-martialed and shot. Benbow's courage became legendary and was described in songs and rhymes, like the one below.

### Admiral Benbow

Come all you seamen bold and draw near, and draw near,  
Come all you seamen bold and draw near.  
It's of an Admiral's fame, and brave Benbow was his name,  
How he fought all on the main you shall hear, you shall hear.

Brave Benbow he set sail for to fight, for to fight,  
Brave Benbow he set sail for to fight;  
Brave Benbow he set sail with a fine and pleasant gale,  
But his captains they turned tail in a fright, in a fright.

Says Kirby unto Wade, "We will run, we will run,"  
Says Kirby unto Wade, "We will run:  
For I value no disgrace, or the losing of my place,  
But the enemy I won't face, nor his guns, nor his guns."

The Ruby and Benbow fought the French, fought the French,  
The Ruby and Benbow fought the French;  
They fought them up and down till the blood came trickling down,  
Till the blood came trickling down, where they lay, where they lay.

Brave Benbow lost his legs by chain-shot, by chain-shot,

Brave Benbow lost his legs by chain-shot:

Brave Benbow lost his legs, and all on his stumps he begs,  
“Fight on, my English lads, ‘tis our lot, ‘tis our lot.”

The surgeon dressed his wounds; cries Benbow, cries Benbow:

The surgeon dressed his wounds; cries Benbow:

“Let a cradle now in haste on the quarter-deck be placed,  
That the enemy I may face till I die, till I die.”

## **Subjects to Consider and Discuss**

### **No Girls Allowed?**

- Count up the females in *Treasure Island*. How many did you count?

*Treasure Island* is a book that was written for boys about boys. Robert Louis Stevenson's twelve-year old stepson Lloyd ordered that there be no women in this sea adventure, and there aren't. The only married man in the book seems to be Long John Silver. His wife, who never appears onstage, and Jim's mother, after a brief but important role, wait faithfully in the blurry background. The only other females are the parrot and the ship.

- Do a survey of your class to see if the following statement is true:

Girls will read books about boys, but boys won't read books about girls.

Discuss your results.

- How different would the treasure hunt have been if Jim's mother or Silver's wife had come along? Could the story be written, then or today, with a girl as heroine? Why or why not?

### **Fathers: Missing in Action**

To be an adventure hero a boy must lose his father's protection. Jim's father dies just as the pirates close in on the Admiral Benbow Inn. Another protective male authority, Captain Smollett, is wounded and out of action –he is even unable to speak for a while– before Jim deserts the stockade to have his sea adventure. Other men serve as father substitutes, but Jim becomes a hero by going off by himself for his sea adventure.

Stevenson's own father had a large influence over his only son. For the most part they had a good relationship, but several times Stevenson disappointed his father by breaking



off on his own course. First he became a writer, not a lighthouse engineer as his father and grandfather had been. Then he followed a married American woman named Fanny Osbourne, ten years his senior, to California. Like Jim, Stevenson must have felt guilty about his breach of duty, and like Jim, he worked hard to make the ends justify his actions.

Once Stevenson finally married Fanny, father and son reconciled, and Thomas Stevenson was very pleased indeed with the success of Stevenson's first book, *Treasure Island*. In fact, his father made several suggestions during the composition of the novel, many of them attempting to make it more conventionally moral or religious.

By the way, both of the men who die for duty are named Tom. RLS's father's name was Thomas.

- Which of the older men who serve as possible role models for Jim is most fatherly? (Consider the squire, the doctor, Captain Smollett, and Long John Silver.)
- Which of these men seems to care most for Jim?
- Which of the possible father figures is most admirable?

## Money: Going for the Gold

- Why is money so important?
- Does money really measure success?
- Are all of the characters in *Treasure Island* equally greedy?

Critics have tried to figure out what, if anything, the treasure in *Treasure Island* symbolizes. Is it just a trophy for surviving an adventure or is it desired for what it can buy? Critic David Daiches says that in *Treasure Island* the money "is itself, in fact, of no importance whatsoever," but is only "an excuse for a story," a "supreme motivation." To see if he's right, start by looking at the financial situations of the characters as they set off on the treasure hunt. The squire and the doctor are clearly comfortable; the squire has plenty of money for employing personal servants and renting and equipping ships, but he wants to find the treasure and have "money to roll in, ever after"(p. 48). Both he and the apparently want adventure more than they need the prize. Silver, on the other hand, desires money as a means to a higher rank in society, something the doctor and the squire were born into. Running a public house and having a solid bank account are not enough for Long John. He wants to ride in carriages and be a member of Parliament. His fellow pirates don't care about a bank account, much less social status. Money will buy them a really big binge.

Next consider how the treasure is used at the end of the novel. Ben Gunn spends all of his 1000 pounds of the loot in nineteen days, and then must beg, until he is given a lodge to keep. Jim has a mother to take care of and has inherited an inn. We never find out what difference the treasure makes in his life. Does he become a gentleman, as implied by the fact that he still associates with the doctor and the squire? Stevenson really doesn't show anyone living happily ever after, but writes only, "All of us had an ample share of the treasure, and used it wisely or foolishly, according to our natures."

Since even Long John Silver escapes with a share of the treasure, apparently money is the reward for courage not duty. [See "Courage and the Golden Mean" after the notes on Chapter 4.]

## **Duty is Duty: A Major Theme**

- What things do you have to do?
- What things do you decide for yourself?
- What do Boy and Girl Scouts mean when they pledge to do their duty?
- Is following rules part of doing your duty?

In *Treasure Island* Robert Louis Stevenson explores the extremes of responsible behavior from Captain Smollett's absolute patriotism, courage, and duty to Silver's lack of any moral convictions whatsoever. Jim Hawkins, with his occasional breaches of duty always for a good cause, falls somewhere in between.

