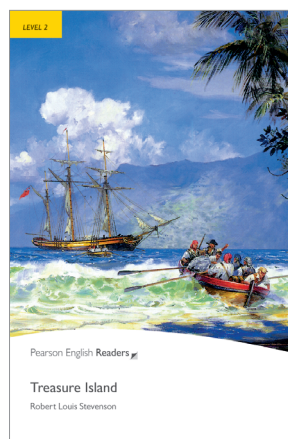


Treasure Island

Robert Louis Stevenson



About the author

Robert Louis Stevenson was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1850. His father was a successful lighthouse engineer, and his mother was the daughter of a church minister. Hoping that his son would follow in the family business, his father sent Stevenson to university to study engineering, but Stevenson soon changed to law and qualified as a lawyer in 1875. In the same year, he met W. E. Henley, the publisher of *London Magazine*. Henley immediately recognised Stevenson's literary potential and encouraged him to become a writer by offering to publish his short stories in the magazine. Rather than work as a lawyer, Stevenson set off on a series of journeys around Europe and began publishing accounts of his travels. In 1876, he met Fanny Osborne, an American woman ten years his senior. She was married with two children, but she and Stevenson fell in love, and she obtained a divorce in 1879. Stevenson travelled to California to marry her in 1880, and afterward, they returned to live in England.

In 1881, Stevenson took his new wife and stepchildren on holiday to Braemar in Scotland. The weather was appalling and they were forced to stay indoors. To pass the time, Stevenson and his twelve-year-old stepson, Lloyd, began drawing maps of imaginary islands. To amuse the children, Stevenson used the idea of a secret map as the basis of a story about hidden treasure. Taking inspiration from his travels to America and his childhood visiting lighthouses with his father, and basing the character of Long John Silver on his friend W. E. Henley (who had only one leg), he sat down and wrote the adventure that eventually became *Treasure Island*. In the years following the publication of the book, Stevenson wrote a series of best-selling novels, including *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* and *Kidnapped*, which remain popular to this day. In 1888, Stevenson chartered a yacht to travel around the

South Pacific. Suffering from tuberculosis, he decided to buy an estate on Samoa, where he could retire in a warm climate. He never returned to Scotland, but he continued to publish novels, poems and short stories until his death in 1894.

Summary

Treasure Island is one of the most famous adventure stories in English literature. The lasting appeal of the story is supported by the fact that there are more film versions of *Treasure Island* than almost any other classic novel.

The story, set in the mid-eighteenth century, is mainly narrated by a young boy named Jim Hawkins. An old sailor comes to stay at the seaside inn owned by Jim's parents. When the sailor dies, Jim searches his belongings and finds a map revealing the location of an island with treasure buried on it. Jim's friend, Mr Trelawney, buys a ship to search for the treasure.

During the voyage, Jim discovers that there are many pirates among the crew, and that they are led by Long John Silver. When the ship reaches the island, a battle begins between the pirates and Mr Trelawney's men. Jim befriends an old pirate who lives alone on the island and has already found the treasure. After many adventures, Jim and his friends defeat the pirates and sail back to England with the treasure.

Background and themes

Cliffhangers: Stevenson first published *Treasure Island* as a serial in a children's magazine. In the late nineteenth century, it was common practice for novels to be published in weekly magazines. The need to encourage readers to buy the next issue of the magazine led authors to develop dramatic plots punctuated with 'cliffhangers' (very exciting moments) at the end of each episode. *Treasure Island* follows this pattern, containing a plot that has many twists and turns, making the novel very exciting to read.

First-person perspective: Most of *Treasure Island* is written in the first-person, and the story is narrated by the young hero, Jim Hawkins. Telling the story in the first-person encourages the reader to identify with the main character, inviting him or her to share Hawkins' fear, excitement and tension as the story unfolds.

Hidden treasure: *Treasure Island* draws on a theme that can be traced back to the Middle Ages and beyond – the myth of hidden treasure. Stevenson gives this traditional

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plot a realistic basis by setting his story in the eighteenth century, which was a time when pirates were still active in the West Indies, often hiding their stolen treasures away in remote places. Pirates were a source of great fascination in late nineteenth-century England, and they featured in much of the music and literature being produced at the time. They had the attraction of being both dangerous and romantic.

Pirates: Stevenson's great creation, the one-legged Long John Silver, is one of the most memorable characters in English literature. A few years after *Treasure Island* was published, J. M. Barrie created a similar figure in his play *Peter Pan* – Captain Hook, who had only one hand (instead of having only one leg). In any adventure story, it is essential to have the 'good guys' struggling against the 'bad guys'. Pirates were extremely suitable for the role of bad guys, as they went against the rules of society and lived outside the law. Unlike ghosts and monsters, which were also popular in the stories of the nineteenth century, pirates really existed, and therefore, they were much more effective figures of fear and horror for children – even older ones.

