

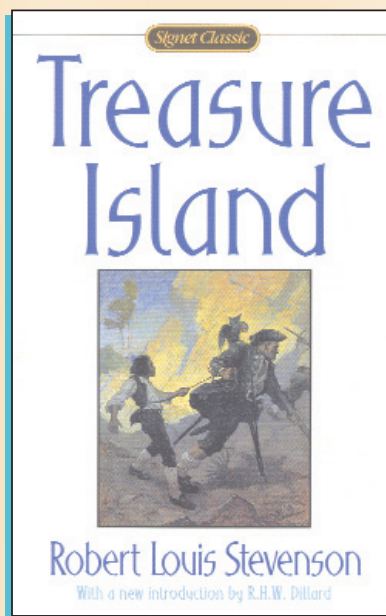
*Signet Classics*

A TEACHER'S GUIDE  
TO THE SIGNET CLASSICS EDITION OF

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON'S

# TREASURE ISLAND

By WENDY COPE



S E R I E S   E D I T O R S :

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## INTRODUCTION

### ABOUT THIS TEACHER'S GUIDE

This guide contains four sections: **Pre-reading Activities, Summaries and Teaching Suggestions, After Reading the Novel,** and **Extended Learning.** The pre-reading activities involve and engage students, preparing them to read this mature work. The “Summaries and Teaching Suggestions” section guides students during their reading. Organized by chapters, it provides questions, vocabulary study, quotations, and assorted activities. Numbers in parentheses refer to the page number in the Signet Classics edition of *Treasure Island*.

**Questions** are useful for class discussion, individual writing, or group activities.

**Vocabulary** is listed with the page number of its first use in the text. When possible, students should determine the meaning of a word from within the context of the passage in the novel. However, less able students may benefit from reviewing these words prior to reading of the respective chapters.

**Quotations** can be discussed by the class or handled in small groups. Students can individually respond to the quotations by meditating on it in his or her journal.

**Activities** may be selected by the teacher or the students—completing all the activities would be too time-consuming. Some may be saved for post-reading activities.

**After Reading the Novel** is a section that suggests activities intended to bring the reader's experiences together through reflective examination of plot, character, and themes.

**Related Reading** offers further literature and websites for students who wish to pursue individual interests piqued by reading *Treasure Island*.

## PRE-READING ACTIVITIES

### QUESTIONS

1. What is a treasure? What do you consider to be your most valuable treasure? Why?
2. What do you know about pirates? Name some famous pirates.
3. Brainstorm vocabulary that you associate with pirates and pirate life. What ideas does this list suggest?
4. Look carefully at the cover art of the Signet Classics edition of *Treasure Island*. Jot down every observed detail. Predict what the book is about based on the artwork.
5. Read the blurb on the back cover of the book. What words grab you? What do you think of when you see the words “treachery,” “greed,” and “daring”?
6. Are there people in your life whom you would describe as treacherous, greedy, or daring? What about people on TV or characters in a movie? What about historical figures?

### RESEARCH:

1. Research a famous pirate, his nickname, and the legends surrounding him. (Examples: Henry Morgan, William Kidd, Blackbeard, Woodes Rogers, Bartholomew Roberts, John Silver)
2. How did pirates affect everyday life: government, trade, culture?
3. What distinguishes a pirate from a sailor?
4. Do pirates have a code of ethics? If so, what is it?
5. What is a sea chantey? Research the song/poem “Derelict” by Young E. Allison and explain how it is significant in pirate lore.

6. Read a few stanzas of the song from the “Pirates of the Caribbean” ride at Disneyland. How does this song reflect your understanding of the pirate life?

*Yo ho, yo ho, a pirate's life for me  
 We pillage, we plunder, we rifle and loot  
 Drink up me hearties, yo ho  
 We kidnap and ravage and don't give a boot  
 Drink up me hearties, yo ho*

*Yo ho, yo ho, a pirate's life for me  
 We're beggars and blighters and ne'er-do-well cads  
 Drink up me hearties, yo ho  
 Aye, but we're loved by our mommies and dads  
 Drink up me hearties, yo ho*

7. Look at examples of piracy in our culture and determine how illegal music downloading and illegal DVD copying are examples of piracy? How do they impact our daily life? How is modern day piracy similar to the piracy of the 1700s?
8. *Treasure Island* was originally published as a serial novel. Research the beginnings of serial novel publications. How and why were serial novels a phenomenon in the Nineteenth Century? What was the extent of the serial novel's popularity? Did the serial novel revolutionize the act of storytelling? Why and why not?
9. In what ways do we currently “serialize” story telling (in movies, TV, and music)?
10. Research images of pirates from today's mass and popular culture. For example, *Peter Pan* or the 2004 Johnny Depp movie, *Pirates of the Caribbean*. How are these images of pirates accurate? How are they inaccurate?

#### ACTIVITIES:

1. Draw a picture of a pirate. Label the items a pirate must have. Share your illustrations with your group.
2. In groups, write down as many words associated with pirates and pirate life as you can in one minute. Share your results with the class. Which words do you think accurately represent pirates? Which do you think have been exaggerated or are myth?
3. Imagine yourself as a pirate. What is your pirate name? What nefarious deeds have you committed? What is your treasure? How do you protect it?
4. *Treasure Island* evolved from a series of stories created from a map Stevenson drew for his stepson. Draw a map of where you grew up, labeling places you were allowed to go, places you weren't, and places where your own adventures took place. In groups, share your stories. Use your best story (ies) to write a personal narrative.

### MAJOR CHARACTERS (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE):

**Jim Hawkins:** The narrator of *Treasure Island*

**Billy Bones, Bill, or The Old Buccaneer:** Sullen, drunken loner of a pirate with a mysterious sea chest.

**Dr. Livesey:** Doctor who treats Jim Hawkins's father: “A gentleman and a magistrate.” (31)

**Black Dog:** A “tallowy” seafarer who surprises Bill at the inn; he is missing two fingers on his left hand.

**Pew:** Blind man, with a frightening voice, who is in search of Bill.

**Mr. Dance:** Supervisor of the revenue officers who are called upon to rescue Jim and his mother from Pew's pirate crew.

**Dogger:** Revenue officer.

**Trelawney,** the squire: A tall man, “broad in proportion, and he had a bluff, rough-and-ready face, all roughened and reddened and lined in his long travels.” (32) Outfits the ship to find Billy Bones's treasure.

**Flint:** The most viscous of all pirates: “He was the bloodthirstiest buccaneer that sailed” (33). He

ultimately dies from drink.

**Tom Redruth, the gamekeeper:** Guardian to Jim while Trelawney is away, securing a ship and a crew. “Grumbles and laments” about everything.

**Long John Silver:** A one-legged sea-cook Trelawney hires for the ship. Different from the other buccaneers, he is cheerful and pleasant, with a great sense of humor: “A man of substance.” (43) Called Barbecue by the crew.

**Mr. Arrow:** First mate of the *Hispaniola*. Brown-skinned with earrings and a squint (51). Drunkard.

**Captain Smollett:** Captain of the *Hispaniola*. He is suspicious of the cruise, the men, and his officer.

**Job Anderson:** Boatswain who helps out as first mate when Arrow disappears. Later, a mutineer.

**Cap'n Flint:** Long John's two-hundred-year old parrot.

**Israel Hands:** Mutineer, coxswain, and Long John Silver's confidant.

**Hunter:** One of the loyal shipmen.

**Red-cap, or O'Brien:** A mutineer

**Joyce:** Trelawney's valet, enlisted to help the Captain defend against the mutineers.

**Abraham Gray:** One of the mutineers turned back to support the captain.

## SUMMARIES AND TEACHING SUGGESTIONS

### PART ONE: THE OLD BUCCANEER

#### CHAPTER 1: THE OLD SEA-DOG

##### SUMMARY

An old pirate comes to stay at the Admiral Benbow Inn, which is run by the narrator's ailing father. The pirate refers to himself as “Captain” and pays the narrator a silver fourpenny every month to look out for seafaring men—especially a sailor with only one leg. The rest of his stay is spent drinking and alternately terrorizing and thrilling the guests at the inn with gruesome tales and boisterous singing. Dr. Livesey speaks when the captain indicates silence, so the captain threatens him with a knife. Livesey, who is also a court official, challenges the captain with legal action, whereupon the old buccaneer backs down.

##### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does the description of the old buccaneer on page 1 differ from your image of a typical pirate? How is it similar?
2. Why would the old buccaneer want to stay in a place that doesn't have many visitors?
3. The old buccaneer seems like a man with many moods: sullen and quiet; nervous and scared; raucous and wild; furious and menacing. Which do you think are the buccaneer's truest feelings? Why?
4. Why does the buccaneer drink so much?
5. Why does Dr. Livesey remain so calm when the old buccaneer threatens him?
6. What effect does Dr. Livesey's quiet defiance have on the buccaneer?

##### VOCABULARY

Students may be familiar with the vocabulary in *Treasure Island*. However, they can extend their knowledge by looking up the origin of words. Websites like [www.wordwebonline.com](http://www.wordwebonline.com) or [www.bartleby.com](http://www.bartleby.com) can help students discover the “story” behind words.

Buccaneer (3): a seaman; a pirate

Bearings (3): location

Sabre (3): saber, or sword

Livid (3): angry

Capstan (3): a piece of equipment on a ship used to weigh anchor or to raise heavy sails

Connoisseur (3): an expert who can appreciate something good (in this case, rum)

Ruffian (8): a cruel, tough person; a bully

Scoundrel (8): someone who does evil deliberately; a villain

Assizes (8): court proceedings

Magistrate (8): a public official for justice; a judge

Effectual (8): legal, forceful

### ACTIVITIES

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1. Using your knowledge of pirates, write your own lyrics to the tune of "Fifteen Men on the Dead Man's Chest."
2. Research the difference between a sea-dog and a buccaneer. Which does the old buccaneer resemble and why?
3. Draw a picture of the narrator's nightmarish versions of the "seafaring man with the one leg."
4. Research how much a silver fourpenny is worth in today's money. Would you look for a one-legged man for that amount?
5. Create or bring to class objects you think are in the buccaneer's chest. Defend your choices using research about pirates and what you know from the text.
6. Create a character chart for the narrator, whom we later know as Jim Hawkins. Make a list of descriptive adjectives that you think best describe the narrator. Support your list with the character's actions and words—what he says, does, and thinks. Be sure to provide page numbers. Continue to add to this list throughout your reading of the novel.

### QUOTATIONS

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"And indeed bad as his clothes were and coarsely as he spoke, he had none of the appearance of a man who sailed before the mast, but seemed like a mate or skipper accustomed to be obeyed or to strike." (4)

"Often I have heard the house shaking with 'Yo-ho-ho and a bottle of rum,' all the neighbours joining in for dear life, with the fear of death upon them, and each singing louder than the other to avoid remark." (5)

## CHAPTER 2: BLACK DOG APPEARS AND DISAPPEARS

### SUMMARY

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The narrator's father gets sicker during the winter. A stranger comes to the inn inquiring about his old mate, Bill, who happens to fit the description of the old buccaneer. Black Dog surprises Bill, and the two begin a discussion, which escalates into a fight. As a result, Black Dog is cut on the shoulder. He narrowly escapes death and runs away. Following the fight, the Captain suffers a stroke. We learn the narrator's name: Jim Hawkins. Jim and Livesey bleed the captain to bring him back to consciousness, and the doctor warns Bill, or Billy Bones, that drinking could kill him.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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1. How do the stranger's actual words differ from his tone and expression? What effect does his tone have on the narrator?
2. How does Black Dog react when the narrator doesn't come back quickly enough (10)? How does this change the narrator's understanding of Black Dog's nature?
3. What do Black Dog and Bill argue about?
4. Why does the author withhold the narrator's name until page 12?
5. What do Bill's tattoos say about him?
6. Why do they bleed Bill?