Several scenes in *Treasure Island* show duty as a sacred ideal, something worth dying for. The sailor whom Silver kills in "The First Blow" says he'd rather lose a hand than fail to do his duty. Rather than join the pirates, he dies. The epitome of duty, Captain Smollett risks his life (and the lives of the rest of his party) to fly the British flag, bravely leads the "honest men" through a battle, is seriously wounded, and never says "I told you so" even though he is always right. He believes that duty will be rewarded in the afterlife: "No fear for a hand that's been shot down in his duty."

Self-serving Long John Silver mocks duty--he bets on courage and luck; he wants to do what is best for himself, no matter what it costs anyone else. And somehow he corrupts everyone around him. Not only does he get Dick and others to join in the mutiny on the outward voyage; even the squire feels that he has compromised his duty when he sees Silver in Ben Gunn's cave and knows he can not bring him to England to stand trial. Both Jim and the doctor agree to do their best to save the pirate from hanging. Luckily for Silver, Captain Smollett is wounded, but taking no chances, the buccaneer jumps ship before they get back to England. Silver makes his escape--with the help of the supposedly reformed Ben Gunn.

Our hero Jim fails in his duty when he leaves the stockade and for that he is berated by the doctor and his own conscience. But at the end everyone agrees if he hadn't deserted his post, he wouldn't have met Ben Gunn, he wouldn't have saved the day.

So what's Stevenson's message on duty? It can get boring. Like every virtue, duty is a midpoint between two extremes. Too little attention to duty leads to rebellion and chaos, too much concern with duty leads to slavish obedience and lack of initiative. Jim seems to steer this middle course—he strikes out on his own, but he feels guilty about it, and works, in his own way, to make up for his disobedience.

Personally, duty was a big issue for Robert Louis Stevenson. The turning point of his life, he said, was reading an essay called "On the Spirit of Obligations" by William Hazlitt. He wrote to novelist Henry James, "The world must return some day to the word 'duty' and be done with the word 'reward.' There are no rewards and plenty of duties." Did he have an obligation to follow in his father's and grandfather's footsteps and become a famous lighthouse engineer? Did he desert his post by becoming a bohemian writer? Was it his duty to support his wife's daughter and her husband, the starving painter? He not only paid their bills, but he paid annuities to cousins and friends. He brought his widowed mother with him to Samoa, where his affectionate efforts on behalf of the natives earned him almost godlike status. How much could be expected of a man whose lungs were in such bad shape that he had frequent hemorrhages and had to be tied to his bed for weeks to prevent more? In *Treasure Island* physical infirmity is repeatedly offset by incredible strength of will; before he died at 44, sickly Robert Louis Stevenson bore all of these responsibilities and became famous to boot--proving that becoming a writer wasn't so bad after all.

As in so many of his books, in *Treasure Island* Stevenson splits the good and the bad into two camps, one breaking all of the rules that the other lives by. Between these two camps--the mutineers and the honest men--travel Long John Silver and Jim Hawkins. When Silver says "Duty is duty," he pretends not to believe in killing to get the treasure for himself. Then he fatally attacks an honest man from behind, and he clearly contemplates murdering Jim when he thinks that the boy will no longer be useful. He

shamelessly switches sides, changing from cutthroat pirate to cheerful cook and back again. Instead of doing their duty, both Silver and Hawkins trust to courage and luck to get them through tight situations. The difference is that Jim's conscience bothers him when he doesn't do what he's supposed to, he worries about what others will think about him, and he tries to make amends for letting them down. Part of what gives him courage is his desire to make up for failing to stay at his post at the stockade. Feeling almost claustrophobic desperation, Jim sneaks out. Immediately he is sorry for having left his friends without enough men to stand guard. But by luck he meets the man of the island, Ben Gunn, who proves to be essential to defeating the pirates and taking the treasure. He steals and then sinks Ben Gunn's coracle, but he daringly returns the *Hispaniola* to Captain Smollett. Though he fails occasionally to do what he is told, there are limits. He would not think of leaving his mother alone and unprotected, his word of honor is absolutely binding--even when given to Silver--and he will kill only in self-defense, and even that is iffy. In contrast to Silver's murder of dutiful Tom, when Jim shoots Israel Hands, Jim's shoulder is pinned to the mast by a knife and his pistols fire accidentally.

The melodramatic scene between dutiful Tom and unscrupulous Long John Silver can support two interpretations. On the one hand, this time someone is trying to talk Long John Silver into being good just as Jim has overheard him talking others into being bad. Tom tries in vain to persuade Silver to remain honest, since he is already old, he has enough money, and he has a good reputation. Tom tells Silver that it is his conscience that prevents him from shaking Tom's hand in friendship. He says that he'd rather lose a hand than forsake his duty. (Ironically those who don't do their duty are the ones who seem to be missing body parts in this novel.) Is Tom courageous, overly trusting, or underestimating a crippled man's strength as he turns his back on Silver? His final words are, "If I die like a dog, I'll die in my duty." Captain Smollett has similar confidence that duty will be rewarded if only in heaven. At the death of another Tom — the squire's old servant killed in the first attack — the captain says, "All's well with him. No fear for a hand that's been shot down in his duty" (p. 120). But a cynic might look at this scene a little differently. Tom's courage and his goodness don't save him. His death confirms the creed of Israel Hands: "I never seen good come o' goodness yet. Him as strikes first is my fancy. . . . -amen"(p. 171). Tom's body rots on Treasure Island while Silver sails

away with three hundred guineas to add to the sizable bank account that his wife has been holding for him on some island paradise.

