

W

CONTENTS

About the Author	6
About the Book	7
FACT FILE Pirates	8
Characters	10
Before Reading	12
1 Call Me ‘Captain’	17
2 Black Dog	19
3 The Sea Chest	24
4 The Captain’s Papers	28
5 Preparations	31
6 The Voyage	34
7 Friend or Foe?	37
8 Treasure Island	39
9 The Fort	44
10 Agreement or Attack?	48
11 My Sea Adventure	52
12 Captain Jim	56
13 The Enemy’s Camp	59
14 The Doctor’s Visit	64
15 The Treasure Hunt	66
16 The End of the Pirates	70
17 The Way Home	74
After Reading	77



WHAT IS A PIRATE?

Treasure Island is set in the golden age of piracy and has strongly contributed to create the popular image that we have of pirates.

When we think of pirates, we immediately think of dangerous robbers of the high seas who wear eye patches and have hooks for hands, most likely with a parrot on a shoulder and sometimes missing a leg, and therefore either use a crutch or have a peg leg.

This image, however, does not come directly from the novel, but from one of its movie adaptations, namely the 1950 version by Byron Haskin, which was also **Disney's**

first live-action film. The film does not fully correspond to reality and Hollywood certainly added features in the way it shows pirates in movies. So we can say that the image of pirates we have is largely influenced by Stevenson's novel, but was enriched to come up to the expectations of the western audience's imagination.

FREEDOM

Many pirates worked for the colonial powers of the time attacking rival ships and stealing their gold, silver and tobacco.



Pirates on film

What other films about pirates have you seen? What are they about?



Share ideas in groups.



However, besides criminality and a strong dislike for social institutions, piracy is also a symbol of **freedom** and individualism. A real pirate is alone in the world, he lives outside any established social code. His only code is **every man for himself**. Stevenson captures this spirit in his tale and in doing so creates our fascination with pirates. The reason for this, experts say, is because this idea of pirates is closely connected to the western spirit of individualism and adventure. This image captures our imagination so strongly because it addresses our inner desires and innate sense of adventure.

GLOSSARY

- **crutch:** stick to help one walk
- **enriched:** improved; added to
- **expectations:** things you hope for and think will happen
- **fascination:** great interest
- **features:** interesting and important details and idea
- **innate:** that we are born with; inner
- **most likely:** probably
- **peg leg:** wooden leg (usually from the knee down)
- **thrill:** excite; entertain

OVER TO YOU!

Although Stevenson's intention was purely to thrill readers, piracy in his novel can easily be taken as a metaphor for some delicate issues in our daily lives, for example social injustice, exploitation or new forms of colonialism. What do you think?



Share ideas with a partner.



TREASURE ISLAND

Israel Hands

Long
John Silver

Captain
Smollett

Captain

Jim
Hawkins



Black
Dog

BEFORE READING

1 Look at the map and match the words to the numbers.

a forest

d cliffs

g beach

b river

e lake

h fort

c hill

f island

i bay/natural
harbour for boats



2 Listen and write the following words or instructions on the map.

*Most of treasure here
North Harbour
Skeleton Island
South Harbour
Spy-glass Hill*



 **3 Listen and match the characters to the descriptions.**



- Jim Hawkins Long John Silver Captain Smollett Captain

4 Read about some of the characters. Choose the correct adjective to complete each description.


sick burnt rich quiet

- a** **Squire Trelawney** is a aristocrat. He organises the search for the treasure.
- b** **Ben Gunn** is a pirate who was abandoned on Treasure Island. His skin is by the sun and he wears old clothes. He helps Jim and the others to find the treasure.
- c** **Doctor Livesey** always tries to help people who are, even the pirates. He is honest and noble but also loves adventure.
- d** **Mr and Mrs Hawkins** are Jim's parents and they are honest, hard-working people. They own a tavern which is usually very until some pirates come to visit.



I CALL ME 'CAPTAIN'



 I am Jim Hawkins and my story begins many years ago, when my father worked at the Admiral Benbow inn.

One day a tall man with a scar on his face arrived. He opened the door of the inn, singing the song I now know so well:



*"Fifteen men on the dead man's chest -
Yo-ho-ho, and a bottle of rum!"*



'A glass of rum,' he said when he came inside.

'This is a pleasant inn,' he said. 'Do you have many customers?'

'Not many,' my father answered.

'Well, this is the place for me. You can call me "Captain",' he said. Then he asked a man to carry his large sailor's chest to his room. 'I'm a simple man,' he told my father. 'Rum and bacon and eggs is all I want. Here are four gold coins to start. Tell me when I have to pay more.'

During the day he went to the cliffs with his telescope and in the evening he sat by the fire drinking rum and water. He asked about sailors every day. We soon understood that he wanted to avoid them. When a sailor visited the inn, the captain was always very quiet. One day he asked me:

'If you see a sailor with one leg, tell me as soon as he arrives.'

GLOSSARY

- **avoid:** keep away from (a place or person)
- **chest:** wooden box
- **cliffs:** vertical rock on mountains or by the sea

- **inn:** type of hotel
- **rum:** alcoholic drink
- **scar:** mark on the skin
- **telescope:**
- **while:** short time



When the captain drank too much rum, he sang sea-songs and told the other customers terrible stories about his violent life at sea.

He stayed month after month, but he didn't give my father any more money. My poor father was too frightened to ask. Everyone was frightened of the captain and his stories. The only person who was not afraid of him was the local doctor and magistrate, Dr Livesey.

'If you keep drinking rum like that, you will very soon be dead,' he warned the captain.

FEAR

What do you think the captain is afraid of?

Why are people afraid of the captain?

What are you afraid of?



GLOSSARY

- **Dr:** short for doctor
- **magistrate:** person who makes a legal decision

AFTER READING VOCABULARY

1 Use five of the words in the box to complete the sentences.

bandage hostage compass shrill
torch villain skull accurate

- a A very bad person in novels is sometimes called a
- b A is an instrument for finding directions.
- c A is a piece of cloth on a wound or injury.
- d A is a burning piece of wood, used to see in the dark.
- e In the past, copies of documents were not always

2 Complete the word formation table below.

 Make sentences with a partner.

ADJECTIVE	NOUN
KIND	KINDNESS
INJURED
.....	RELIEF
EXCITED
.....	CARE
SAFE
.....	TERROR
AFRAID
.....	WOOD
DISAPPOINTED
.....	PUZZLE

K A2 Key English Test Reading and Writing Part 4

1 For each sentence, choose the correct missing word (A, B, or C).

a Doubloons were valuable Spanish coins. They were called this they counted for two escudos.

A after **B** when **C** because

b The chest is filled with old Doubloons pieces of eight.

A on **B** in **C** with

c Before leaving, Captain Smollett had a that something was wrong.

A feeling **B** question **C** sign

d Stevenson was only fifteen when he published his work, an account of a Scottish rebellion in 1666.

A first **B** famous **C** third

e The novel was originally published chapter by chapter in a weekly magazine. So, chapter had to capture the readers' imagination.

A one **B** each **C** any

f The man with the scar on his face entered the inn singing aloud, was quite frightening.

A which **B** but **C** and

g Treasure Island is still a favourite children and adults alike.

A at **B** for **C** among

h The only man was not afraid of the Captain was Dr Livesey.

A who **B** which **C** what