### VOCABULARY

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Hoar-frost (9): Ice crystals forming a white deposit (especially on objects outside)

Cutlass (9): curved sword

Leer (10): a scornful look

Tallowy (10): greasy

Gabbling (12): rapid and indistinct speech

Fugitive (12): One who runs away

Prophetic (13): foretelling the future

### ACTIVITIES

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- Act out a skit of Black Dog arriving at the inn and surprising Bill.
- We don't actually hear what Black Dog and Bill are arguing about. Write the dialogue for their argument.
- List what happened to you during the first five minutes of school today. Now, reread the fight on page 12, paying close attention to the following sentence: "Then all of a sudden there was a tremendous explosion of oaths and other noises—the chair and table went over in a lump, a clash of steel followed, and then a cry of pain, and the next instant I saw Black Dog in full flight, and the captain hotly pursuing, both with drawn cutlasses, and the former streaming blood from the left shoulder." Write a list of everything that happens in this one sentence. How does Stevenson create such a clear image without listing things that happened? What effect does this sentence have on the reader? Now, using your own list, try to imitate Stevenson's style.
- An idiomatic expression is a colorful way to say something that should not be taken literally. Saying that your principal is "a big cheese" does not mean that he or she is a large wedge of Swiss or cheddar. Stevenson writes, "Once out upon the road, Black Dog, in spite of his wound, showed a wonderful clean pair of heels and disappeared over the edge of the hill in half a minute." (12) Draw a picture of Black Dog *literally* "showing a wonderful clean pair of heels." What does Stevenson *contextually* mean by this expression? What is the effect of Stevenson's idiomatic expression? Brainstorm other idiomatic expressions and illustrate both their *literal* meanings and contextual meanings.
- Research the practice of bloodletting, or phlebotomy. How did this practice supposedly cure ailments? What about strokes? How are strokes treated today? Does anyone know a phlebotomist?
- Continue the character chart for Jim Hawkins.

### QUOTATIONS

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"It was tattooed in several places 'Here's luck,' 'A fair wind,' and 'Billy Bones his fancy' were very neatly and clearly executed on the forearm; and up near the shoulder there was a sketch of a gallows and a man hanging from it—done, as I thought, with great spirit." (13)

"I clear my conscience—the name of rum for you is death." (14)

## CHAPTER 3: THE BLACK SPOT

### SUMMARY

---

Billy Bones is recovering from his stroke but suffering from alcohol withdrawal. He persuades Jim to bring him rum. When satisfied by rum, he asks Jim to fetch the doctor and explain to him that the Admiral Benbow Inn needs protection from Flint, who's on the hunt for Bones's sea chest. Jim's father dies, which distracts Jim from bringing the old buccaneer's request for protection to the doctor. Several days later, a hunched blind man finds his way to the Inn and asks Jim for directions. Then, grabbing Jim's arm, the blind man threatens to break it if Jim doesn't lead him to the old buccaneer. Jim relents and leads the blind man to Billy Bones. The blind man passes something into the Captain's palm and nimbly skips away. After the blind man departs, the Captain looks at his hand, declares "Ten o'clock! Six hours. We'll do them yet," then drops dead of apoplexy.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

---

- What do you think the "black spot" (16) means? Reread the phrase in context and make some guesses. (The answer is on page 17.)
  - Why doesn't Jim deliver Billy Bones's request to the doctor?
  - What do you suppose the blind beggar put into Billy Bones's hand?
-



4. What causes the Captain to die?
5. Why does Jim cry when the Captain dies but not when his father died?

**VOCABULARY**

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Yellow Jack (15): yellow fever; malaria

Black Spot (17): a summons

Clambered (18): climbed awkwardly; scrambled

Apoplexy (20): a stroke

**ACTIVITIES**

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1. Research *delirium tremens* and compare its symptoms to the Captain's. What is the effect of alcohol on delirium tremens?
2. Based on his description on page 18, draw a picture of the blind beggar.
3. Continue the character chart for Jim Hawkins.

**QUOTATIONS**

---

"I lived on rum, I tell you. It's been meat and drink, and man and wife, to me" (15)

"It was the second death I had known, and the sorrow of the first was still fresh in my heart." (20)

**CHAPTER 4: THE SEA CHEST****SUMMARY**

---

Jim tells his mother about the dangerous men coming for the Captain's sea chest. Jim and his mother leave the Admiral Benbow to seek help in town. Captain Flint and his men strike terror in the village and no one is willing to help Jim and his mother. Jim takes a packet from Bill's sea chest, and his mother takes only the money owed her from Bill's stay. They escape just before the band of pirates arrives. Jim scurries under a bridge, leaving his fainting mother on the bank.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

---

1. Why doesn't anyone from the village help Jim and his mother?
2. What's found in Billy Bones's pockets? What's in the chest? What do these objects tell us about the old buccaneer?
3. Why does Jim's mother take only the money for Billy Bones's room and board?
4. What does Jim take? Why?
5. Why does Jim leave his fainting mother on the bank?

**VOCABULARY**

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Hulking (22): of great size and bulk

Oilcloth (25): waterproof fabric, treated on one side with a drying oil or resin

**ACTIVITIES**

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1. Before reading this chapter, predict what's in the sea chest. Once you have read the chapter, check your list against what the chest contains. What did you guess correctly? What helped you make your predictions? What did you miss? What surprised you? Why?
2. Reread the paragraph on page 22, beginning "My heart was beating finely." Create a poem using some words from the paragraph that describe Jim's fear.
3. Make a recording of the sounds indicated in this chapter. What effect do they have on your reading?
4. Continue the character chart for Jim Hawkins.

**QUOTATIONS**

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"Indeed, it seemed impossible for either of us to remain much longer in the house; the fall of coals in the kitchen grate, the very ticking of the clock, filled us with alarms." (21)

"They say cowardice is infectious; but then argument is, on the other hand, a great emboldener;

and so when each had said his say, my mother made them a speech.” (22)

## CHAPTER 5: THE LAST OF THE BLIND MAN

### SUMMARY

---

Jim listens from the bank as a band of pirates led by Pew, the blind man, bursts into the Admiral Benbow. The pirates see that Bill is dead, but Pew is not phased. He's focused only on the sea-chest, which he quickly sees has been turned out. Although the money remains, "Flint's fist" is gone. Pew notices that Jim's lamp is still lit and orders the men to go find him, screaming, "it's that boy. I wish I had put his eyes out!" Although his lookout sounds the alarm of approaching danger, Pew continues to goad the men, "squalling" at them to find Jim. The men respond to Pew's high-pitched anger with passive irritation, which allows Dr. Livesey's officers to advance upon them. The pirates scatter and leave Pew, who is trampled by an officer's horse. Jim's mother is revived. The supervisor, Mr. Dance, and Jim ride to Kitt's Hole to look for the pirates' boat, only to find it off shore. When he calls out to the boat, a bullet whizzes past the supervisor's shoulder. Back at the inn, the officers puzzle over the damage, and Jim reveals that he suspects the pirates were searching for the packet. Mr. Dance and Dogger take Jim to Dr. Livesey to examine the packet.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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1. Why don't the pirates care about Bill's gold and silver? What are they looking for?
2. What is "Flint's fist"?
3. What kind of leader is Pew? How do the others feel about him? How do you know this?
4. How did the officers from the hamlet get notified of the danger at the inn? What does that say about the men of the town?
5. Why doesn't he give the packet to Mr. Dance?

### VOCABULARY

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Glim (27): light; a candle or a lamp

Skulking (28): avoiding work by pretending to be sick or incapacitated

Squalling (28): making high-pitched, whiny noises

Miscreant (29): a person with no morals

Spurned (29): rejected

Lugger (29): a small boat

### ACTIVITIES

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1. The men in his command despise Pew, not only because he's physically violent but also because he's verbally demeaning. Rewrite the scene on pages 26-29, so Pew is more persuasive and less verbally abusive. How do you think the pirate crew might have responded if Pew were a more considerate leader? Why?
2. Create a model of the lugger the pirates held at Kitt's Hole.
3. Create your own "packet." What papers are inside of it? Detail what makes those papers so valuable to Pew and his men.
4. Continue the character chart for Jim Hawkins.

## CHAPTER 6: THE CAPTAIN'S PAPERS

### SUMMARY

---

Jim, Dance, and Dogger meet with Dr. Livesey at the squire's home; Dance recounts the attack at the inn, and Jim delivers the oilskin packet to Dr. Livesey. Squire Trelawney expounds upon pirate Flint's reputation, declaring that if the packet contains directions to a treasure, then he will outfit a ship to go in search of it. The packet contains a sealed paper, a book filled with doodles, and a strange financial record kept over a period of 20 years. The sealed paper contains a complete map of the island holding Billy Bones's treasure. Trelawney insists on mounting an expedition to recover

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the treasure. Livesey voices his concerns about secrecy, and the men agree not to breathe a word of their discovery and their mission.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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1. Why does Stevenson have Jim meet up with Livesey at the stately squire's home? What effect does this have on the reader?
2. How do the squire and Dr. Livesey react to Mr. Dance's account of the incident at the inn?
3. When Jim hands Dr. Livesey the packet, he "looked it all over, as if his fingers were itching to open it; but instead of doing that, he put it quietly in the pocket of his coat" (33). How do you account for the doctor's action?
4. How does the tone of the doctor and the squire's conversation change after Dance leaves? Why?
5. Why is the squire so eager to see the contents of the packet?
6. What does the book contain? What does it reveal about Billy Bones's character?
7. What does the sealed paper contain?

### VOCABULARY

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Condescending (32): to treat another as if he/she/it were beneath one's dignity; to patronize or disrespect

Atrocious (32): shockingly brutal or cruel; horrible

A trump (32): in a card game, the suit that ranks above all others; also, a brass instrument with a brilliant tone (e.g. a trumpet)

Prodigiously (33): in a manner far beyond what is usual; exceptionally

Ambiguity (35): confusion; lack of clarity

To play duck and drake with (36): to squander money recklessly. The allusion is to the practice of children throwing flat stones horizontally along the surface of the water in such a way as to cause them to skim along the surface, touching it and then rising from it several times in succession. The first time the stone skips is called a "duck," the second time, a "drake," and so on, alternately. The meaning of the expression is that the spendthrift uses his money in a reckless way, even as children use stones to make ducks and drakes.

### ACTIVITIES

---

1. Write a newspaper article as if written by Mr. Dance describing the attack on the inn. Be sure to use journalistic format and answer all relevant questions—Who? What? Where? When?—in the first paragraph. Since photography wasn't available at the time, make an illustration to complement the story.
2. An "interior monologue" consists of unspoken thoughts in a character's head. Write an interior monologue for Dr. Livesey's as Jim hands him the oilskin packet.
3. Compare the map at the front of the novel to the description on page 35. What similarities can you find? What details were omitted from the map? Which were added?
4. Continue the character chart for Jim Hawkins.