This acknowledgement that sometimes crime does pay, and that luck is as necessary to success as courage and virtue, prompted contemporary reviews of the novel to wonder whether *Treasure Island* was immoral. An early reviewer predicted that boys would like the book, but didn't think it would be wholesome reading for them. The magazine *Reader's Digest* once published a story about a boy who bought *Treasure Island* out of a back room of a bookstore and kept it hidden from his parents. He thought that they would be shocked by its questionable morality. But besides wanting to make money by appealing to boys, Stevenson strove to achieve the "highest form of writing," which he said, "mixes dramatic, pictorial, moral and romantic interest" (Butts, p.65). The moral interest in this tale of adventure is provided by the question of duty.

Stevenson felt the burden of duty in his own life. His friend Andrew Lang described RLS's "uneasily active conscience." "His sense of duty" wrote Lang . . . directed his life; and was practically the same thing as his sense of honor. Honor . . . is, in a phrase of Aristotle's, duty with a bloom on it." As a sickly child Stevenson had used his imagination to carry him away from his bed. (See the poems "The Land of Counterpane" or "My Bed's a Boat.") Critics commonly say that Stevenson wrote adventure stories to escape from the pressures of his family, and that he imagined stories because he was too sick to do those things himself. Instead Stevenson's health improved during storms at sea. And his real life adventures were decidedly not escapes from his family. Unlike Jim, who leaves his mother behind with a new armchair, Stevenson brought his own mother, his wife, and her young son with him to the South Seas. From living in an abandoned silver mine in Colorado in the early days of his marriage to dying in a Polynesian paradise amid admiring and grateful Samoans, Stevenson managed to combine duty and adventure with surprising success.

Duty and honor both point to a code beyond and more important than oneself. Robert Louis Stevenson felt his responsibilities to others very keenly. Even in Samoa he supported the people who resisted European imperialism. Although The Samoans built a road to his house in thanks for his efforts and his image appeared on Samoan stamps well

into the 1930's, in his letters to Henry James, Stevenson he showed that for the most part, he felt that duty must be its own reward.

## **Glossary of Nautical Terms in *Treasure Island***

1. berth : a built-in bed or bunk on a ship . It also means a position of employment on a ship. This is what John Silver wants on page 47.
2. lubbers: clumsy people in general, and inexperienced sailors (from the word landlubber) in particular
3. squall: a sudden brief, windy storm used by the pirates as a metaphor for making a commotion
4. soundings : a measured depth of water
5. quay: a wharf where ships are loaded and unloaded
6. stern: the rear of a ship or boat
7. galley: the kitchen of a boat or ship
8. forecastle: (pronounced fokes-el), a structure on the upper deck of the ship in the front, or bow section, often where the crew's quarters were.
9. Boatswain: (pronounced bo s'n): a non-commissioned officer on a ship who is in charge of the deck crew, the rigging, and the anchors and cables. He wears the whistle shown on page 65 as the sign of his position.
10. capstan: the big winch or pulley used to raise the anchor of a ship
11. coxswain: (pronounced kok's'n or kok'swan): a person who steers a boat



12. mutiny: a rebellion, especially of sailors or soldiers, against their superior officers.  
The punishment for mutiny in the 18th century was hanging.
13. maroon: to put a person ashore on a deserted island (A person who is put ashore like Ben Gunn is also called a maroon himself.)
14. companion: a staircase leading from a ship's deck to the areas below
15. ebb tide: the time between high tide and low water, while the tide is going out
16. close hauled: a nautical phrase meaning to have the sails trimmed flat for sailing as close to the wind as possible; on page 120 it means in a dangerous position without much room to maneuver.
17. helm: the wheel, tiller, or entire steering gear of a ship
18. estuary: the wide part of a river where it meets the salt water of the ocean and is controlled by tides
19. shoal: shallow water, a sandbar
20. shrouds: ropes or cables stretched from the masthead to the sides of a ship to support the mast.
21. tiller: a long lever that is used to turn the rudder and thus steer a ship
22. bulwarks: the part of the side of a ship that is above the upper deck
23. boom: a long pole at the foot of a mast that holds out the bottom of a sail

## **Glossary of Warfare and Weapons**

1. sabre (also spelled saber): a heavy cavalry sword with a one edged, slightly curved blade
2. cutlass: a sword usually used by sailors, it was short and heavy with a curved single-edged blade
3. hilt: the handle of a weapon, especially a sword or dagger
4. sheath: a case for the blade of a knife or sword
5. pike: a long spear used by the infantry
6. palisade: a fence made of pointed sticks or stakes (called "pales") which form a barrier to an enemy
7. stockade: a building made of strong posts driven upright into the ground side by side. It is used as a fort or a prison.
8. dirk: another name for a dagger, which is a short, sharp, pointed, double edged knife.
9. garrison: a military post; the troops who are assigned there are also called a garrison.
10. sentry : a watchman or guard, especially one on the lookout for unauthorized persons. Sentinel is another word for sentry.

## **Activities**

### **I. Act out a scene**

Though Robert Louis Stevenson never succeeded as a playwright, his novels are very dramatic; many of them have been made into several movie versions. Critic G.B. Stern opines that all the most famous scenes of his novels and tales could be acted with hardly a change.

Have students choose a scene to act using Stevenson's dialog only. Good choices include the death of Honest Tom (Chapter 14), Jim's fight with Israel Hands (Chapter 26) or "The Black Spot Again" (Chapter 29).

