

## Unit Assessment — Treasure Island

### Reading Comprehension

*Today you will read two selections related to the story of Treasure Island. After reading the first selection, you will answer several questions based on it. Then, you will read the second selection and answer several questions based on it. Some of the questions have two parts. You should answer Part A of the question before you answer Part B.*

### The Escape from the *Hispaniola*

(As told by Dr. Livesey)

- Much of Treasure Island, by Robert Louis Stevenson, is narrated from the first-person point of view of young Jim Hawkins. However, many events occur when the narrator is not around. For example, while Jim is exploring the island, the other crew members are embarking on adventures of their own. In the story that follows, Dr. Livesey is the narrator. He explains what happened to him and the other men while Jim was off exploring the island.*
- It was about half-past one when the *Hispaniola* reached Treasure Island. Thirteen men were to go ashore and six were to remain on the *Hispaniola*. Shortly afterward, we learned that Jim Hawkins had sneaked into a boat and gone ashore. It never occurred to us to doubt Jim, but we were worried about him. We were not sure we would ever see him again.
- Hunter, one of the squire's men, and I decided to go ashore as well. We steered a small rowboat ashore and discovered a stockade. I recognized that it would be a splendid fortress if ever we needed one. An abundant spring flowed with fresh water and small holes dotted the walls for weapons. It would be easy to defend the place against an entire regiment of experienced soldiers.
- While we were inspecting the stockade, Hunter and I heard a blood-curdling scream. It was the anguished cry of a man who had been injured seriously. My first thought was, "Jim Hawkins is gone!"

- 5 Hunter and I ran to the small boat and rowed back to the *Hispaniola*. The squire and the others had heard the cry, as well, and were all shaken.
- 6 It became evident that we could no longer stay onboard with the pirates. We determined that it would be in our best interest to relocate to the stockade Hunter and I had discovered.
- 7 We set up Redruth, another of the squire’s men, as a guard. We provided him with three loaded muskets and a mattress for protection. Hunter brought the landing boat ’round under the stern, and I loaded her with powder, muskets, bags of biscuits, kegs of pork, my medicine chest, and other essential supplies. Then, all the remaining good gentlemen climbed aboard and we shoved off.
- 8 The small boat was gravely overloaded. Onboard were five grown men, and three of them—Squire Trelawney, Redruth, and the captain—were over six feet tall. Several times we took on a little water, and my breeches and the tails of my coat were soaking wet before we had gone a hundred yards.
- 9 Besides sinking, we were worried about one other possible danger—the cannons on the *Hispaniola*. The pirates did not have muskets, but they might well fire one of the cannons. We had heard that Israel Hands was Captain Flint’s gunner. We kept an eye peeled on the ship and soon noticed that they were, in fact, preparing to fire upon us.
- 10 “Trelawney,” barked the captain. “Stop these men. Israel Hands, if possible.”
- 11 Trelawney was as cool as steel. He calmly primed his gun.
- 12 “Careful!” said the captain. “We mustn’t swamp the boat.”
- 13 The squire raised his gun. The rowing ceased and we leaned over the other side to keep the balance. Trelawney fired, but we had no luck. He had missed Israel Hands.
- 14 The other pirates were too preoccupied with priming the cannon to notice the shot.
- 15 Suddenly, boom! The cannon fired.

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- 16 The ball passed over our heads. We ducked, and our sudden movement caused the boat to rock and tip to one side. Water began to gush into the boat. It sank by the stern, quite gently, in three feet of water. Since the water was shallow, we were able to stand up and rescue some of our supplies. We carried the supplies over our heads to keep them dry and waded ashore as fast as we could, leaving the small boat behind, along with half of our powder and provisions.
- 17 To add to our concern, we heard voices drawing near us in the woods along the shore. We figured it must be Silver and his crew. We soon realized that we were in danger of being cut off from the stockade. At the same time, I was wondering about poor Jim's fate, when suddenly I heard a voice from the land side.
- 18 "Doctor! Squire! Captain! Hello, Hunter, is that you?" came the cries.
- 19 I ran to the door in time to see Jim Hawkins, safe and sound, climbing over the stockade.

## Questions

The following question has two parts. Answer Part A and then answer Part B.

1. **Part A:** In paragraph 3, what does the word *stockade* mean?

- A. brush along the seashore
- B. sailing ship
- C. barrier used for protection or defense
- D. weapon

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

**Part B:** From the following answers, choose two phrases from paragraph 3 that best help the reader understand the meaning of *stockade*.

- A. go ashore
- B. splendid fortress
- C. abundant spring
- D. squire's men
- E. to defend
- F. small row boat

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

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*The following question has two parts. Answer Part A and then answer Part B.*

2. **Part A:** How do Dr. Livesey, Hunter, the squire, and others feel after Dr. Livesey and Hunter row back to the *Hispaniola*?