### QUOTATIONS

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"A tall man, broad in proportion, and he had a bluff, rough-and-ready face, all roughened and reddened and lined in his long travels. His eyebrows were very black, and moved readily, and this gave him a look of some temper, not bad, you would say, but quick and high." (30)

"He was the bloodthirstiest buccaneer that sailed. Blackbeard was a child to Flint. The Spaniards were so prodigiously afraid of him that, I tell you, sir, I was sometimes proud he was an Englishman." (33)

## PART TWO: THE SEA-COOK

### CHAPTER 7: I GO TO BRISTOL

#### SUMMARY

---

Dr. Livesey goes to London in search of a physician to take over his practice while he's at sea. Meanwhile, the doctor leaves Jim with Redruth, the ornery gamekeeper. Jim spends his time alternately brooding and fantasizing about seafaring adventures. Jim's sea-dreams are interrupted when he receives a letter from Trelawney, the squire. The squire writes of the schooner he has procured for their voyage as well as the crew he has gathered. He asks Livesey, et al., to come to Bristol as soon as possible. The squire has refurbished the destroyed inn and has found a boy to replace Jim while they are away. Jim leaves the inn and his mother without regret or sentiment and heads to Bristol, giddily anticipating his life at sea.

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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1. How does Jim memorize the map?
2. How does Stevenson forewarn the readers that Jim's fantasies will turn tragic?
3. How do you know that Trelawney has broken his promise of secrecy?
4. What criteria does the squire have for putting a crew together? Why does he trust Long John Silver?
5. What does the squire reveal about his character through his letter?
6. If Jim is glad to get away from Redruth, "who can do nothing but grumble and lament" (44), why does the squire place Redruth in charge of Jim?
7. How has the squire replaced Jim at the refurbished inn? How does Jim treat his replacement? What truth does Jim suddenly realize?
8. How does Squire Trelawney's giddiness about the adventure differ from Jim's?

#### VOCABULARY

---

Trifle (42): a tiny detail

Calumnies (42): lies; slandering

Odious (42): detestable

Abominable (43): awful

Indomitable (43): impossible to stop

Frigate (43): a medium-sized warship

Quays (45): piers providing access to ships and boats; pronounced, "keys".

#### ACTIVITIES

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1. Create a flier that the squire might have used to recruit his crew for the treasure hunt.
2. Draw a picture of Long John Silver as he is described in the novel. (42-43)
3. Begin a character chart for Silver like the one you are keeping for Jim Hawkins.
4. Continue the character chart for Jim Hawkins.

#### QUOTATIONS

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"It was the crew that troubled me. I wished a round score of men—in case of natives, buccaneers, or the odious French—and I had the worry of the deuce itself to find so much as half a dozen, till the most remarkable stroke of fortune brought me the very man that I required. I was standing on the dock, when, by the merest accident, I fell in talk with him. I found he was an old sailor, kept a public-house, knew all the seafaring men in Bristol, had lost his health ashore, and wanted a good berth as cook to get to sea again." (42)

"Though I had lived by the shore all my life, I seemed never to have been near the sea till then. The smell of tar and salt was something new." (45)

**CHAPTER 8: AT THE SIGN OF THE SPY-GLASS****SUMMARY**

The squire gives Jim a note to deliver to John Silver at the Spy Glass tavern. While delivering the letter, Jim notices Black Dog, who leaves without paying his bill. Silver makes a show of sending two men to retrieve Black Dog. Meanwhile, Jim and Long John Silver determine Black Dog's connection to Pew. The men return, confessing that Black Dog has got away. Silver and Jim become fast friends. They go back to the inn where Trelawney and Livesey are staying and relay Black Dog's escape. The crew plans to set sail at four o'clock that afternoon.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Why is Jim apprehensive about delivering the message to Long John Silver? What kind of man is he expecting? What kind of man does he meet instead?
2. Why does Jim trust Silver so easily?
3. Long John Silver uses slang that would be easy for other sea-going men to understand. What about his language makes sense to you? What confuses you?
4. Why does Silver laugh about Black Dog's unpaid bill?

**VOCABULARY**

Keel-hauling (48): punishment by tying a rope around the offender, throwing him overboard, and dragging him under the ship so as to be scraped against sharp barnacles covering the keel, or bottom of the ship  
Deadlights (49): eyes; also, a strong shutter over a ship's porthole that is closed in stormy weather

**ACTIVITIES**

1. Jim's thoughts often show hindsight—he is writing this tale after it happened, so he is able to look back at his actions from a different perspective. In the first paragraph on page 49, Jim talks about how quickly he trusts Long John Silver, but hints that he shouldn't have. Using your personal narrative (Activities Before Reading the Novel), examine how you used hindsight to keep your reader intrigued. If you have not used this strategy, see if you can add it to your draft.
2. Continue the character charts for Jim Hawkins and/or Long John Silver.

**QUOTATIONS**

"His left leg was cut off close by the hip, and under the left shoulder he carried a crutch, which he managed with wonderful dexterity, hopping about upon it like a bird. He was very tall and strong, with a face as big as a ham—plain and pale, but intelligent and smiling. Indeed, he seemed in the most cheerful spirits, whistling as he moved about among the tables, with a merry word or a slap on the shoulder for the more favoured of his guests." (46)

"I watched the cook narrowly. But he was too deep, and too ready, and too clever for me, and by the time the two men had come back out of breath and confessed that they had lost the track in a crowd, and been scolded like thieves, I would have gone bail for the innocence of Long John Silver." (49)

**CHAPTER 9: POWDER AND ARMS****SUMMARY**

On board, Captain Smollett voices his concerns about the voyage. He himself was brought on board under "sealed orders," but everyone else seems to know that the purpose of their voyage is buried treasure. He warns Trelawney and the doctor that there has been too much loose talk, especially in regard to a certain map. The map, he says, must be kept a secret or else risk mutiny. The doctor lightheartedly tells the Captain that there's nothing to worry about. Trelawney, on the other hand, bristles at Smollett's concerns. The crew sets to work, taking out the arms and powder. Long John approaches in an offshore boat. He suggests that the crew hurry up, lest they miss the morning tide. When the Captain sees Jim idling, he orders Jim downstairs to help the cook. Jim admits that he "deeply" hates the Captain.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

---

1. Why is Captain Smollett concerned about the voyage?
2. How did the crew find out about the treasure hunt?
3. What doesn't Smollett like about the crew? About Arrow?
4. What mistakes have been made regarding the setup of the ship, according to Smollett?
5. Why does Trelawney blame Jim and Dr. Livesey for the information leak?
6. Why doesn't Captain Smollett want to know who has the map? Why doesn't he want Arrow to know, either?
7. Livesey compliments Trelawney on his selection of Smollett and Silver, but Trelawney discounts Smollett. Why?
8. Which of the ship's men would you choose as your friends? Why?

### VOCABULARY

---

Berth (54): journey; tour of duty

Forelock (55): a lock of hair growing (or falling) over the forehead

Swivel (55): a chain that has one end that turns on a headed pin

### ACTIVITIES

---

1. Research the fable of the mountain and the mouse: "A Mountain in Labor." Why does the doctor see this fable as a parallel to Captain Smollett's concerns? Now read Ambrose Bierce's version, "The Mountain and the Mouse." Which one fits the situation better? What is a parody? How does Bierce parody the original? Read a few more original fables and Bierce's parodies. Try your hand at writing your own parody of a common fable.
2. Continue the character charts for Jim Hawkins and/or Long John Silver.

### QUOTATION

---

"I'll have no favourites on my ship." (56)

## CHAPTER 10: THE VOYAGE

### SUMMARY

---

The ship sets sail to the Isle of Treasure with many well wishes from Trelawney's friends. The crew is able and the Captain knowledgeable; the voyage is, for the most part, uneventful. Though no one can fathom where and when he takes his alcohol, Mr. Arrow is continually marked by drunkenness. Indeed, Mr. Arrow is useless as a first mate and eventually disappears completely; thus, Job Anderson takes over as first mate while maintaining his position as boatswain. The narrative focus turns to Long John's adept nautical knowledge. Silver introduces Jim to Cap'n Flint, his two-hundred-year old parrot, who has traveled with pirates her whole life—and has the vocabulary to prove it. Trelawney and Smollett still don't like each other, but Smollett admits he may have been wrong about the crew. Still, Smollett has a bad feeling about the cruise and disapproves of the way Trelawney spoils the crew with apples. Jim, on the other hand, takes advantage of the squire's generosity and jumps bodily inside the barrel to retrieve the last apple. Once inside the barrel, Jim falls asleep only to be awakened by the voice of Long John Silver. Jim realizes that the lives of all the "honest" crew depend on him.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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1. Why do so many of the squire's friends come by to wish them well? What does this further confirm about the squire's faltering secrecy?
  2. Do you think Billy Bones would "fit in" on this journey? Why or why not?
  3. What is Mr. Arrow's problem? How does the crew respond? What happens to him?
  4. Should Long John Silver be pitied? Why or why not?
  5. Long John Silver's parrot is named Cap'n Flint. Reread the description of Flint. (33) Why would Silver name his parrot after that buccaneer?
-

6. Silver says of Cap'n Flint, "you can't touch pitch and not be mucked, lad. Here's this poor old innocent bird o' mine swearing blue fire, and none the wiser, you may lay to that. She would swear the same, in a manner of speaking, before a chaplain." (59) How have your surroundings influenced you or those around you?
7. As a narrator, Jim frequently hints at what will happen before it happens, a technique known as "foreshadowing." Find an example of foreshadowing in this chapter. How does the technique affect your reading?

### VOCABULARY

---

Bustle (56): a flurry of activity

Tip us a stave (56): Play us a tune. A stave is a system of five horizontal lines on which musical notes are written.

Boatswain (57): a ship's petty officer who controls the work of other seamen

Coxswain (58): Helmsman of a ship; one who steers the ship.

Grog (60): rum diluted with water

### ACTIVITIES

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1. Long John Silver moves easily about the ship despite his wooden leg. The reason being that he has developed strategies to accommodate his having only one leg (e.g., the lines across the widest part of the ship, the lanyard for his crutch). For activities regarding the simulation of disabilities, please visit the following website: <http://pe.usf.edu/projects/civitan/projects/roleplay.htm>
2. Long John Silver estimates that Cap'n Flint, the parrot, is close to two hundred years old and has sailed around the world. Make a puppet that you think resembles her, and write one of her adventures in her own voice to present in class.
3. In the course of a paragraph, Jim goes from a young man playing at sea to a potential hero. Write about a time you had to grow up all at once.
4. Continue the character charts for Jim Hawkins and/or Long John Silver.

### QUOTATIONS

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"He's no common man, Barbecue," said the coxswain to me. "He had good schooling in his young days and can speak like a book when so minded; and brave-a lion's nothing alongside of Long John! I seen him grapple four and knock their heads together—him unarmed." (58)

"'There,' John would add, 'you can't touch pitch and not be mucked, lad.'" (59)

## CHAPTER 11: WHAT I HEARD IN THE APPLE BARREL

### SUMMARY

---

Hiding in the apple barrel, Jim overhears Long John Silver's conversation with another young sailor, Dick. Long John reveals that he had once been quartermaster of the dreaded pirate Flint's ship. Moreover, Pew, the blind man, was also of Flint's crew. In fact, Pew lost his sight and Silver his leg in the same incident. Many of Flint's old crew are aboard the *Hispaniola*, "gentlemen of fortune" (65), or common pirates, posing as ordinary seamen. Silver persuades and flatters Dick, and Dick eventually allies himself with John Silver. Together with Israel Hands, they plot against the squire, the doctor, and Smollett. Their plan is to use Smollett, with his sailing expertise, and the squire and the doctor, who have the map, to find the treasure. Then, once they are safely headed home, they will kill all three. The moon rises, and Jim hears "Land ho!"