### **II. Rules for Pirates**

According to an old saying, there is honor among thieves. But the buccaneers in *Treasure Island* are a lawless bunch who double cross each other right and left. Using the pirates scenes in *Treasure Island* have students write up a list of "the Rules" that the pirates seem to expect each other to follow--at least most of the time. Chapter 29 will be most valuable for this exercise, but pirate practices are scattered throughout the novel.

### **III. Drawing**

A. Try to recreate the map that inspired *Treasure Island*. Remember that it looks like a dragon standing on its hind legs.

B. Draw pirate clothing.

C. Paint a scene from an imaginary island or a scene from *Treasure Island*.

#### **IV. Relating *Treasure Island* to Other Literature**

A. Read and/or memorize some of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's "The Wreck of the Hesperus."

B. Compare Ben Gunn to Robinson Crusoe. Students could also research the story of Alexander Selkirk, on whom Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe* was based.

C. Read *Kidnapped*, another adventure story by Robert Louis Stevenson.

#### **V. Topics for Writing or Research**

1. bloodletting
2. malaria
3. food on ships
4. cabin boys
5. schooners
6. parrots
7. mutiny
8. Captain Kidd (and other 18th century pirates)

## **VI. Related Reading and Viewing:**

The PBS version of C.S. Forester's *Horatio Hornblower* series is set in almost the same period as *Treasure Island* gives a feel for that time. The *Hornblower* series also emphasizes duty, honor, and the courage that was expected from naval officers of the time.

*Mutiny on the Bounty* by Nordoff and Hall might be a stretch, but advanced readers could enjoy it. There have been at least three different movies made of the novel, and they show the kind of situations that could lead to mutiny and the consequences that followed it. Captain Bligh, the notorious dictator of the *Bounty*, might provide a nice contrast to Captain Smollett.

## **Vocabulary Study from *Treasure Island***

The vocabulary words are grouped according to the way Robert Louis Stevenson divided the novel.

For each set of words there are three exercises, one matching words with their definitions, and two where students fill in the blanks to complete a sentence. In the fill-in exercises, changes in endings are indicated. I suggest having students do the matching exercise and the first fill-ins before they read that section of the novel. In the third exercise students are asked to fill in the blanks in sentences that come directly from the text of Core Classics *Treasure Island*. The number in parentheses indicates the page where the original sentence can be found. This exercise might be best used after the section has been read; it could also be used as a quiz.

## Vocabulary Words from *Treasure Island*

### I. "The Old Buccaneer," Chapters 1 -6

magistrate (p. 18)

leer (p. 9)

oath (p. 10)

sinewy (p. 14)

gallows(p. 14)

vise(p. 20)

hamlet (p. 23)

foolhardiness (p. 24)

farthing (p. 26)

guineas (p. 28)

oilskin (p. 28)

disperse (dispersing) (p. 29)

shirk (shirking)(p. 31)

plunder (plundered) (p. 40)

incomprehensible (p. 42)

### II. "The Sea Cook," Chapters 7 - 12

public house (p. 47)

competent (p. 48)

glee (p. 49)

swagger (swaggering) (p. 51)

superintend (p. 49)

anecdote (p. 56)

slight, n. (p. 60)

precaution (p. 61)

wily (p. 67)

lanyard (p. 67)

confidant (p. 68)  
grapple (p. 68)  
burnished (p. 68)  
yarn (p. 68)  
trifle (p. 69)  
corruption (p. 79)  
duplicity (p. 81)

### III. "My Shore Adventure," Chapters 13 - 15

vegetation (p. 88)  
apparition (p. 100)  
adversary (p. 101)  
desolate (p. 102)  
pious (p. 102)  
catechism (p. 104)

### IV. "The Stockade," Chapters 16- 21

stench (p. 111)  
gravely (p. 118)  
rogue (s) (p. 120)  
submit (p. 140)  
hurly-burly (p. 152)



V. "My Sea Adventure," Chapters 22 - 27

carousing (p. 161)

formidable (p. 168)

crag (p. 169)

intermittent (p. 173)

ghastly (p. 176)

elated (p. 180)

treachery (p. 180)

pretext (p. 182)

peril (p. 186)

VI. "Captain Silver," Chapters 28-34

incensed (p. 202)

tremulous (p. 202)

hostage (p. 213)

parole (p. 217)

feasible (p. 226)

rebuff (s) (p. 226)

ingratiate (p. 250)

**Vocabulary Exercises: Part I, "The Old Buccaneer," Chapters 1-6 (pp. 11-49)**

I. MATCH each word with its definition.

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| _____1. magistrate        | A. muscular and thin   |
| _____2. leer              | B. a village   |
| _____3. oath              | C. a British coin worth one fourth of a penny  |
| _____4. sinewy            | D. to cause to break up, to spread or distribute   |
| _____5. gallows           | E. a screwing device use to secure (also a moral fault)  |
| _____6. vise              | F. reckless bravery  |
| _____7. hamlet            | G. a sideways look that reveals evil intention   |
| _____8. foolhardiness     | H. a curse, especially using God's name in vain (also a solemn promise)  |
| _____9. farthing          | I. to avoid work or duty   |
| _____10. guinea           | J. impossible to understand  |
| _____11. oilskin          | K. a structure made for hanging criminals  |
| _____12. disperse         | L. a civilian officer who has power to enforce the law   |
| _____13. shirk            | M. (verb) to take by force, to steal, especially from an enemy defeated in battle (noun) booty, property stolen by force |
| _____14. plunder          | N. a British coin worth one pound and one shilling   |
| _____15. incomprehensible | O. cloth treated with oil so that it is waterproof   |

## Vocabulary Exercises for Part I, "The Old Buccaneer"

### II. FILL IN THE BLANKS (A)

leer	shirk	incomprehensible
sinewy	oilskin	
plunder	oath	
gallows	hamlet	
vise	disperse	
magistrate	foolhardiness	

1. When people play the word game "Hangman", first they draw the \_\_\_\_\_; then they draw the blanks for the letters.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ held the piece of wood firmly in place so that the carpenter could saw accurately.
3. When the riot police sprayed tear gas into the demonstrators the crowd \_\_\_\_\_ed at once.
4. Louis' mother scolded him for \_\_\_\_\_ing his chores.
5. Tamara nearly drowned as a result of her \_\_\_\_\_; she tried to go surfing during a hurricane.
6. The blacksmith was a strong and \_\_\_\_\_ man who could swing the heavy hammer with ease.
7. The Smiths' home town, a quiet little \_\_\_\_\_ called Fairhaven, had a population of 562.

