

## My Life Hangs in the Balance

*As you read Chapter 8, “My Life Hangs in the Balance,” answer the following questions thoughtfully, citing the page number(s) where you found evidence for each question. Answer in complete sentences and restate the question in your answer whenever possible.*

1. In the second paragraph on page 72, how does the phrase *to feed the fishes* contribute to the meaning of the passage in which it is used?
  - A. The phrase suggests the pirates want to go fishing.
  - B. The phrase suggests the sea cook plans to make fish for dinner.
  - C. The phrase suggests that if the men don't obey Silver, he will throw them in the ocean.
  - D. B and C

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

2. The idiom *tit for tat* means given in exchange for something equal or comparable. How does this apply to the story?

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Page(s) \_\_\_\_\_

3. In the conversation between Silver and Jim Hawkins, dialogue is used to show rather than tell what happens. What do you learn from that conversation?
  - A. The doctor has given Flint's treasure map to Silver.
  - B. Jim tells Silver that he overheard his plans to mutiny.
  - C. Silver tells Jim why he only trusts his parrot.
  - D. George Merry is the meanest pirate of all.

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

Page(s) \_\_\_\_\_

4. The text says that Jim has a hard time sleeping while Silver does not. What is being conveyed about these two characters? Are they similar or are they different? What does this suggest about them as people?

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5. A simile is a comparison of two different things, usually using *like* or *as*. There are several similes in this chapter, some of which are located on pages 78 and 79. Record one simile exactly as it appears in the text.

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6. At the end of the chapter, Silver says, “Should be child’s play to find the loot now!” From the context of the sentence, will it be easy or hard to find the treasure? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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