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

---

1. Silver and Pew served on the same ship. Who do you think had higher rank? Why do you think so?
2. How do Long John Silver and Billy Bones manage their finances similarly?
3. How does Jim feel when he hears Long John Silver speak to another member of the crew using *exactly* the same words he spoke to Jim?

4. What other persuasive techniques does Silver use to bring the regular sailors over to the pirates' side?
5. Given Silver's cheerful disposition, do you believe his boasting about being feared on Flint's ship?
6. What does John mean by "gentlemen of fortune"?
7. Why does John want to kill the squire himself?
8. What do you suppose *really* happened to Mr. Arrow?

### VOCABULARY

---

Quartermaster (61): supply officer

Broadside (61): in a battle, the simultaneous firing of all the cannons on one side of the warship

Before the mast (63): serving as an ordinary sailor or apprentice seaman

Maroons (65): those stranded or left behind with no resources, as on an island. The name was also given to escaped African slaves who fled to the most remote margins of the Caribbean and defied the European masters.

Pannikin (66): a small tin cup

Mizzen-top (66): the topsail on the mizzenmast, the one behind the main mast.

Luff (66): the edge of a foresail next to the mast

### ACTIVITIES

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1. Long John Silver talks about the power of saving money in the interest of accumulating wealth over time. Research investments. If you began saving \$10 a month now, how much would you have in 10 years? Which types of accounts have the greatest return? The greatest risk? Check out the Motley Fool at [www.fool.com](http://www.fool.com) to get tips for teens on saving and managing money.
2. Create a television or radio advertisement convincing the ordinary crew to ally themselves with Silver's group. Use arguments that would make sense to a sailor despite the violence and theft.
3. Create an ad persuading the ordinary crew to stay loyal to the Captain and the squire and doctor. Use arguments that would benefit the sailor here as well. Also, use the techniques of political campaign spots.
4. Continue the character charts for Jim Hawkins and/or Long John Silver.

### QUOTATIONS

---

"There was some that was feared of Pew, and some that was feared of Flint; but Flint his own self was feared of me. Feared he was, and proud." (63)

"By this time I had begun to understand the meaning of their terms. By a 'gentleman of fortune' they plainly meant neither more nor less than a common pirate, and the little scheme that I had overheard was the last act in the corruption of one of the honest hands—perhaps the last one left aboard." (64)

## CHAPTER 12: COUNCIL OF WAR

### SUMMARY

---

As the whole crew rushes across the deck, Jim hops out of the apple barrel to join them. John Silver recognizes the land as Skeleton Island; he advises Captain Smollett on the lay of the island and where they should drop anchor. The Captain assembles the crew on deck, praises their hard work, and rewards them with grog. Shortly thereafter, the three honest men assemble below and call for Jim, who reveals his news of conspiracy. Trelawney immediately admits his mistake in selecting the crew and apologizes to the Captain. In turn, the Captain decides that the only way to handle this information is to keep a positive outlook and to put "prodigious faith" (71) in Jim's ability to intermediate between the pirates and themselves.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

---

1. Based on what you know about John Silver, would you trust his information about the island? Why or why not?
2. Does John Silver really like Jim? Why do you think so?



3. How is Long John Silver able to hide his disappointment about the map (and his real intentions) so easily?
4. Why does the Captain reward the men with drink?
5. What do you think of Trelawney's apology to Smollett? Does that change your opinion of him?
6. What are Smollett's three insights about their situation?
7. Is it fair to have Jim serve as a spy? Why or why not? Would you be willing to do it, knowing the kind of men these pirates are? Why or why not?
8. How would you determine which men have joined the pirates?

### VOCABULARY

---

Duplicity (68): being two-faced; deceptive

Durst not (69): dare not; wouldn't dare

Pretence (69): the act of pretending to (spelled *pretense* in American English)

### ACTIVITIES

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1. Pick the most important word in this chapter and explain why you chose it. Be prepared to defend your choice using what you know from the reading of *Treasure Island*.
2. Continue the character charts for Jim Hawkins and/or Long John Silver.

### QUOTATIONS

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"'Yes sir,' said he, 'this is the spot, to be sure, and very prettily drawn out. Who might have done that, I wonder? The pirates were too ignorant, I reckon.'" (68)

"In the meantime, talk as we pleased, there were only seven out of the twenty-six on whom we knew we could rely; and out of these seven one was a boy, so that the grown men on our side were six to their nineteen." (72)

## PART THREE: MY SHORE ADVENTURE

### CHAPTER 13: HOW MY SHORE ADVENTURE BEGAN

#### SUMMARY

---

The *Hispaniola* arrives, and Jim dreads setting foot on the island. He volunteers for a boat manned by Long John Silver. Silver helps the steersman navigate the waters with extreme ease. The crew becomes increasingly hostile emitting an air of mutiny; however, Silver maintains an anxious but willing and civil face, which counter-balances the surly crew. The Captain, in an attempt to allay tension, lets the men have a recreational afternoon on the island. As the Captain goes below, the men gather around Silver, who's clearly the real leader of the rebellious crew. Silver takes thirteen men ashore, leaving six men on board with the Captain. Jim decides to go ashore as well and, since his boat is lighter and better manned, he darts ahead of Silver and the rest of the crew. He hears Silver shouting after him: "Jim, Jim!" (79)

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

---

1. Do the chapter titles help you predict what will happen? Do you read the chapter differently because of the titles? Why or why not?
2. Many of the nautical terms in *Treasure Island* have double meanings that inform the text. What two meanings does the word *scupper* (75) have? How does this ring true for the crew of the *Hispaniola*?
3. How do the conditions of the anchorage reflect the conditions inside the ship?
4. What on the island concerns the doctor? Why? Is he talking about a literal fever or a metaphorical one? What proof do you have from the text?

#### VOCABULARY

---

Spire (75): towers that taper to points at the top

Scuppers (75): Drains that allow water on the deck of a ship to flow overboard

Sweltering (77): excessively hot and humid, causing sweating and faintness

Stagnant (77): not circulating or flowing; stale, dead

### ACTIVITIES

1. Setting is incredibly important to *Treasure Island*; in fact, the map of the island was drawn before the book was written. Select one of the settings you've come across thus far in the novel, and illustrate the setting in 3-dimensions; make a diorama, a topical map, a pop-up book, etc.
2. Stevenson writes sound and motion expertly into the text. Using the quote on page 76 (see below) as a model, write out a similar moment—of noise, motion, and then silence—in your personal novel.
3. Stevenson uses simile and metaphor to create a depth of tone in his writing, as on page 77. Create a metaphor or simile to enhance your personal narrative.
4. Continue the character charts for Jim Hawkins and/or Long John Silver.

### QUOTATIONS

"The plunge of our anchor sent up clouds of birds wheeling and crying over the woods, but in less than a minute they were down again and all was once more silent." (76)

"Mutiny, it was plain, hung over us like a thundercloud." (77)

## CHAPTER 14: THE FIRST BLOW

### SUMMARY

Jim runs into the island jungle and hears a muffled, heated conversation between Long John and another crewmember. Because he cannot make out what they're saying, Jim crawls nearer to the two men. John is, in fact, attempting to bring Tom, the crew-hand, over to the side of the mutineers. Tom, however, is more concerned with duty than with riches. A scream sounds, which Tom soon recognizes as Alan's. Indeed, Alan, another of the honest crew has been murdered. Tom declares: "You've killed Alan, have you? Kill me too. But I defies you." (83) Long John obliges and kills him with great violence. Jim, realizing that he might be next, runs for his life.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why did or didn't you think that all the men Silver took with him were part of the mutinous plan?
2. Silver's true nature is revealed in this chapter. Did his ferocity and violence surprise you? Why or why not? Use support from the text to defend your answer.
3. Now that Jim knows that the men either join the mutiny or are killed, how can he stay alive? Make a prediction to check against your later reading.

### VOCABULARY

Harkening (81): listening

Modulated (83): changed in pitch, tone, or volume

Extricated (84): to release from being entangled; escaped

### ACTIVITIES

1. Add to the island map you have created based on the descriptions Jim has given in this chapter of his whereabouts
2. Write an alternate chapter telling what would have happened had Jim stayed aboard the ship.
3. Continue the character chart for Jim Hawkins and Long John Silver.

### QUOTATIONS

"Everything else was unchanged, the sun still shining mercilessly on the steaming marsh and the tall pinnacle of the mountain, and I could scarce persuade myself that murder had been actually done and a human life cruelly cut short a moment since before my eyes." (83)

"As I did so, I could hear hails coming and going between the old buccaneer and his comrades, and this sound of danger lent me wings." (84)

**CHAPTER 15: THE MAN OF THE ISLAND****SUMMARY**

---

Jim sees a man/bear/monkey-like figure in front of him, hears the pirates behind him, and considers the two dangers—the known and the unknown. He suspects the wild man might be a cannibal, which he ultimately finds less frightening than the murderous Silver. Jim remembers his pistol and commits in the direction of the island man, who suddenly drops to his knees in supplication. The man identifies himself as Ben Gunn, stranded on the island for the last three years. He tells Jim he's rich; Jim tells Ben his own tale. They agree that if Ben can help Jim get back to the *Hispaniola*, Jim will provide Ben with a way off the island. Ben explains how he, along with Bill Bones and John Silver, was on board Flint's ship when Flint buried the treasure years ago. Ben also tells how he came to be marooned. Jim hears a cannon blast, realizes the fight has begun, and soon discovers that the Union Jack has been raised on land.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

---

1. Why is Jim caught between going towards the frightening island man and going back to Silver? What propels him forward?
2. What is the difference between being shipwrecked and being marooned? What other characters from literature, movies, TV, etc. were marooned?
3. Why does Ben tell Jim so quickly that he is rich? Why does Ben continue to talk to Jim while they are running towards the boat?
4. Ben coaches Jim on what to tell the squire. What do you predict the words, "Nor he weren't, neither" mean to Ben? To Jim? To the squire? Does Ben know the squire? Defend your answer.

**VOCABULARY**

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Apparition (85): ghost

Adversary (85): competitor; enemy

Resolutely (85): with purpose

Supplication (85): a plea or prayer for help

Accoutrement (86): additional item of dress or equipment

Desolate (86): abandoned; forsaken; deserted

Pious (87): devoutly religious; god-fearing

Clove hitch (88): A knot used to fasten a line temporarily to a post or spar

Union Jack (90): Great Britain's national flag, when flown from a ship, becomes the Union Jack.

**ACTIVITIES**

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1. Draw a picture of Ben Gunn based on his description on page 86.
2. Learn how to tie a clove hitch knot.
3. Continue the character charts for Jim Hawkins and/or Long John Silver.