8. Mr. Ness paid his 50.00 fine for littering to the \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Because he didn't believe in banks, old Mr. James wrapped his money in \_\_\_\_\_, stuffed it in a tin can, and buried it in his backyard.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ing at the reporter, the villain explained how he had committed the perfect crime.
11. Robert Louis Stevenson could not print the actual \_\_\_\_\_s of his pirates because his readers were children.
12. After the Greeks won the Trojan War, they \_\_\_\_\_ed Troy and took everything valuable back to Greece.
13. The plot of *Ulysses* was \_\_\_\_\_ to the third graders, who could not understand a bit of it.

## Vocabulary Exercise for Part I

### III. FILL IN THE BLANKS (B)

sinewy	oilskin	
plunder	disperse	oath
leer		
gallows	hamlet	
vice		incomprehensible
magistrate	foolhardiness	shirk

1. Cursing his companions for being so slow to carry out his orders, Pew cries, "Search him, you \_\_\_\_\_ing lubbers . . ." (p. 31)
2. The doctor tells Billy Bones, "I'm a \_\_\_\_\_--if I catch a breath of complaint against you, I'll have you hunted down," (p. 18) meaning that Bones will be accused of a crime.
3. The fog was \_\_\_\_\_ing and the moon shone clear. (p. 29)
4. Black Dog asked with a \_\_\_\_\_, "Is this here table for my mate Bill?" (p. 9)
5. "'And I'll take this to square the count," said [Jim], picking up the \_\_\_\_\_ packet." (p. 28)
6. The captain's talk is full of so many \_\_\_\_\_s that "the language in which he told these stories shocked our plain country people almost as much as the crimes he described." (p. 10)

7. About the confusing directions written on the back of the treasure map Jim says, "Brief as it was, and to me, \_\_\_\_\_, it filled the squire and Dr. Livesey with delight."(p. 42)
8. Getting ready to bleed him, "the doctor had already exposed the captain's great \_\_\_\_\_ arm." (p. 14)
9. After the captain's death Jim and his mother "decided to seek help in the neighboring \_\_\_\_\_ and ran out at once into the frosty fog." (p. 23)
10. One of the captain's tattoos shows "a \_\_\_\_\_ and a man hanging from it--done with great spirit." (p. 14)
11. Blind Pew asks Jim to give him a hand, "and the horrible creature gripped it like a \_\_\_\_\_." (p. 20)
12. In Billy Bones's account book, the "crosses stand for the ships or towns they sank or \_\_\_\_\_ed. The sums are the scoundrel's share." (p. 40)
13. Hearing Jim's mother declare her intention to return to the inn, the villagers "all cried out at our \_\_\_\_\_." (p. 24)

**Vocabulary Exercises for Part II, "The Sea Cook": Chapters 7 - 12 (pp. 50 - 85)**

I. MATCH each word with its definition.

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| _____ 1. public house | A. polished until it glows   |
| _____ 2. competent    | B. a short story of an incident  |
| _____ 3. glee         | C. joy   |
| _____ 4. swagger      | D. (1) verb: grasp strongly ; (2) noun: an iron pole with a claw at the end for grabbing and holding an enemy ship |
| _____ 5. superintend  | E. to supervise or be in charge  |
| _____ 6. anecdote     | F. a small amount; something too small to matter much  |
| _____ 7. slight (n.)  | G. to treat disrespectfully or an act of deliberate disrespect or rudeness   |
| _____ 8. precaution   | H. to strut; to walk as if one is conceited  |
| _____ 9. lanyard      | I. well-qualified, capable   |
| _____ 10. confidant   | J. an inn or tavern that sells alcoholic drinks  |
| _____ 11. grapple     | K. deliberately pretending to be what one is not; double-crossing; treachery                                       |
| _____ 12. burnished   | L. a cord worn around the neck to carry a knife, keys, or in Silver's case, a crutch                               |
| _____ 13. yarn        | M. the process of making someone immoral or dishonest  |
| _____ 14. trifle      | N. a long, complicated story often including made-up adventures  |
| _____ 15. corruption  | O. something done in advance to protect against a future problem   |
| _____ 16. duplicity   | P. one to whom secrets are told  |

## Vocabulary Exercise Part II, "The Sea Cook," Chapters 7 - 12

### II. Fill in the blanks (A)

competent	swagger	slight	precaution
	confidant	yarn	
grapple		trifle	
	glee	public house	
lanyard	anecdote	superintend	
burnished	duplicity	corruption	

1. The teacher walked from group to group because she had to \_\_\_\_\_ the children as they worked on their projects.
2. The fourth grade cheered with \_\_\_\_\_ when the principal announced that school would close early because of the snowstorms.
3. Thinking that he looked really cool in his new clothes, Aaron \_\_\_\_\_ed down the hall.
4. As a \_\_\_\_\_ Tom got a malaria shot before he sailed to Panama.
5. After two years of practicing, Mike convinced his parents that he was a \_\_\_\_\_ driver and they allowed him to drive their expensive car.
6. The President's speech included an \_\_\_\_\_ about his childhood to show how he had learned the importance of hard work.
- 7 Aunt Carol felt \_\_\_\_\_ed when she did not receive a thank you note for the microscope that she sent her nephew for his birthday.