Escape: One of *Treasure Island's* most important themes is the idea of escaping – escaping from poverty by finding treasure and escaping from one's own country by travelling to exotic locations. Many popular novels feed on this need for escapism, and *Treasure Island* combines both aspects. Travel was much more difficult in the nineteenth century, and Jim's experience of sailing to the Caribbean is in itself an exciting adventure. By combining this theme with violent pirates and the search for hidden treasure, Stevenson successfully sends the reader on an exciting and satisfying journey of the imagination.

Discussion activities

Chapter 1, pages 1–6

Before reading

- Discuss:** Ask students to look at the picture on the cover of the book. *What can you see? Where do you think the story takes place? What do you think happens in the story?*
- Discuss:** Ask students if they have ever seen a film version of *Treasure Island*. *Did you like the film? Why or why not? Do you remember any of the characters in the story?* List the characters the students mention on the board, and then ask them to find pictures of the characters in the book.
- Pair work:** Put students into pairs and ask them to look at the pictures in the book. Each pair chooses

one picture and then writes a short paragraph about it on a piece of paper. Pairs swap pieces of paper and try to guess which pictures are being described.

After reading

- Artwork:** Get students to draw a picture of the old captain (Billy Bones). Direct them to focus on the first paragraph on page 1. When they have finished, they should show their pictures to the rest of the class.
- Discuss:** Get students to talk about what life was like in the mid-eighteenth century. *What kind of clothing did people wear? What kind of jobs did they have? Did they have telephones, TVs, cars, etc? Did they travel regularly? Did they go on vacations to other countries? Was travelling easy or hard?*

Chapter 1, pages 7–12

Before reading

- Guess:** Ask students to predict what will happen to Jim and his mother after they hide behind the trees. *Will they escape from the pirates? Will the pirates find them? What will they do with the envelope? What will be inside the envelope?*
- Discuss:** Look at the picture on page 9. *What can you see on the map? When was the map made? Why was it made?*

After reading

- Check:** Review students' predictions about what would happen to Jim and his mother after they hide behind the trees. Check if their predictions were right or wrong.
- Role play:** Ask students to work in groups and role play the scene in which Jim goes to Mr Trelawney's house and talks to Mr Trelawney and Dr Livesey (page 8).
- Role play:** Ask students to work in groups and role play the scene in which Jim hides in the barrel of fruit and hears Long John Silver talking about Captain Flint and his men (page 12).

Chapter 1, pages 13–17

Before reading

- Write:** Get students to look at the picture on page 17 and write a short paragraph describing Ben Gunn's appearance. You can start the activity by asking students the following questions:
*How big is Ben Gunn?
How long is his hair?
What does he have on his face?
What kind of clothes is he wearing?
Is he wearing shoes?
Does he look friendly or mean?*

After reading

- Artwork:** Get students to draw a picture to explain how Long John Silver lost his leg. When they have finished, they should show their pictures to the rest of the class.

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13 Role play: Divide the class into groups. Ask students to look at this sentence on page 16: 'I'm Ben Gunn,' he said. 'I live here. The pirates left me on the island three years ago.' Each group should do a role play to answer one of the following questions:

How was Ben Gunn left on the island?

Why was Ben Gunn left on the island?

How did Ben Gunn live on the island for three years by himself?

Chapter 2

Before reading

14 Discuss: Ask students to think about why Chapter 2 is called 'Dr Livesey's Story'. *Does Jim tell this part of the story? If not, who tells it?*

After reading

15 Pair work: Get students to work in pairs. One student is Dr Livesey, and the other student is Captain Smollett. Dr Livesey is back on the *Hispaniola*. He tells Captain Smollett about the house on the island. He says that the house is a good place to stay in. However, the captain doesn't agree. The men talk about where they should stay on the island.

Chapter 3, pages 22–27

Before reading

16 Guess: Get students to predict what will happen to Jim, Mr Trelawney, Dr Livesey and Captain Smollett after they go into the house. *Will the pirates come? Will they fight with the pirates? What will happen to Ben Gunn? What will happen to Long John Silver? What will happen to the map? What will happen to the hidden treasure?*

After reading

17 Discuss: Get students to look at the picture on page 27. *How do you think Jim is feeling? How do you know this? How do you think Israel Hands is feeling? How do you know this?*

Chapter 3, pages 28–33

Before reading

18 Write: Get students to look at the picture on page 32 and write a short paragraph explaining who is sitting around the table and what they are doing.