**QUOTATIONS**

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"From trunk to trunk the creature flitted like a deer, running manlike on two legs, but unlike any man that I had ever seen, stooping almost double as it ran. Yet a man it was, I could no longer be in doubt about that." (85)

"Ben Gunn," he answered, and his voice sounded hoarse and awkward, like a rusty lock. 'I'm poor Ben Gunn, I am; and I haven't spoke with a Christian these three years.'" (86)

**PART FOUR: THE STOCKADE****CHAPTER 16: NARRATIVE CONTINUED BY THE DOCTOR:  
HOW THE SHIP WAS ABANDONED****SUMMARY**

---

At the point when the mutineers and Jim leave the *Hispaniola* for shore, the doctor takes over the narration. The doctor, hearing that Jim had left the *Hispaniola*, does not doubt Jim's honesty but is worried about his safety. Hunter and the doctor go ashore in a jolly boat. Once ashore, the doctor discovers a stockade built by the pirates in case of an attack; he hears gunfire, a scream, and fears Jim has been shot. The doctor and Hunter speed back to the *Hispaniola* where the Captain and the squire are shaken by the scream. After arming themselves, the doctor threatens to kill anyone on board who signals to the mutineers ashore. The doctor and his men load the jolly boat with provisions and arms, then, once again, make for the shore. The doctor notes that, though the mutineers have advantage in numbers, their side has advantage in arms. The Captain convinces Abraham Gray, one of the mutineers, to join the honest men.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

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1. Why, at this point, does Stevenson switch narrators? What benefit does the reader get from hearing another perspective?
2. How do the wretched smells coming from the deck embody the events and emotions of characters?
3. Why does the doctor threaten Mr. Hands first?
4. Based on that threat, what do we learn about the character of the mutineers on board?
5. Why do the men need so many supplies?
6. Why does Abraham Gray decide to support the Captain?

**VOCABULARY**

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Mutineers (93): men who plan mutiny, or overthrow a ship's authority

Jolly-boat (93): a small workboat, usually rowed by 4 or 6 oars

Stockade (94): fortification consisting of a fence made of a line of posts set firmly for defense; a place where prisoners are kept

Dot and carry one (95): unsteady; from mathematics (place-marking in addition)

Palisade (96): synonym for stockade

Fathom (96): measurement used for water depth: 1 fathom=6 feet.

**ACTIVITIES**

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1. Research terminology for telling time on the sea. Why is 1:30 known as "three bells"? (93)
2. Research the tune "Lillibullero." What is its significance?
3. Make a model of the stockade using the description on page 94.
4. Journal entry: What is Jim doing/thinking during his absence from this chapter?

**QUOTATION**

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"I am leaving this ship, and I order you to follow your Captain. I know you are a good man at the bottom, and I dare say not one of the lot of you's as bad as he makes out. I have my watch here in my hand; I give you thirty seconds to join me in." (97)

**CHAPTER 17: NARRATIVE CONTINUED BY THE DOCTOR:  
THE JOLLY-BOAT'S LAST TRIP****SUMMARY**

---

The doctor, Redruth, the squire, the Captain, and Gray set out on the overloaded jolly-boat. With water coming aboard and with the ebb tide pulling them off course, the doctor finds it hard to keep the boat moving forward without sinking. Suddenly, the men realize they have left one of their guns on board

---

the ship and that the mutineers are preparing to fire it. Although the squire fires at Israel Hands, who had been Flint's gunner, he misses Hands and kills another of the mutineers. When Trelawney fires a second time, the boat's stern goes under, swamping the supplies and two of their five guns. The men now race for the shore, even as Silver's men race towards the Captain's store of provisions. Hunter and Joyce are already on shore; the doctor is concerned that they cannot defend themselves against Silver's men.

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**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

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1. How is the doctor's narration similar to Jim's? How is it different?
2. How many men are loyal to the Captain?
3. Why isn't Trelawney able to hit the gunner?
4. What is the difference between Joyce and Hunter?

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**VOCABULARY**

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Gallipot (97): a glazed earthen pot or vessel used for containing medicines

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**ACTIVITY**

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Journal entry: What is Jim doing/thinking during this chapter?

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**QUOTATIONS**

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"Israel was Flint's gunner," said Gray hoarsely." (99)

"Mr. Trelawney, will you please pick me off one of these men, sir? Hands, if possible," said the Captain." (99)

## CHAPTER 18: NARRATIVE CONTINUED BY THE DOCTOR: END OF THE FIRST DAY'S FIGHTING

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**SUMMARY**

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Both the Captain's men and Silver's men race to the Captain's provisions store. The Captain gives the squire his gun, and the doctor gives Gray his cutlass. The men are well prepared, so when they see the mutineers emerge from the thicket, four of them shoot; they kill one mutineer and send the rest back into the woods. They rejoice too soon, however, because a retaliatory bullet kills Tom Redruth. The Captain busies himself with turning out his pockets, mounting a flag up a makeshift flagpole, and placing another flag over Tom's body. After several shots head their way, the doctor suggests that the flag provides the mutineers with a target and they should take it down. The Captain refuses. The men observe that each mutineer has a musket. They hear someone hailing them; it is Jim Hawkins.

---

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

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1. How has the doctor's role changed from when he was in the village? How has it stayed the same? How do you account for the change?
2. How does the doctor's opinion of Tom Redruth differ from Jim's?
3. How does the Captain react to Redruth's death?
4. What does he tell Dr. Livesey about the rations?
5. Why doesn't the Captain want to take down the flags?

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**VOCABULARY**

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Worth his salt (102): worth his pay; valuable. Roman soldiers were paid a *salarium*, that is, they were paid in *salt*, a precious commodity (the word *salary* comes from the root *sal*, meaning salt)

Acquiescence (103): acceptance without arguing

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**ACTIVITIES**

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1. Research the practice of placing flags over war heroes. According to the criteria, does Redruth qualify? Why or why not?
  2. Research the difference between a pistol and a musket.
-

3. Journal entry: What is Jim doing/thinking?

### QUOTATIONS

“Poor old fellow, he had not uttered one word of surprise, complaint, fear, or even acquiescence from the very beginning of our troubles till now, when we had laid him down in the log-house to die. He had lain like a Trojan behind his mattress in the gallery; he had followed every order silently, doggedly, and well; he was the oldest of our party by a score of years; and now, sullen, old, servicable servant, it was he that was to die.” (103)

“‘Oho!’ said the Captain. ‘Blaze away! You’ve little enough powder already, my lads.’” (104)

## CHAPTER 19: NARRATIVE RESUMED BY JIM HAWKINS: THE GARRISON IN THE STOCKADE

### SUMMARY

Gunn ascertains that, since the flag flown above the stockade is not the Jolly Roger, the Captain's men must be inside. Ben tells Jim to retrieve the squire or the doctor, as he would like to make a proposition. Both Ben and Jim scatter in opposite directions when a cannonball lands near them. Jim makes his way to the shore where he sees the raised Jolly Roger and observes the mutineers demolishing the jolly-boat with axes. He notes the white rock where Ben told him he could find a boat. He later finds his friends in the stockade. The Captain gives the men chores, so they don't get depressed over recent deaths and injuries. The men discuss their strategy regarding the mutineers—whose manpower has been reduced from nineteen to fifteen. They agree that their best hope is to kill off the mutineers until they “either [haul] down the flag or [run] away with the *Hispaniola*.” (110) Jim is awakened by the sound of shouting: Silver has raised a flag of truce.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How is Ben Gunn like Gollum from the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy?
2. Why are the mutineers destroying the jolly-boat?
3. Why hasn't Tom Redruth been buried?
4. Why is cheese so valuable to Ben Gunn?
5. Why does the doctor consider rum and the climate to be their allies?

### VOCABULARY

Succeeded (108): followed

### ACTIVITIES

1. Research the Jolly Roger. What is it and how did it become traditional for pirates to fly it over their ships? What are the variations on the flag? Design one appropriate for Long John Silver and his crew.
2. Resume the character chart for Jim Hawkins.
3. Continue the character chart for Long John Silver.

### QUOTATION

“First ship that I ever lost,” said Captain Smollett.”

## CHAPTER 20: SILVER'S EMBASSY

### SUMMARY

Silver and another of his men approach in seeming surrender; the Captain warns his men to keep indoors in case the surrender is a hoax. After some negotiation, Silver enters the stockade, alone, to speak with the Captain. Silver speaks of a nighttime massacre in which many of his men were killed; the Captain is confused, but Jim guesses that Ben Gunn must have attacked Silver's men while they were passed out from drink. Silver bargains: he offers to take the Captain and his crew on board the *Hispaniola* and drop them off to safe harbor in exchange for the map and the subsequent treasure. Captain Smollett counters: he wants each of Silver's men to offer himself up to shackles

and a fair trial in England. Neither side allows a compromise; both parties are resigned to battle.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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1. Why does the Captain pointedly disagree when Silver calls himself Captain?
2. Why does Silver call Captain Smollett a deserter?
3. How is their conference about power? Who has the real power? How is the power demonstrated?
4. Why doesn't anyone give Silver a hand up?

### VOCABULARY

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Placidly (111): calmly

Marrow (111): the center of bones

Morass (112): a soft wet area of low-lying land that sinks underfoot; a bog, a mire

Treachorous (112): dangerous; unpredictable; intending to betray

Cavalier (113): having arrogant disregard of others

Surmounting (113): getting over the top

Nettled (115): impatient, angry, as if stung by nettles—plants with stinging hairs

Affy-davy (115): affidavit; a declaration under oath; a promise

Imprecations (116): curses, insults

Puncheon (116): a cask containing from 72 to 120 gallons

### ACTIVITIES

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1. Draw a picture of Silver and his lieutenant approaching the stockade.
2. Reenact the meeting between the Captain and Silver.
3. Continue the character charts for Jim Hawkins and/or Long John Silver.

### QUOTATIONS

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“Why, Silver,” said the Captain, “if you had pleased to be an honest man, you might have been sitting in your galley. It’s your own doing. You’re either my ship’s cook—and then you were treated handsome—or Cap’n Silver, a common mutineer and pirate, and then you can go hang!” (113)

“I would see you and him and this whole island blown clean out of the water into blazes first.” (115)

## CHAPTER 21: THE ATTACK

### SUMMARY

---

Smollett roars at his men, whom have all left their posts. They must remain vigilant, since they are outnumbered and will soon be attacked. He sets the men to new positions, and the mutineer attack begins. Most attack from the north, where Squire Trelawney is posted. Silver’s men quickly overrun the log-house, but the smoke from the gunfire helps mask the loyal men’s positions. The Captain orders the men to exit the house. Jim runs directly into Anderson, barely escaping a fatal blow by falling into the sand. When he gets up, the Captain’s men have won and only one attacking pirate has escaped. Unfortunately, Joyce has been shot dead and the Captain has been wounded. There are only eight mutineers and five of the Captain’s men remaining.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

---

1. How does each man’s position fit his personality and ability?
2. When the Captain determines the number of men attacking from each side, why doesn’t he change his strategy?

### VOCABULARY

---

A flea in his ear (117): an annoying hint or a stinging rebuke

**ACTIVITIES**

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1. Draw an architectural plan of the log-house, marking the position of each person at his post.
2. Write an account of the attack from Joyce's perspective. Use his voice and demeanor as much as possible.
3. Continue the character charts for Jim Hawkins and/or Long John Silver.