8. Because she served beer in a \_\_\_\_\_, Susan always had tips in her pocket.
9. Little David listened patiently to Grandpa's \_\_\_\_\_ about his days in the FBI even though he had heard the long story a few times before.
10. The lifeguard wore her whistle on a \_\_\_\_\_ around her neck.
11. As the wrestling match began, the Jim tried to \_\_\_\_\_ his opponent; once he got a firm grip on him, he could throw him to the mat.
12. Jane's only \_\_\_\_\_ was her diary; she did not share her secrets with anyone else.
13. No one could trust Cindy; she was known for her \_\_\_\_\_, and cheated at every game she played.
14. Pauline said, "I'll have a \_\_\_\_\_ more of that chocolate cheese cake, but just cut me a little tiny piece."

## Vocabulary Exercise Part II, "The Sea Cook," Chapters 7 - 12

### III. Fill in the Blank

competent	swagger	slight	duplicity
		confidant	yarn
public house	superintend	precaution	
	grapple		trifle
glee		anecdote	lanyard
			burnished

1. After overhearing the conversation from the apple barrel, Jim says, "I had, by this time, such a horror of [Long John Silver's] cruelty, \_\_\_\_\_, and power, that I could scarce conceal a shudder when he laid his hand upon my arm.(p. 81)
2. The squire writes to Dr. Livesey about Long John Silver, "He keeps a \_\_\_\_\_ and I found he knew all the seafaring men in Bristol." (p. 47)
3. At first, the squire really doesn't like being around the captain. "'A \_\_\_\_\_ more of that man, 'the squire would say, 'and I shall explode.'" (p. 69)
4. The squire trusts Long John Silver to hire a good crew, and tells Dr. Livesey that he has "unearthed a very \_\_\_\_\_ mate." (p. 48)
5. Jim is happy about getting word from the squire that they are ready to set sail. He says, "You can fancy the excitement the letter brought me. I was beside myself with \_\_\_\_\_." (p. 49)

6. Long John likes to talk, and says to Jim, "Come have a \_\_\_\_\_ with me, Hawkins." Then the sea cook tells the boy stories about his two hundred year old parrot, Captain Flint.(p. 68)
7. Jim is fascinating by the old sailors, "with rings in their ears, and tarry pigtails, and their \_\_\_\_\_ing, clumsy sea walk."(p. 51)
8. "Mr. Trelawney had stayed at an inn along the docks to \_\_\_\_\_ the work on the schooner," and make sure that it is done right. (p. 49)
9. Jim says that Long John Silver, "was always glad to see me in the galley, which he kept as clean as a pin, the dishes hanging up \_\_\_\_\_, and his parrot in a cage in one corner." (p. 68)
10. "Along the quays, [Long John] made himself the most interesting companion, telling me about the ships that we passed by, explaining the work that was going on, and every now and then telling me some little \_\_\_\_\_ of ships or seamen, or repeating a nautical phrase till I had learned it perfectly." (p. 56)
11. Israel Hands describes Long John Silver's courage: "And brave--a lion's nothing alongside him! I seen him, unarmed, \_\_\_\_\_ four and knock their heads together. (p. 68)
12. When Captain Smollett complains that he should have been the one to hire the hands for the voyage, the doctor says, "My friend should, perhaps, have taken you along. . . . But the \_\_\_\_\_ was unintentional." (p. 60)
13. "Aboard ship he carried his crutch by a \_\_\_\_\_ round his neck, to have both hands as free as possible." (p. 67)

14. Toward the end of what Jim hears in the apple barrel, he realizes that he "had just overheard the last act in the \_\_\_\_\_ of one of the honest hands." (p. 74)
  
15. Captain Smollett is worried about the voyage, and tells the squire, "I see things going not right. I ask you to take certain \_\_\_\_\_(s), or let me resign." (p. 61)
  
16. Israel Hands, the coxswain, seems to be a trusted friend of the cook; Jim says, "He was a great \_\_\_\_\_ of Long John Silver. . . ." (p. 67)

**Vocab. Exercises for Part III, "My Shore Adventure," Chapters. 13-15 (pp. 86-104)**

I. MATCH each word with its definition.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. vegetation

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. apparition

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. adversary

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. desolate

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. pious

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. catechism

A. a book in question form that gives the basic ideas of a religion

B. an opponent or enemy

C. deserted, dismal, and gloomy

D. a ghostly figure or a sudden, unusual sight

E. the plants growing in a certain region

F. deeply and strictly religious

**Vocabulary Exercises for Part III, "The Sea Cook," Chapters 7 - 12**

II. Fill in the blanks(A)

apparition

desolate

pious

vegetation

adversary

catechism

1. The Sahara desert is mostly sand, with very little \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ family went to church on Wednesdays as well as Sundays.
3. After it was hit by the bombs, the hamlet was \_\_\_\_\_; only rats and mice live there now.
4. He grappled with his \_\_\_\_\_ and threw him to the floor.
5. An \_\_\_\_\_ called "the Ghost of Christmas Past" tried to convince Ebenezer Scrooge to be more generous, especially at Christmas time.
6. Before he could be confirmed, Stephen had to study his \_\_\_\_\_ so that he understood the main ideas of his religion.