After reading

19 Discuss: At the end of the book, Jim says that he never wants to go back to the island. Ask students if they believe this – take a vote – and then get them to say why they think Jim is being truthful or not.

20 Discuss: *What does Jim do with the treasure in England?* Get students to work in small groups and think of answers to this question. Make it a competition. Ask each group to report back with its ideas. When the groups have reported back, take a vote to find out which idea the students like best. The group that came up with the idea wins the competition.

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While reading

Chapter 1, pages 1–6

1 What happens first? What happens next?

Write the numbers, 1–10.

- a A man who can't see comes to the inn.
- b Pirates come to the inn and break down the door.
- c Dr Livesey comes and looks at the old captain.
- d An old man comes to stay at the inn.
- e Jim's father dies.
- f Black Dog comes to the inn.
- g The man who can't see gives the old captain a black piece of paper.
- h There is a fight and Black Dog runs out of the house.
- i Jim finds an envelope in the old captain's box.
- j The old captain dies.

2 Discuss these questions with another student. What do you think?

Who is the old man who comes to the inn and dies? Do you think he is the famous pirate named Billy Bones? Why do you think this?

3 What do you know about Captain Flint? Write sentences to answer these questions.

Who is Captain Flint?

 What do you know about him?

 Is he a good man or a bad man?

 Who has his map?

4 Discuss this question with another student. What do you think?

What are Mr Trelawney, Dr Livesey and Jim going to do?

Chapter 1, pages 7–12

5 Match the letters with the numbers to complete the sentences.

- a The map is ...
- b Mr Trelawney buys ...
- c Long John Silver has ...
- d The Spy Glass Inn is filled ...
- e Black dog runs ...

- f Captain Smollett doesn't know ...
- g On the journey to the island, ...
- h The sailors like ...
- i Jim helps ...
- j Jim climbs inside the barrel ...
 - 1 to get some fruit.
 - 2 in the envelope.
 - 3 the cook.
 - 4 an inn in Bristol.
 - 5 out of the inn.
 - 6 to eat fruit.
 - 7 a ship in Bristol.
 - 8 the weather is good.
 - 9 with sailors.
 - 10 where the ship is going.

Chapter 1, pages 13–17

6 Find these numbers in the story. What do they mean?

- a 13
- b 6
- c 3

7 Answer these questions.

- a What did Old Pew lose?
- b Why does Long John Silver not want to kill Captain Smollett at first?
- c What is the hill in the centre of the island called?
- d Where does Jim first meet Ben Gunn?
- e Who is Ben Gunn?
- f Is Ben Gunn rich or poor?

8 Underline the wrong word in each sentence and write the right word.

- a Long John Silver lost his leg in a small fight.
- b Israel Hands wants to help Captain Smollett.
- c Jim is very happy in the barrel of fruit.
- d Mr Trelawney gives his men some fruit.
- e Ben Gunn wants to hurt Mr Trelawney.
- f Ben Gunn has a little ship on the island.

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Chapter 2

9 Write a summary of this chapter.

Pretend that you are Dr Livesey and write a paragraph to explain what happens in Chapter 2.

10 Match the questions with the answers.

- a Why do Dr Livesey and Hunter go to the island? ...
- b Why does the small boat move very slowly? ...
- c Why does Dr Livesey think the house is a good place to stay in? ...
- d Why does Dr Livesey believe Jim is dead? ...
- e Why do the men in the small boat try to go faster? ...
- 1 Because it is strong and in a good place.
 - 2 Because they want to look at the house.
 - 3 Because the pirates are going to shoot at them.
 - 4 Because he hears the pirates fighting in the trees.
 - 5 Because there are five men in it.

11 Discuss these sentences with another student. What do you think they can do?

Captain Smollett says sadly, 'Now there are only five of us and we have food for ten days. What are we going to do?'

Chapter 3, pages 22–27

12 Who are the people in *italics*?

- a '*You* know where to find *me*. Come tomorrow afternoon.'
- b '*Someone's* coming! A *man* with a white flag.'
- c '*You* can't find the treasure and you can't sail the ship.'
- d '*He's* going to meet Ben Gunn,' I thought.
- e 'Help *me* to sail it to the North Inlet'.
- f '*He* moved slowly and took a knife from behind some rope.'
- g Then somebody spoke. '*Who's* there?' *he* said.