**PART FIVE: MY SEA ADVENTURE****CHAPTER 22: HOW MY SEA ADVENTURE BEGAN****SUMMARY**

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Out of the eight men fallen from battle, only three still breathed: the doctor kills one of them, the mutineer, for mercy's sake; Hunter, whose skull is fractured and whose chest is crushed, loses consciousness and eventually dies; and the Captain's "grievous" (125) injuries have left him temporarily incapacitated. The doctor sets off with the map to do some reconnaissance. While Gray thinks the doctor is crazy for leaving them, Jim is envious; he imagines the doctor lingering in the pleasant shadow of the woods—as opposed to suffocating in the overheated stockade amidst blood and dead bodies. Jim decides to follow the doctor's lead and sets out to find Ben Gunn's boat, leaving only two able men, Gray and the squire, to guard the house. As Jim makes his way along the beach, he hears an awful scream, which he recognizes as the parrot, Cap'n Flint. Having found and boarded Gunn's small boat, he decides on rowing out to the *Hispaniola*, cutting the ship adrift, and giving it up to the sea's strong tides.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

---

1. Is it worth dying in pursuit of the treasure?
2. Why does Jim continue to endanger himself by heading out on his own? What is his rationale? What would you have done differently and why?
3. From Jim's comments, we know that his leaving turns out to be a good thing. Why does Stevenson make each disappearance fortunate for Jim? What would that lead his audience of readers to think? Are they influenced by Jim's boldness?

**VOCABULARY**

---

Rations (125): allotted portion of food

French leave (127): an abrupt and unannounced departure; a leisurely desertion from a military unit; going AWOL

Coracle (129): a small rounded boat made of hides stretched over a wicker frame

Thwart (129): a board used as a seat across a boat

Truantry (129): leaving without permission

**ACTIVITIES**

---

1. Write and perform a monologue reflecting Jim's thoughts regarding his surroundings in the log-house, comparing his emotions to the doctor's.
  2. Reread Jim's description of the sea. (127-128) Using images from this passage, create a poem that shows Jim's awe of the sea.
  3. Write Long John Silver's journal detailing events ashore during his absence from the narrative of the book.
  4. Continue the character chart for Jim Hawkins.
-



**CHAPTER 23: THE EBB-TIDE RUNS****SUMMARY**

The coracle is awkward, spinning and moving sideways more than going forward. Still, the tide carries Jim closer to the *Hispaniola*. Jim begins to cut the ship from its anchor but stops when the wind dies and the hawser tightens. While waiting for the wind to pick up—and the rope to slacken—Jim overhears the gunner, Israel Hands, arguing with the man in the red cap. Jim cuts the final fibers of the hawser but cannot seem to push the coracle away from the *Hispaniola*. Making the most of the coracle's dangerous closeness to the *Hispaniola*, Jim glances inside the ship's cabin window; he sees Hands in a deadly wrestle with Red-cap. Jim suddenly realizes that both his boat and the *Hispaniola* are picking up speed and heading out to sea. He therefore imagines his little skiff wrecking in the raging breakers; preparing for death, Jim falls asleep instead.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Why does Jim grab “the light cord” (133) at the last minute?
2. What is the connection between the men wrestling on the ship and the boisterous singing on shore?
3. What are the men fighting about?

**VOCABULARY**

Hawser (131): large, heavy nautical rope

Taut (131): tight

Innumerable (133): so many as to be uncountable

Incessant (133): never stopping

Weltering (133): tossing in an uncontrolled way

Supervened (134): overcame

**ACTIVITIES**

1. Recreate the argument between Hands and the other man in a dramatic dialogue. What are they arguing about?
2. Build or draw a model of the coracle.
3. Continue the character chart for Jim Hawkins.
4. Write out a journal for Long John Silver, detailing what he's doing/thinking during his absence from this stage of the narrative of the book.

**QUOTATION**

“Do as you pleased, she always made more leeway than anything else, and turning round and round was the maneuver she was best at.” (130)

**CHAPTER 24: THE CRUISE OF THE CORACLE****SUMMARY**

Jim is adrift at the southwest end of the island. He recognizes that if he were to paddle toward shore, he would be dashed upon the craggy rocks. He sees two sea lions, “slimy monsters” (135), which are frightening though harmless. Jim figures that so long as he doesn't interfere with the coracle—that is, attempt to paddle—it moves quickly through the waves. Eventually he is able to slowly maneuver the coracle. As he aims for a promontory, he sees the *Hispaniola* with her sails raised and is both frightened and relieved by the prospect of being captured. He soon notices that, in fact, no one is steering the boat, so he plans to get on board and return the ship to Captain Smollett. The coracle is destroyed just as Jim grabs hold of the jib boom and climbs on board the *Hispaniola*.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Although still youthful and, in some ways, careless, it's clear that Jim is wiser now than when the *Hispaniola* left Bristol. How so? What have been some of Jim's more transitional moments

- and experiences?
- Which character (i.e. the squire, the doctor, Long John Silver, Ben Gunn) do you think has, thus far, had the most influence on Jim? Why?
  - Why is Stevenson so kind to Jim? That is, why does Jim have such good luck?

### VOCABULARY

---

Infallibly (137): incapable of failing

Promontory (137): a rocky elevated area that juts out into the sea

Jib-boom (140): a rounded pole of wood to support a ship's rigging

### ACTIVITIES

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- Research seagoing survival techniques. How quickly does dehydration occur at sea? On land? What other dangers might occur over long periods at sea?
- Create a picture (drawing, painting, etc.) of Jim's sighting of the *Hispaniola* on pages 137-138.
- Continue the character chart for Jim Hawkins.
- Write out Long John Silver's journal detailing events ashore during his absence from the narrative of the book.

### QUOTATION

---

"I felt willing rather to starve at sea than to confront such perils." (135)

## CHAPTER 25: I STRIKE THE JOLLY ROGER

### SUMMARY

---

Jim tries to gain his footing as the *Hispaniola* rocks from side to side. He sees that Israel Hands and Red-cap have indeed killed each other; rather, Red-cap is dead, while Hands has a weak hold on life. Hands moans in such pain that Jim almost pities him. He asks Jim for brandy, and Jim obliges. Hands offers to advise Jim on sailing the ship in exchange for food, drink, and clean bandages. Jim agrees, and within minutes they have the ship sailing steadily.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

---

- How does the condition of the ship reflect the crew's mutiny? What does it say about their attitudes towards rules, regulations, and authority?
- Which characters do and do not abuse alcohol? How do the alcohol abusers and non-abusers differ?
- Why does Jim bring Hands his brandy?
- Jim tells Hands to regard him as the new Captain. Why does Hands obey?
- Would you trust Hands to teach you how to sail?
- How does Stevenson foreshadow yet another danger for Jim?

### VOCABULARY

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Bowsprit (140): a pole extending forward from a ship's bow to which the forestaysails are fastened.

Ankecher (143): a handkerchief

Derision (145): laughing with contempt; ridicule

### ACTIVITIES

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- Draw a picture of the ship before the mutiny and afterwards. What is the difference, and what made it that way?
- Write Long John Silver's journal detailing what he's doing/thinking during his absence from the narrative of the book.
- Continue the character chart for Jim Hawkins.

---

**QUOTATION**

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"Hands bound up the great bleeding stab he had received in the thigh, and after he had eaten a little and had a swallow or two more of the brandy, he began to pick up visible, sat straighter up, spoke louder and clearer, and looked in every way another." (144)

**CHAPTER 26: ISRAEL HANDS**

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**SUMMARY**

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Hands asks Jim to heave O'Brien's body off the ship; Jim refuses, and a discussion about death ensues. Hands then asks Jim to fetch him some wine. Jim suspects this request is a ploy to get him off deck; he complies in order to spy on Hands whom Jim sees creak to his feet and retrieve a knife. Knowing that Hands has a knife, Jim arms himself with a bottle of wine. After another philosophical banter, Jim and Hands maneuver the ship through a narrow estuary. Jim is so enthralled by the ship's near safety that he neglects Hands. Fortunately, he remembers Hands in time to see the coxswain advancing toward him with the knife. As Hands charges, Jim lets go of the tiller, which, in turn, strikes Hands. Jim tries to shoot Hands, but his pistol is waterlogged. Hands and Jim are at a standoff when the ship strikes land at a steep angle, sending them both reeling. Jim recovers first and scrambles up the mast. He loads his pistol while Hands climbs after him. Jim is overly confident about his safety, "as a conceited cock upon a wall" (152), and relaxes, whereupon Hands pins him to the mast with a dagger. Both of Jim's pistols fire and hit Hands, who plunges into the water.

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**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

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1. Why does Hands call Jim "Cap'n" so readily, and then switch back to calling him Jim so easily as well?
2. Why does Hands ask about whether a man can come back to life? What are Hands's reasons for living a sinful life?
3. How does Jim's pride disarm him twice?
4. How is Stevenson able to let us know that Jim has been stabbed and Hands has been shot without telling us specifically?

---

**VOCABULARY**

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Dilapidation (148): a state of deterioration due to decay or long use

Feints (150): distracting maneuver

Mizzen shrouds (151): ladder-like ropes used to support a mast

---

**ACTIVITIES**

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1. Research body language. What are some of the "tells" (gestures, physical tics, etc.) of a person who is lying? Which of these does Jim observe?
2. Reread the last paragraph on page 152, noting how Stevenson is able to show what happens without telling his readers explicitly. Write a scene from an event in your own life (or rewrite a scene from your personal narrative) in which you use this same technique.
3. Write out Long John Silver's journal detailing events ashore during his absence from the narrative of the book.
4. Continue the character chart for Jim Hawkins.

---

**QUOTATIONS**

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"Cap'n...here's my old shipmate, O'Brien; s'pose you was to heave him overboard. I ain't partic'lar as a rule, and I don't take no blame for settling his hash, but I don't reckon him ornamental now, do you?" (145)

"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, so be it." (148)

---

**CHAPTER 27: "PIECES OF EIGHT"****SUMMARY**

Jim shudders and thereby breaks his skin away from the dagger. After cleaning his wound, he addresses the body of O'Brien, tossing it overboard. Jim leaves the *Hispaniola* and looks forward to seeing the faithful men at the stockade. He reasons that, though he was wrong to leave them one man short, he made good by capturing the *Hispaniola*. With moonlight to guide him, Jim carefully makes his way toward the immense fire—very unlike the smaller fires the men *used* to make. Though relieved to hear his friends snoring peacefully, Jim considers how poorly they keep watch. He sneaks into the cabin, where Long John Silver captures him.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Have you known anyone with Jim Hawkins's good luck? Why does Stevenson save him from so many situations?
2. Why does Jim decide to throw O'Brien overboard when he refused before?
3. When Jim approaches the sleeping men, what are the signs that something is wrong? Why does Jim ignore these signs?

**ACTIVITIES**

1. Write Long John Silver's journal detailing events ashore during his absence from the narrative of the book.
2. Continue the character chart for Jim Hawkins.

**PART SIX: CAPTAIN SILVER****CHAPTER 28: IN THE ENEMY'S CAMP****SUMMARY**

The pirates have captured the blockhouse; there is no sign of the Captain and his men. Only six mutineers survive. Long John Silver tells Jim that the Captain, the doctor, and the squire have turned against him because of his desertion. He explains that Jim's only option is to join the mutineers. The pirates are in the log-house because the doctor told Silver that the ship was gone and bargained for a truce. Jim tells Silver of his own role in the pirates' situation. He further explains that his life must be spared in order for him to be Silver's witness in court. Tom Morgan wants to kill Jim, but Silver stops him. Silver's men, on the verge of mutiny, step outside to hold a council. Silver tells Jim that he and the squire are allied and the doctor has given him the chart.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. How much of what Silver says does Jim believe?
2. Is Jim's full disclosure a good idea? Why or why not?
3. What does their lack of challenge to Silver's authority say about the men? What is their attitude towards authority in general, and Silver's in particular?
4. The crew adjourns to hold a council. What is odd about this?
5. Why does Silver ally himself with Jim? Is he opportunistic or is he earnest?