**Vocabulary Exercise for Section III, "My Shore Adventure," Chapters 13 - 15.**

III. Fill in the Blanks (B)

vegetation

apparition

adversary

desolate

pious

catechism

1. When Jim says "The hills ran above the \_\_\_\_\_ in spires of naked rock," he means that the tops of the hills are bare rocks where nothing grows. (p. 86)
2. Ben Gunn tells Jim that he was very religious when he was young: "I was a \_\_\_\_\_ boy and could rattle off my \_\_\_\_\_." (p. 100)
3. Jim doesn't know what kind of creature Ben Gunn is when he first glimpses him, and he stops in fear. He says, "The terror of this new \_\_\_\_\_ brought me to a stand." (p. 98)
4. Jim can tell that Ben Gunn can outrun him. He says, "I was tired, and I could see it was in vain for me to contend with such an \_\_\_\_\_." (p. 98)
5. Jim defines maroon as "a horrible kind of punishment common among buccaneers, in which the offender is left behind on some \_\_\_\_\_ island." (p. 100)

**Vocabulary Exercises for Part IV, "The Stockade," Chapters 16 -21**

I. MATCH each word to its definition.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. stench

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. gravely

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. rogue

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. submit

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. hurly-burly

A. noise and commotion

B. very seriously

C. a very bad smell

D. to yield or surrender

E. a scoundrel or rascal



**Vocabulary Exercises for Part IV, "The Stockade," Chapters 16 -21**

II. Fill in the Blanks (A)

stench

gravely

rogue

submit

hurly-burly

1. "You won't get away with this, you \_\_\_\_\_!" cried Lois as she chased the boy who had snatched her pocketbook.
2. In the smoke, noise, and \_\_\_\_\_ of the battle, it was hard to tell friends from enemies.
3. When Tina asked, "Are you serious?" Jake answered \_\_\_\_\_, "Yes, I am."
4. Saying, "I will not \_\_\_\_\_ to being treated unfairly," Kathy wrote a letter to her congressman protesting the law against skateboarding.
5. They could tell by the \_\_\_\_\_ that something in the refrigerator was rotten.

## Vocabulary Exercises for Part IV, "The Stockade," Chapters 16 -21

### III. Fill in the Blanks (B)

stench

gravely

rogue

submit

hurly-burly

1. Captain Smollett shouted orders during the attack, and "even in the \_\_\_\_\_, [Jim] perceived a change in his voice. (p. 142)
2. When Silver comes to make a treaty with the men in the stockade, he says, "We're willing to \_\_\_\_\_, if we can come to terms, and no bones about it." (p. 131)
3. Doctor Livesey describes how unpleasant Treasure Island is, "The \_\_\_\_\_ of the place turned me sick. If even a man smelt fever and dysentery, it was in that anchorage." (p. 105)
4. The men in the jolly boat had forgotten about the cannon aboard the Hispaniola, "and there, to our horror, were the five \_\_\_\_\_ busy removing her cover." (p. 112)
5. "On this fifth trip the little boat was \_\_\_\_\_ overloaded. . . and even ripples were a danger" to it.(p. 111)

**Vocabulary Exercises for Part V: "My Sea Adventure," Chapters 22-27**

I. MATCH each word to its definition.

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| _____ 1. carousing    | A. betraying someone's trust;<br>untrustworthiness                    |
| _____ 2. formidable   | B. an excuse or pretended reason for<br>doing something               |
| _____ 3. crags        | C. stopping and starting periodically                                 |
| _____ 4. intermittent | D. arousing fear or awe; seeming<br>difficult to accomplish or defeat |
| _____ 5. ghastly      | E. lively and joyful  |
| _____ 6. elated       | F. steep rocks that stick out to form a<br>rugged cliff               |
| _____ 7. treachery    | G. serious danger   |
| _____ 8. pretext      | H. rowdy, drunken partying  |
| _____ 9. peril        | I. terrifying; extremely unpleasant                                   |

## 11. Vocabulary Exercises for Part V: "My Sea Adventure," Chapters 22-27

### II. Fill in the Blanks (A)

peril

elated

carousing

intermittent

pretext

formidable crags

ghastly

treachery

1. Mark was \_\_\_\_\_ when he won the spelling bee, and he jumped up and down in joy.
2. The horror movie contained so many \_\_\_\_\_ scenes that Margie closed her eyes through most of it.
3. It rained \_\_\_\_\_ly all day, but between showers the boys played a couple of inning of baseball.
4. The rocky \_\_\_\_\_ rose high above the sea, and Michael knew they would be hard to climb.
5. Carrie's \_\_\_\_\_ for going in her sister's room was to borrow a book, but she really wanted to eavesdrop on her phone conversation.
6. The radio said that the tornado would hit the town in five minutes, and that anyone who lived there was in \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The people at the party were \_\_\_\_\_ so loudly that their neighbors called the police.
8. "I'll never forgive your act of \_\_\_\_\_. You told the teacher a lie just to get me in trouble!" cried Hermione to her former best friend.