13 Write the right words in the sentences.

behind	in	on	out
through	to	under	up

- a The pirates the beach make a big fire.
- b Long John Silver comes slowly the hill to the house.
- c 'You killed him the night.'
- d Suddenly some of the pirates run of the trees up to the house.
- e Jim sails the north of the island.
- f The ship moves quietly the water.
- g Israel Hands moves slowly and takes a knife from some rope.
- h Israel Hands puts the knife his jacket.

Chapter 3, pages 28–33

14 Who says the sentences a–e Captain Smollett, Dr Livesey or Long John Silver?

- a 'I'm the captain. And I like this boy.'
.....
- b 'Silver! Look after this boy.'
- c 'We must go this way and look for a tall tree.'
.....
- d 'Ben found the treasure a long time ago.'
.....
- e 'What are you doing here, John Silver?'
.....

15 Discuss this question with another student. What do you think?

What do you think Long John Silver is going to do with his part of the treasure?

After reading

- 16 Work in pairs. Tell each other which character in the book you like best. Explain why you feel this way.
- 17 At first, Long John Silver wants to kill Jim. However, later on, he becomes Jim's friend. Why do you think he changes? Write a short paragraph to answer this question.

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Chapter 1, pages 1–6

1 Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?

- a Jim's father has an inn near a lake.
- b The old captain enjoys watching the sea and the ships.
- c Jim's father becomes ill in the winter.
- d The old captain has to stay in bed for a month.
- e Jim wants to take all of the old captain's money.
- f The pirates come to the inn at eight o'clock.
- g The pirates break a window at the inn.
- h The pirates find Flint's map in the box.

Chapter 1, pages 7–12

2 Write *Jim*, *Dr Livesey*, *Mr Trelawney* or *Long John Silver* in the sentences a–h.

- a knows about Captain Flint.
- b gets a letter from Bristol.
- c knows a lot of men in Bristol.
- d takes a letter to the inn.
- e tells Harry to catch Black Dog.
- f is angry with Captain Smollett.
- g goes to help the cook.
- h was once a good fighter.

Chapter 1, pages 13–17

3 Write the right words in the sentences.

centre	flag	guns	house
many	pirates	runs	trees

- a Long John Silver sailed with Captain Flint times.
- b Most of the sailors on the ship are
- c The hill is in the of the island.
- d There is a on the island.
- e Mr Trelawney gives his men some
- f Jim away from the pirates.
- g Ben Gunn comes out of the
- h A goes up above the trees.

Chapter 2

4 Write *in*, *on* or *at* in the sentences a–h.

- a Two small boats go from the ship to the island at half-past one the afternoon.
- b Dr Livesey hears the pirates fighting the trees.
- c The house the island is very strong.
- d Joyce stays the house with his gun.
- e Five men are the small boat.
- f There is a big gun the *Hispaniola*.
- g Mr Trelawney shoots the pirates on the ship.
- h Jim arrives the house.

Chapter 3, pages 22–27

5 Underline the right words.

- a The pirates make a big *fire* / *house* on the beach.
- b Long John Silver carries a *black* / *white* flag.
- c Jim and the others *kill* / *help* three of the pirates.
- d Dr Livesey goes to *hurt* / *meet* Ben Gunn.
- e Ben Gunn's boat is small and *heavy* / *light*.
- f *Nobody* / *Somebody* sees Jim come near the ship.
- g Jim *cuts* / *ties* the rope.
- h Jim and Israel Hands sail to the *north* / *south* of the island.

Chapter 3, pages 28–33

6 What happens first? What happens next? Write the numbers, 1–8.

- a Long John Silver shows the pirates the map.
- b The pirates find an old box.
- c The pirates look for a tall tree.
- d Jim has a good dinner with all his friends.
- e Long John Silver wants to help Jim.
- f Dr Livesey and Ben Gunn run out of the trees.
- g One of the pirates finds a dead man near a tree.
- h Dr Livesey looks at the injured pirates.

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Book key

- 1 a captain b barrel, flag, rope, sail c sailor
d pirate e inn f island
- 2 Open answers
- 3 a No.
b the map in the captain's old box
c the way to Treasure Island
- 4 a **X** – He likes it because there aren't many people there.
b **X** – He is afraid of him.
c ✓
d ✓
e ✓
f **X** – He is sad because his father dies.
g ✓
h ✓
- 5 a pirate b doesn't get c Billy's old box
d the old man with no eyes
e gives him a black paper
- 6–7 Open answers
- 8 a Jim's mother b Jim c some pirates
d Flint e Mr Trelawney f Long John Silver
g Black Dog
- 9 Possible answers:
a Because they are really friends of Black Dog.
b Because he doesn't know them, and because they know about the treasure and the map.
- 10–11 Open answers
- 12 a Y b Y c N d Y e Y
- 13 Mr Trelawney – Captain Smollett, Ben Gunn, Jim Hawkins, Dr Livesey
Long John Silver – Israel Hands
- 14 a Because only Captain Smollett can sail the ship.
b Because the captain was right about the sailors.
c Because he found Flint's treasure a long time ago.
d He wants to get back to the ship.
- 15 Open answers
- 16 a Dr Livesey or Hunter
b Dr Livesey (to Mr Trelawney)
c Joyce
d Mr Trelawney (He hits one of the pirates on the ship.)
e Pirates on the boat
f Redruth
g Dr Livesey
- 17 a 1 b 9 c 6 d 4 e 3 f 5 g 8 h 7 i 2
- 18 Open answers