**VOCABULARY**

Smote (161): Injured or struck with a firm blow

Preening (161): Grooming

Truculently (163): in a defiantly aggressive manner

Furtively (166): secretly, slyly

**ACTIVITIES**

1. Continue the character charts for Jim Hawkins and Long John Silver.

---

**QUOTATION**

---

“And the short and the long of the whole story is about here: you can't go back to your own lot, for they won't have you; and without you start a third ship's company all by yourself, which might be lonely, you'll have to jine with Cap'n Silver.” (162)

**CHAPTER 29: THE BLACK SPOT AGAIN**

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**SUMMARY**

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Through a loophole, Jim spots the buccaneers talking. They stoop to examine a book. When the buccaneers return, they hand Silver a black spot cut from a Bible. Silver mocks Dick, the pirate who has a Bible with him. The crew formally states their grievances, but the Captain claims that each grievance is their own fault, not his. To cement his status as their Captain, he shows them the treasure map. They re-elect Silver. As the men sleep, Jim wonders how Silver will manage to keep the mutineers under control while pursuing the treasure.

---

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

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1. Why do the buccaneers have a book? Why does Jim find it odd?
2. Why is it ironic that the buccaneers have cut a black spot from a Bible to give to Silver? What does the black spot represent? Why does Silver mock the man who has the Bible?
3. Reread Chapter 3 to refresh your memory about the ceremony of the black spot. How is this event similar to when Billy Bones receives the spot? How is it different?
4. What are the men angry about? How does Silver respond to the men's accusations? Is his response effective?
5. How does Dick's status in the group change as a result of this process? Why does Silver give the black spot to Jim? Why has he kept it?

---

**ACTIVITIES**

---

1. Make a replica of the black spot from the description on page 173.
2. Write a journal entry from the perspective of the Captain, the doctor, or Trelawney detailing the events that led up to giving Silver the map.
3. Continue the character charts for Jim Hawkins and Long John Silver.

**CHAPTER 30: ON PAROLE**

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**SUMMARY**

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The doctor awakens the men. Barely acknowledging Jim, the doctor tends to the wounded buccaneers without judgment. He claims he's tending to them as prisoners, not as free men. Silver grants Jim permission to speak to the doctor so long as he promises not to escape. The men grumble, but Silver assures them that they'll soon have their way. The doctor chastises Jim for having left the wounded Captain and urges him to escape. Jim refuses. He further tells the doctor where he's hidden the *Hispaniola*. The doctor warns Silver to be cautious when looking for the treasure. Silver wants more information, but the doctor refuses saying he'll do his best to help Silver when he comes to trial.

---

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

---

1. Why is the doctor civil to Silver and calmly committed to treating the wounded?
  2. What effect does Silver's allowing Jim to speak with the doctor have on the buccaneers? Why do they react this way?
  3. How does Silver's demeanor change when he's with his men versus with the doctor? Why does it change?
  4. The doctor believes that Jim has loyally aided the Captain's men at every turn. Is this true?
-

**VOCABULARY**

---

Home-thrust (176): jab at the heart

Preponderance (177): superiority

Gammon (177): early 18th Century, chiefly British: criminals' slang for to *deceive someone*

Volubility (177): having the ability to speak and write easily

**ACTIVITIES**

---

1. Research the criminal proceedings for piracy, especially for the pirate William Kidd. How were pirates tried? Executed? Why would this frighten such hardened criminals?
2. Continue the character charts for Jim Hawkins and Long John Silver.

**QUOTATIONS**

---

"He seemed under no apprehension, though he must have known that his life, among these treacherous demons, depended on a hair; and he rattled on to his patients as if he were paying an ordinary professional visit in a quiet English family." (175)

"Because, you see, I am mutineers' doctor, or prison doctor as I prefer to call it,' says Doctor Livesey in his pleasantest way, 'I make it a point of honour not to lose a man for King George (God bless him!) and the gallows.'" (175-6)

**CHAPTER 31: THE TREASURE-HUNT—FLINT'S POINTER****SUMMARY**

---

Silver thanks Jim for keeping his word and not running away. The buccaneers have made a huge fire and are cooking enough food for several days. Silver tells them that the Captain has the *Hispaniola*. He says that Jim is their hostage, their bargaining tool. Jim understands that Silver's alliances change with the circumstances. The men, using the directions on the back of the map, set out in two boats, both of which are in poor condition. They hear a scream of terror and find the skeleton of a seaman in an unnatural position: perfectly straight with his arms raised overhead; like a pointing arrow. The buccaneers search for the dead man's knives and other possessions but don't find anything. Spooked by Flint's long-ago cruelty towards his own men, they move forward cautiously.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

---

1. What is the advantage of fighting back-to-back rather than side-by-side?
2. Why are the buccaneers so wasteful?
3. How does Jim feel about Silver? Does he trust him? Why or why not?
4. How are the pirates equipped? What is the condition of their supplies and equipment? What does this say about their preparation?

**VOCABULARY**

---

Burthened (182): burdened

Miry (184): marshy; wet

Tethered (184): tied

**ACTIVITIES**

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1. Open a bottle of nutmeg to smell while reading the passage from page 184.
2. Continue the character charts for Jim Hawkins and Long John Silver.

**QUOTATIONS**

---

"This is one of *his* jokes, and no mistake. Him and these six was alone here; he killed 'em, every man; and this one he hauled here and laid down by compass, shiver my timbers!" (185)

"Messmates, but if Flint was living, this would be a hot spot for you and me. Six they were, and six are we; and bones is what they are now." (186)

"The terror of the dead buccaneer had fallen on their spirits." (186)

## CHAPTER 32: THE TREASURE-HUNT—THE VOICE AMONG THE TREES

### SUMMARY

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The men hear "Fifteen men on a dead man's chest" and nearly faint from terror. Silver assures them that the voice is from a living person, not Flint's ghost; however, the men are terrified when they hear Flint's dying words: "Fetch aft the rum, Darby!" Silver motivates the men to continue searching for the treasure despite their fear. The men recognize Ben Gunn's voice. Dick gets sicker and prays more feverishly as they go along. As they approach the treasure, they begin to hurry. Jim notices that Silver's demeanor has changed. He fears murder of Flint's six men may be reenacted once they find the treasure. They proceed only to find that the treasure has been excavated and is gone.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

---

1. How does Silver convince the men to continue searching for the treasure? How effective is he?
2. When the men recognize the voice of Ben Gunn, why aren't they afraid any more?
3. What is the difference between superstition and faith? What is Stevenson's opinion about religion in general, or Dick's faith specifically? Use the text to support your position.
4. Why does the prospect of money erase the men's fears?
5. How does the idea of treasure affect Long John Silver's behavior? What visible changes does Jim notice in Silver?
6. How are Silver and Dick similar in their pursuit of the treasure? How do they differ?

### VOCABULARY

---

Skylarking (188): playing around

Countenance (191): face; appearance

Cache (192): hidden item

### ACTIVITIES

---

1. Research the power of suggestion. How are Silver's men affected by both their surroundings and the sounds they hear? Why aren't the facts of the situation more powerful than what they fear?
2. Create a collage of words or pictures showing the power of money. What can it buy? What *can't* it buy?
3. Research what a British merchantman of the period was paid. What were their options for advancing toward better paying jobs?
4. Continue the character charts for Jim Hawkins and Long John Silver.

### QUOTATIONS

---

"Not a man, not a sail, upon the sea; the very largeness of the view increased the sense of solitude." (187)

"Certainly he took no pains to hide his thoughts, and certainly I read them like print." (191)

## CHAPTER 33: THE FALL OF A CHIEFTAIN

### SUMMARY

---

Long John Silver, realizing that his plans for the treasure have been dashed, passes Jim a pistol and tells him to get ready to fight. Meanwhile the men have found only a two-guinea piece, not the seven hundred thousand pounds of treasure. George Merry calls for the men to attack Silver and Jim; however, before they do, shots from the thicket kill him. Doctor Livesey, Gray, and Ben Gunn emerge carrying muskets as the three other mutineers attempt to escape. Ben Gunn tells Silver that he found the treasure and moved it to a cave two months earlier. The doctor and the others demolish one boat and head towards Ben Gunn's cave in the other. After Trelawney chastises Silver for his villainy, he guides them into a cave where Captain Smollett sits among "heaps of coin and quadrilaterals built of bars of gold." (197)

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

---

1. How is Silver able to size up a situation and take action so quickly?
2. Why did the doctor leave Jim with the mutineers?
3. How did the doctor revise his plan when Jim returns and is captured?
4. Was the treasure worth the death, pain, and sorrow it took to find it? Why or why not?
5. Is Silver a changed man, or is he merely waiting for the right opportunity? What is your reason for thinking so?

**VOCABULARY**

---

Forbear (193): stop or refrain from

**ACTIVITIES**

---

1. How much was a two-guinea piece worth in Silver's time? How much is it worth today?
2. Create a resume for Long John Silver listing his skills and qualifications. Look at the newspaper's classified ads. For what jobs should he interview? Why would he be successful in those positions? Think of other careers Silver should consider instead of piracy, and write a letter to a headhunter (someone who finds the right people for the right jobs) promoting this skilled man.
3. Continue the character charts for Jim Hawkins and Long John Silver.

**QUOTATIONS**

---

"His looks were not quite friendly, and I was so revolted at these constant changes that I could not forbear whispering, 'So you've changed sides again.'" (193)

"'Come back to my dooty, sir,' returned Silver." (198)

**CHAPTER 34: AND LAST****SUMMARY**

---

The men transfer the gold from the cave to the *Hispaniola*, guarding it against possible attacks. After a few days the drunk and raving mutineers return. The doctor considers treating them for malaria, but Silver advises against it since they are not men of their word. In a council, the men agree to maroon the three mutineers. As the ship sails, they see the mutineers kneeling on shore and begging. One shot from their muskets hits the mainsail. The ship lands in Spanish America to get more hands for the voyage home. Jim, the doctor, and the squire go ashore, leaving the Captain, Silver, and Ben Gunn to guard the ship. When the three return, Ben Gunn tells them that Silver has fled, taking a sack of coins with him. With their fortune, they each spend or save according to their nature: Captain Smollett retires, Gray becomes mate and part owner of a ship, and Ben Gunn spends all his money in nineteen days. Jim still wakes up from nightmares of either the surf or of Captain Flint squawking "Pieces of eight!"

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

---

1. Why does Jim treat Silver well, even though he realizes Silver might have killed him on the plateau? How do the others treat Silver? Which do you think is right?
2. Should they have marooned the mutineers? Why or why not?
3. Why doesn't Jim ever want to return to the island? Would you want to go look for the arms and the silver still on the island? Why or why not?

**ACTIVITIES**

---

1. Look at a coin collection from around the world and reread the passage on page 199. In a word collage or poem, write about Jim's thoughts as he sorted the coins.
2. Continue the character charts for Jim Hawkins and Long John Silver.

