

The figure flitted from trunk to trunk like a deer, but it ran on two legs like a man. I was tempted to cry for help, when another sighting reassured me that the creature was indeed a man. I took some comfort in this discovery, and in the fact I had just remembered I carried a pistol in my pocket. I put one hand on my pistol and took a few steps forward. At that precise moment, the man leaped out in the open, threw himself on his knees, and held out his hands as if begging for mercy.

I could see that he was an Englishman like myself, but his clothes were old and tattered, and his skin had been burned by the sun. In fact, his bright eyes looked quite startling on a face so burned.

“Who are you?” I demanded.

“I’m Ben Gunn, I am,” he replied. His voice sounded like a rusty lock. “I haven’t spoken with a man for three years! I am surprised I still know how to speak.”

3. What about Ben Gunn might suggest to Jim Hawkins that he is an Englishman?

4. The narrator describes Ben Gunn’s voice as sounding “like a rusty lock.” How does this simile help support the description of Ben Gunn?

“Well, now, Jim,” he said. “If I ever get back to England, I’m changing my ways and the company I keep. I’m a changed man.

“And, Jim . . .” he continued, looking around and lowering his voice to little more than a whisper. “I’m rich! You’ll thank your lucky stars, you will, that you was the first that found me!”

5. Foreshadowing is a technique authors use to give a warning or suggestion of events to come before those events happen. How might Ben Gunn’s statement that he is rich be an example of foreshadowing? What might this mean?

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

After talking with Ben Gunn for a few minutes, I no longer feared him. In fact, I told him the story of our voyage, and he heard it with the keenest of interest.

“Well,” he said, “you and your friends are in a pinch, ain’t you? Well, never you mind. Just put your trust in Ben Gunn. But tell me one thing—is this squire of yours an honest man?”

6. What do you think the phrase *in a pinch* means in this context?