- 19 a Captain Smollett > Ben Gunn
b has > hasn't
c sail > rope
d beach > ship
e isn't > is
f Hands shoots Jim > Jim shoots Hands
g leg > arm
h Dr Livesey > Long John Silver
- 20 Open answers
- 21 Open answers
- 22 a The other pirates want
b the treasure map
c isn't
d A dead pirate
e Ben Gunn
f Ben Gunn has the treasure
g without
h ship
- 23 Mr Trelawney, Jim, Ben Gunn, Long John Silver, Captain Smollett, Dr Livesey
- 24 Open answers
- 25 Possible answers:
a Billy Bones's old box has Flint's treasure map in it.
b Jim hears the pirates' plans when he is in the barrel.
c Jim gets back to the ship in Ben Gunn's small boat.
- 26–33 Open answers

Discussion activities key

- 1 Students can see two rowboats filled with sailors (or pirates) and a large ship floating in the bay. They should guess that the story takes place on a remote island in the middle of the sea, and that it involves an adventurous search for a hidden treasure.
- 2–6 Open answers
- 7 Students can see a cross marking the treasure, a hill named 'Spy Glass Hill', a spring and an inlet named 'North Inlet'. The map was made in 1750, and it was made to show the location of some hidden treasure.
- 8–10 Open answers
- 11 Possible answer:
Ben Gunn is very big. He has long hair. He has a beard on his face. He is wearing old clothes. He isn't wearing shoes. He looks friendly.
- 12–13 Open answers
- 14 Students should work out that Chapter 2 is called 'Dr Livesey's Story' because it is told by Dr Livesey.
- 15–17 Open answers

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18 Possible answer:

Jim, Mr Trelawney, Dr Livesey, Captain Smollett, Ben Gunn, Long John Silver and two of Mr Trelawney's men are sitting around the table. They are eating dinner together.

19–20 Open answers

Activity worksheet key

1 a 6 b 10 c 4 d 1 e 5 f 2 g 7 h 3
i 9 j 8

2 Open answers

3 Possible answer:

Captain Flint is a pirate. He is very famous. He is a bad man. Jim has his map.

4 Open answers

5 a 2 b 7 c 4 d 9 e 5 f 10 g 8 h 6
i 3 j 1

6 a Thirteen of the men go to the island.
b Six of the men stay on the *Hispaniola*.
c Three of the men on the *Hispaniola* are Mr Trelawney's men. / The pirates left Ben Gunn on the island three years ago.

7 a His eyes.
b Because he needs Captain Smollett to sail the ship.
c Spy Glass Hill.
d On Spy Glass Hill.
e An old pirate who lives on the island.
f Rich.

8 a Long John Silver lost his leg in a **big** fight.
b Israel Hands wants to **kill** Captain Smollett.
c Jim is very **afraid** in the barrel of fruit.
d Mr Trelawney gives his men some **guns**.
e Ben Gunn wants to **help** Mr Trelawney.
f Ben Gunn has a little **boat** on the island.

9 Open answers

10 a 2 b 5 c 1 d 4 e 3

11 Open answers

12 a Ben Gunn b Long John Silver
c Long John Silver d Dr Livesey e Jim
f Israel Hands g Long John Silver

13 a on b up c in d out e to f through
g behind h under

14 a Long John Silver b Dr Livesey
c Long John Silver d Dr Livesey
e Captain Smollett

15–17 Open answers

Progress test key

1 a X b ✓ c ✓ d X e ✓ f X g X h X

2 a Mr Trelawney b Dr Livesey
c Long John Silver d Jim e Long John Silver
f Mr Trelawney g Jim h Long John Silver

3 a many b pirates c centre d house e guns
f runs g trees h flag

4 a in b in c on d in e in f on g at h at

5 a fire b white c kill d meet e light
f Nobody g cuts h north

6 a 2 b 6 c 4 d 8 e 1 f 7 g 5 h 3