- A. fearful
- B. adventurous
- C. bored
- D. thrilled

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

**Part B:** Which phrase from the text best supports the answer to Part A?

- A. in our best interest
- B. It became evident
- C. stay on board
- D. were all shaken

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

3. What does the reader learn from the captain's words in paragraph 10?

- A. that the boat was filling up with water
- B. that the men on the *Hispaniola*, especially Israel Hands, are dangerous
- C. that Trelawney can stop Israel Hands
- D. that Israel Hands wants to help Trelawney and the captain

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

4. Highlight the paragraphs that help the reader infer Dr. Livesey is concerned about what happens to Jim.

5. Put the following events in the correct order they occurred in the selection. Use the number 1 for the first event.

\_\_\_\_\_ The men rushed ashore, carrying whatever supplies they could save from the boat.

\_\_\_\_\_ Dr. Livesey ran to the stockade and discovered Jim Hawkins, safe and sound.

\_\_\_\_\_ The small boat was overloaded with men and supplies when it shoved off from the *Hispaniola*.

\_\_\_\_\_ As Redruth stood guard, the men gathered supplies to take to the stockade.

\_\_\_\_\_ The men suddenly ducked to avoid a cannonball, causing the boat to tip to one side.

6. Was it safer for the men to relocate to the stockade than stay on the ship with the pirates? Why or why not? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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*Literary Text Comprehension Score: \_\_\_\_\_ /6 points*

*To receive a point for a two-part question (i.e., 1, 2), students must correctly answer both parts of the question.*

## Pirates, Parrots, and Pieces of Eight

- 1 *Treasure Island* seems to have inspired some popular beliefs about pirates and piracy. However, some of the story’s details about pirates are accurate and others are not. Each of the following sections introduces historic or scientific evidence to set straight common myths and misunderstandings about pirates and piracy. Each section also explains which details about pirates and piracy could have been accurate in *Treasure Island*.

### Parrots

- 2 One of the most well-known characters from *Treasure Island* is Long John Silver’s parrot, Captain Flint. The talkative bird has become so iconic that many people believe every pirate had a parrot. Some people think of parrots as the symbolic pet for pirates. Historians say that was probably not the case. It would have been difficult to carry a parrot with you everywhere, as Long John Silver did. Also, when pirates’ food ran out, a parrot might have been in danger of becoming something other than a pet!
- 3 However, many details about parrots in the story are accurate. Parrots are intelligent and really can learn to repeat single words and short phrases. If a pirate did have a pet parrot, it might have learned to mimic a phrase like “pieces of eight.”
- 4 Parrots are native to tropical areas. Many varieties are found in Central and South America. There are more than 350 species of parrots in warm climates all over the world. It is thus possible they would be native to the Spanish Main.
- 5 Parrots typically live 30 to 50 years, but some species live more than 80 years. That’s not quite the 200 years old Captain Flint was said to be, but still a long lifespan for a pet.

### Pieces of Eight

- 6 “Pieces of eight” were Spanish coins made of silver. They were first created a few years after Christopher Columbus landed in the Americas. Each piece of silver was worth eight reales (Spanish coins), which is why they were called “pieces of eight.” Reference to “pieces of eight” in *Treasure Island* is thus historically accurate.

- 7 The Spanish conquistadors who came after Columbus conquered much of South America. In Peru and elsewhere, they set up large silver mines. They had the native people dig out the silver ore. Then they melted the ore down to make coins—coins that pirates were eager to steal!
- 8 Although Spain issued pieces of eight, people in many other countries used them, too. The silver they contained was valuable, so people were willing to accept the coins as payment. People used pieces of eight in the United States until 1854—just before the Civil War.
- 9 The United States began minting its own coins in the 1790s. They stamped pieces of metal, creating coins similar to pieces of eight. Back then, a U.S. dollar was worth “eight bits.” Two bits were equal to a quarter. Later, the United States switched to a monetary system in which a dollar represented one hundred cents. However, people continued referring to “bits” even after the new system was introduced.

## Pirates

- 10 Pirates were much more interested in loot than in taking prisoners or fighting others. The amount and kind of violence was likely different from the violence in *Treasure Island*. Instead of fighting violently, pirates generally held prisoners for ransom or marooned them. Pirates often set captured crews free with their ships after stealing their goods.
- 11 The so-called golden age of piracy began in the 1500s, during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. This golden age lasted until the early 1800s. Around that time, the United States and European navies ended the practice. The time period during which *Treasure Island* was set probably coincided with the golden age of piracy. Thus, the timing in the story could have been accurate. However, contrary to how piracy was portrayed in *Treasure Island*, it was not a fun and adventurous way of life. It was actually a serious business, not something a young boy like Jim Hawkins would have wanted to be part of.