**Vocabulary Exercises for Part V: "My Sea Adventure," Chapters 22-27**

III. Fill in the Blanks (B)

carousing          formidable          peril          crags

intermittent

ghastly

elated

treachery

pretext

1. Jim was "\_\_\_\_\_ with his new command" once he took over the Hispaniola.(p. 166)
2. Jim sees Israel Hands watching him with an "odd smile on his face. It was a smile of pain and weakness, but there was also the shadow of \_\_\_\_\_." Jim knows that Hands will try to kill him.(p. 166)
3. "At every jump of the schooner [the dead body of O'Brien] slipped, his face fixed in a \_\_\_\_\_ teeth-disclosing grin."
4. Jim wakes up in the coracle and realizes that he can not paddle in to shore and land because of the "\_\_\_\_\_ cliffs."(p. 155)
5. Two points are visible on the whole anchorage: "One was the great fire on shore, by which the defeated pirates lay \_\_\_\_\_"; they are drunk again.(p. 149)
6. "I saw myself, if I ventured nearer, dashed to death upon the rough shore, or spending my strength in vain to scale the \_\_\_\_\_."(p. 155)
7. No one was steering the schooner, and her sailing "was so wild and \_\_\_\_\_ that she certainly gained nothing." (p. 160)

8. "Now, as for the notion of [Israel Hand's] preferring wine to brandy, I entire disbelieved it. The whole story was a \_\_\_\_\_. He wanted me to leave the deck, but with what purpose I could in no way imagine." (p. 168)

**Vocabulary Exercises on Part VI, "Captain Silver," Chapters 28-34**

I. MATCH each word to its definition.

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| _____ 1. incensed   | A. blunt refusal or snub (more serious than slight)  |
| _____ 2. tremulous  | B. the release of a prisoner before his term is up; in this case he is released on his word of honor; this word is French for "word" |
| _____ 3. hostage    | C. very angry, enraged   |
| _____ 4. parole     | D. possible to do  |
| _____ 5. feasible   | E. to try purposely to get on the good side of others  |
| _____ 6. rebuff     | F. quivering, trembling from fear  |
| _____ 7. ingratiate | G. a person held as security until certain demands are met   |

## Vocabulary Exercises on Part VI, "Captain Silver," Chapters 28-34

### II. Fill in the Blanks (A)

1. The prisoner was set free on \_\_\_\_\_ six months before he had served his seven year sentence.
2. Katie's voice was \_\_\_\_\_ and her hands shook too as she nervously introduced the first act of the fourth grade program.
3. "Taking a class trip to Greece just isn't \_\_\_\_\_," Ms Nelson told her disappointed students. "But maybe we could manage going to Washington, D.C.," she added.
4. In the movie, the robber took the bank teller \_\_\_\_\_ and tried to make a deal with the police: he would free her if they would give him a car and a head start.
5. Courtney's offer to help decorate was \_\_\_\_\_(ed)because everyone remembered what a mess she had made last time.
6. The class was \_\_\_\_\_ when Terry's misbehavior in the cafeteria caused the Miss Swamp to take away their recess for the third day in a row, and they protested angrily.
7. Ron unsuccessfully tried to \_\_\_\_\_ himself with the teacher, saying sweetly, "That's a lovely dress you're wearing, Miss Swamp."



## Vocabulary Exercises on Part VI, "Captain Silver," Chapters 28-34

### III. Fill in the Blanks (B)

1. Hearing that the doctor called him "ungrateful scamp," Jim thinks, "My friends, then, were still alive, and though I partly believed that they were \_\_\_\_\_ at me for my desertion, I was more relieved than distressed by what I heard." (p. 184)
2. Jim's heart beat painfully in his breast as he asked "with a very \_\_\_\_\_ voice," "Am I to answer then?" (p. 185)
3. Long John Silver persuades the other buccaneers not to kill Jim because a rescue boat is coming and, "we'll see who'll be glad to have a \_\_\_\_\_ when it comes to that." (p. 197)
4. Chapter 30 is called "On \_\_\_\_\_" because Silver lets Jim out of the stockade to talk to Dr. Livesay after telling the boy, "Give me your word of honor as a young gentleman not to escape." (p. 202)
5. "Should the scheme [he] now sketched prove \_\_\_\_\_, Silver, doubly a traitor, would not hesitate to adopt it." (p. 207)
6. After he rejoins the Squire's party, Silver, "in spite of daily \_\_\_\_\_(s), seemed to regard himself as once more a privileged dependent." (p. 231)
7. "Indeed, it was remarkable how well he bore these slights, and with what unwearying politeness he kept trying to \_\_\_\_\_ himself" with men who knew he was a scoundrel and were deliberately rude to him. (p. 231)

## **Some Poems by Robert Louis Stevenson**

### **System**

Every night my prayers I say,  
And get my dinner every day;  
And every day that I've been good,  
I get an orange after food.

The child that is not clean and neat,  
With lots of toys and things to eat,  
He is a naughty child, I'm sure--  
Or else his dear papa is poor.

### **The Land of Nod**

From breakfast on through all the day  
At home among my friends I stay,  
But every night I go abroad  
Afar into the land of Nod.

All by myself I have to go,  
With none to tell me what to do--  
All alone beside the streams  
And up the mountain-sides of dreams.

## **My Bed Is a Boat**

My bed is like a little boat;  
Nurse helps me in when I embark;  
She girds me in my sailor's coat  
And starts me in the dark

At night, I go on board and say  
Good-night to all my friends on shore;  
I shut my eyes and sail away  
And see and hear no more.

And sometimes things to bed I take,  
As prudent sailors have to do;  
Perhaps a slice of wedding-cake,  
Perhaps a toy or two.

All night across the dark we steer;  
But when the day returns at last,  
Safe in my room, beside the pier,  
I find my vessel fast.

## **The Land of Story-Books**

At evening when the lamp is lit,  
Around the fire my parents sit;  
They sit at home and talk and sing,  
And do not play at anything.

Now, with my little gun, I crawl  
All in the dark along the wall,  
And follow round the forest track  
Away behind the sofa back.

## Bibliography

[http://www.westerni.unibg.it/siti\\_esterni/rls/rls.htm](http://www.westerni.unibg.it/siti_esterni/rls/rls.htm) This Robert Louis Stevenson Web Site is an very complete and includes a list of books, web sites, pictures, films and other resources.

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