**QUOTATIONS**

---

"It was a strange collection, like Billy Bones's hoard for the diversity of coinage, but so much larger and so much more varied that I think I never had more pleasure than in sorting them. English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Georges, and Louises, doubloons and double guineas and moidores



and sequins, the pictures of all the kings of Europe for the last hundred years, strange Oriental pieces stamped with what looked like wisps of string or bits of spider's web, round pieces and square pieces, and pieces bored through the middle, as if to wear them round your neck—nearly every variety of money in the world must, I think, have found a place in that collection; and for number, I am sure they were like autumn leaves, so that my back ached with stooping and my fingers with sorting them out.” (198-199)

“I think we were all pleased to be so cheaply quit of him.” (202)

## AFTER READING THE NOVEL

### QUESTIONS

1. The characters in the novel have differing degrees of morality. Which characters have higher moral standards? Which have lower moral standards? How do the differences between the two groups affect their actions? Their choices? The consequences of the two?
2. The novel is full of blood and gore, but no emotional attachment to death. Why doesn't death affect the characters in the novel? What, if anything, do the men seem to fear more than death?
3. Why does Stevenson put Jim into the narrative, and then take him out? What purpose does this serve?
4. What makes Stevenson's writing powerful? Select one of your favorite descriptive passages and use it to discuss Stevenson's vivid descriptions.
5. What is the most powerful symbol in the novel? Of hope? Of fear? Of death?
6. What is the role of luck in this novel? Who believes in it? Who doesn't? Why do they? Why don't they? What is the difference between luck and coincidence?
7. How does Stevenson use foreshadowing in *Treasure Island*? Find a few examples to share with the class. What purpose does foreshadowing have? What effect does it have on the reader?

### ACTIVITIES

1. *Treasure Island* begins with a poem addressed to the buyer/reader. Lemony Snicket's novels, *A Series of Unfortunate Events*, address the reader in much the same way. Select a “series” novel to compare and contrast with Stevenson's. How does each author treat the reader? What tone does each author take? How are the authors' word choices similar and different?
2. Using the poem “Aspects of Robinson” by Weldon Kees as a model, write your own poem “Aspects of \_\_\_\_\_,” about Jim Hawkins or another character from *Treasure Island*.

#### *Aspects of Robinson*

Robinson at cards at the Algonquin: a thin  
 Blue light comes down once more outside the blinds.  
 Gray men in overcoats are ghosts blown past the door.  
 The taxis streak the avenues with yellow, orange, and red.  
 This is Grand Central, Mr. Robinson.

Robinson on a roof above the Heights; the boats  
 Mourn like the lost. Water is slate, far down.  
 Through sounds of ice cubes dropped in glass, an osteopath,  
 Dressed for the links, describes an old Intourist tour.  
 —Here's where old Gibbons jumped from, Robinson.

Robinson walking in the Park, admiring the elephant.  
 Robinson buying the *Tribune*, Robinson buying the *Times*.

Robinson  
 Saying, “Hello. Yes, this is Robinson. Sunday  
 At five? I'd love to. Pretty well. And you?”  
 Robinson alone at Longchamps, staring at the wall.

Robinson afraid, drunk, sobbing Robinson  
 In bed with a Mrs. Morse. Robinson at home;

Decisions: Toynbee or luminol? Where the sun  
Shines, Robinson in flowered trunks, eyes toward  
The breakers. Where the night ends, Robinson in East Side bars.

Robinson in Glen plaid jacket, Scotch-grain shoes,  
Black four-in-hand and oxford button-down,  
The jeweled and silent watch that winds itself, the brief-  
Case, covert topcoat, clothes for spring, all covering  
His sad and usual heart, dry as a winter leaf.

- From the novel collect nautical terms that are currently used to mean something else (e.g. *fathom* also means “to understand”). How did such words shift meaning? Research recent additions to the Oxford English Dictionary for words with new meanings. What current words are likely to have new meanings in your lifetime? What words gained general popularity during the age of space exploration? Why do you think meanings shift? How do you predict they will shift?
  - Complete the character chart for Jim Hawkins. Using your descriptions and proof from the text, create a multimedia essay about Jim Hawkins’s growth as a character to present in class.
  - Complete the character chart for Long John Silver. Using the information you gleaned from the novel, create and present a multimedia essay about Silver’s growth as a character.
  - Using the most compelling image from the book, create a print advertisement for *Treasure Island*.
  - One of the enduring themes of *Treasure Island* is the search for a father figure. Revisit the novel, finding characters that serve as father figures for Jim. What lessons does he learn from each? What traits does he assume through his experiences with each? Write an essay discussing these questions in terms of the man Jim Hawkins becomes at the end of the novel.
  - What were the military and political conditions that originally encouraged piracy? The doctor in particular repeats his loyalty to king and country and flag. How did British seamen and citizens view people from Spain, France, America, Holland, and other countries they met at sea? What is Stevenson’s attitude toward this chauvinism in *Treasure Island*? How many countries did he travel to in his short life?
  - Animals—horses, parrots, sea lions—appear at dramatic points in the action of the novel. A number of the characters have physical characteristics or names from the animal world—Benn Gunn, Black Dog, Dogger, Tom Redruth was the gamekeeper of the squire’s estate. Why does Stevenson blur the line between humans and animals in *Treasure Island*?
  - Many of the events of *Treasure Island* could have different outcomes if the characters had chosen a different path. For instance, if the young boy hadn’t gotten the men from the village to help Jim and his mother at the inn, the rest of the adventure wouldn’t have happened. What other examples can you find in the novel? What effect do “near misses” have on the novel’s plot? Select one of the events you find and sketch the plot as if the “near miss” hadn’t happened.
  - An alternate title for this novel might be *A Series of Fortunate Events*. Using Stevenson’s style, retell a story about the Baudelaire orphans using the kind of luck that Jim tends to have. How does this change the telling of the story?
  - Cast a film version of *Treasure Island*. What actors would portray each role? What other roles have they had in other films that influenced your casting? Make a casting book, including pictures of the actors, a description of the character from the novel, and a paragraph detailing reasons that actor should be cast. You may also want to consider alternates for each role in case your first choice is unavailable.
  - Another theme throughout *Treasure Island* is the role of duty (or “dooty” as it is called in the novel). Find examples where men stick to or shirk duty. What causes them to stick to their duty? What causes them to shirk it? In an essay using examples from the novel, discuss how the concept of duty affects the main characters of *Treasure Island*.
-

## RELATED WORKS

Avi. *Windcatcher*. New York: HarperTrophy, 1992. An 11-year-old boy is involved in a search for a centuries-old shipwreck.

Defoe, Daniel. *Robinson Crusoe*. New York: Signet Classics, 1998. Story of an English sailor marooned for nearly 30 years.

Cordingly, David. *Under the Black Flag: The Romance and the Reality of Life among the Pirates*. New York: Harvest Books, 1997. The history and mythology of piracy.

Crutcher, Chris. *The Sledding Hill*. New York: Greenwillow, 2005. Young man struggles against injustice and book censorship after both his best friend and his father die within three weeks of each other.

Jameson, W. C. *Buried Treasures of the Appalachians: Legends of Homestead Caches, Indian Mines and Loot from Civil War Raids*. New York: August House Publishers, 1991. Legends of buried treasure organized by state.

Larsson, Bjorn. *Long John Silver: The True and Eventful History of My Life of Liberty and Adventure as a Gentleman of Fortune and Enemy to Mankind*. New York: Harvill Press, 2000. Silver's "autobiography."

Long, Melinda, and David Shannon. *How I Became a Pirate*. New York: Harcourt Children's Books, 2003. Children's book in which Jeremy becomes a pirate, but soon discovers what pirates don't do.

Osborne, Mary Pope. *Pirates Past Noon (Magic Tree House #4)*. New York: Random House, 1994. Main characters Jack and Annie are swept back to the age of pirates in this historical fiction series.

Paulsen, Gary. *Dogsong*. New York: Aladdin, 1995. A 14-year-old boy takes a 1,400-mile dog sledding trip across the tundra.

Paulsen, Gary. *Hatchet*. New York: Simon Pulse, 1999. A boy who crashes in the Canadian wilderness must learn to survive with only a hatchet and his own wits.

Sachar, Louis. *Holes*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1998. Juvenile delinquents unwittingly get caught up into a treasure hunt disguised as a rehabilitation program.

Snicket, Lemony. *A Series of Unfortunate Events*. Paramount Pictures (Film version) and New York: Harper Collins Children's Books, 2004.

Twain, Mark. *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. New York: Signet Classics, 1997. Twain's "hymn to boyhood," involving civilization, adventure, and coming of age.

## RELATED WEBSITES

"Fifteen Men on a Dead Man's Chest" Everything 2 webpage:  
[http://www.everything2.com/index.pl?node\\_id=642753](http://www.everything2.com/index.pl?node_id=642753)

Pirates! Fact and Legend webpage: <http://www.piratesinfo.com/>

Dickens and the Victorian Serial Novel:  
<http://www.umd.umich.edu/casl/hum/eng/classes/434/geweb/THEHISTO.htm>

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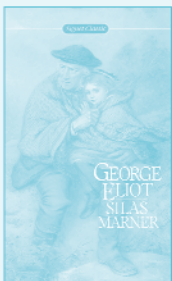
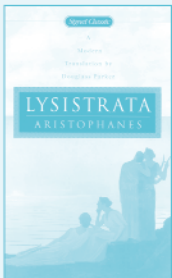
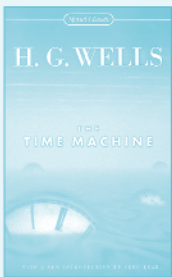
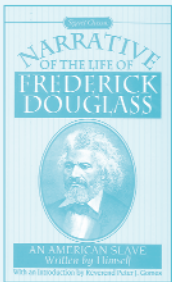
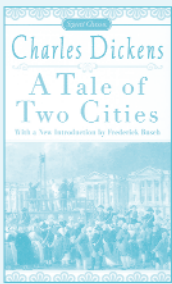
**W. GEIGER ELLIS**, Professor Emeritus, University of Georgia, received his A.B. and M.Ed. degrees from the University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill) and his Ed.D. from the University of Virginia. His teaching focused on adolescent literature, having introduced the first courses on the subject at both the University of Virginia and the University of Georgia. He developed and edited *The ALAN Review*.

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## NOTES

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**NOTES**



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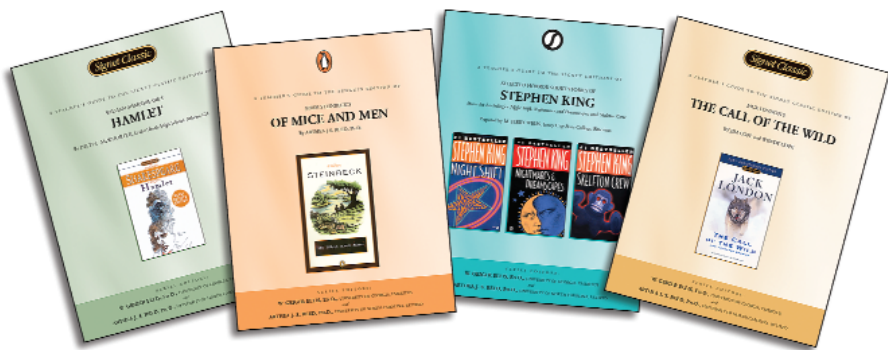
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