### Questions

7. In paragraph 4, what word or phrase helps the reader understand what the word *tropical* means?
- A. warm climates
  - B. species
  - C. parrot
  - D. native

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

8. The text says that many details about parrots in *Treasure Island* are accurate. Highlight the three paragraphs that support the idea that many of the details about parrots in *Treasure Island* are accurate.
9. In paragraph 2, which word helps the reader understand the meaning of the word *iconic*?
- A. difficult
  - B. danger
  - C. pet
  - D. well-known

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

10. Why was Spain the only country that issued pieces of eight but not the only country to use them? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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11. Read the following sentence from the text. Which point is supported by including this sentence?

Pirates often set captured crews free with their ships after stealing their goods.

- A. Pirates were never violent.
- B. Pirates were more interested in loot than violence.
- C. Pirates left prisoners on deserted islands.
- D. Pirates shared loot fairly.

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

*The following question has two parts. Answer Part A and then answer Part B.*

12. **Part A:** Which sentence best states the main idea of this selection?

- A. Sailing ships were loaded with pieces of eight.
- B. The story of *Treasure Island* contains a mix of accurate and inaccurate details.
- C. The Spanish Main had pirates and buried treasures.
- D. The story of *Treasure Island* features some of the most well-known pirates.

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

**Part B:** Which sentence from the selection best support the answer to Part A?

- A. Then they melted the ore down to make coins—coins that pirates were eager to steal!
- B. One of the most well-known characters from *Treasure Island* is Long John Silver's parrot, Captain Flint.
- C. However, contrary to how piracy was portrayed in *Treasure Island*, it was not a fun and adventurous way of life.
- D. They had the native people dig out the silver ore.

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13. Based on information in the selection, what are two details in *Treasure Island* that are probably inaccurate?
- A. Parrots can learn to mimic short words and phrases.
  - B. Piracy was a fun and adventurous way of life.
  - C. “Pieces of eight” were Spanish coins.
  - D. The amount and kind of violence in *Treasure Island* was probably typical for pirates.
  - E. Piracy was a serious business.
  - F. It is possible parrots were native to the Spanish Main.

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

14. Based on information in the selection, what are two details in *Treasure Island* that could be accurate?
- A. Parrots typically live about 200 years.
  - B. Pirates preferred fighting to stealing loot.
  - C. “Pieces of eight” were Spanish coins.
  - D. Pirates collected as many prisoners as they could carry on their ship.
  - E. The golden age of piracy continues today.
  - F. It is possible parrots were native to the Spanish Main.

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

*Informational Text Comprehension Score: \_\_\_\_\_ /8 points*

*To receive a point for a two-part question (i.e., 12) students must correctly answer both parts of the question.*

*Reading Comprehension total \_\_\_\_\_ /14 points*



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### Grammar

*Type the correct to be verb in the present tense to complete each sentence.*

1. They \_\_\_\_\_ excited.

2. I \_\_\_\_\_ tired.

*Type the correct modal auxiliary verb to complete each sentence.*

3. My mom says she \_\_\_\_\_ hold me in one of her arms when I was a baby.  
(might, could, can, can't)

4. I \_\_\_\_\_ definitely go to the pool tomorrow.  
(won't, couldn't, may, will)

*Read each pair of sentences. Then, combine each pair of sentences into one sentence, using the appropriate relative pronoun.*

5. The cup is green. The cup is my favorite.

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6. My grandmother makes delicious pie. My grandmother is a good cook.

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7. My uncle's car is old. My uncle sometimes needs a ride to work.

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*For each sentence, highlight the coordinating conjunction. When necessary, insert a comma in the appropriate place. Some sentences will not need commas.*

8. He wanted to go to the movie but it was sold out.
9. Both my uncle and my aunt like peanuts.
10. The water park is a lot of fun so you all should go there.

*Grammar Score: \_\_\_\_\_ /10 points*

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## Morphology

*Type the correct word to complete each sentence.*

1. He stopped using plastic grocery bags because they are not

\_\_\_\_\_.  
(symbiotic, biosphere, biodegradable, biology)

2. When we asked the police officer for directions, he was very

\_\_\_\_\_ and told us exactly where we needed to go.  
(helpful, helpless, powerful, powerless)

3. The music was turned down so low that it was \_\_\_\_\_, so we had to turn up the volume.  
(audible, inaudible, immature, mature)

4. I have \_\_\_\_\_ and hope that everything will work out for the best.  
(sense, senseless, power, faith)

5. She read a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ about Benjamin Franklin's life written by a famous historian.  
(biosphere, autobiography, biography, biology)

6. It is \_\_\_\_\_ to arrive on time for the meeting so the others aren't waiting for us.  
(measurable, amphibious, immeasurable, important)

*Morphology Score: \_\_\_\_\_ /6 points*