



 Prestwick House

Activity Pack

TREASURE ISLAND

BY ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON



Copyright © 2009 by Prestwick House, Inc., P.O. Box 658, Clayton, DE 19938. 1-800-932-4593. www.prestwickhouse.com Permission to use this unit for classroom use is extended to purchaser for his or her personal use. This material, in whole or part, may not be copied for resale.

ISBN 978-1-60389-308-4

Item No. 303058

Written by Stephanie Polukis

Name: _____

Date: _____

Pre-Reading

Historical Research

Objective: Researching the historical context of the novel

Activity

Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island* is an adventure story involving an innocent, young boy, a coveted treasure map, a few honest Englishmen, and a crew of rowdy pirates.

The word *pirate* suggests swashbuckling scoundrels and rogues of the sea, an image that is repeatedly conveyed through popular novels and Hollywood blockbusters. What, exactly, is a pirate? Did pirates, as they are depicted in fiction, film, and television, actually exist, or are they unrealistic representations meant to entertain readers and audiences? How has the term "pirate" evolved? Do pirates still exist today, and have they appeared in any news stories?

Choose a topic from the following list, and conduct some research. Write a biography of two or three paragraphs summarizing your findings.

Research Topics:

- the Barbary Pirates
- Edward Teach
- Henry Morgan
- Sir Francis Drake
- the Wokou
- Somalian pirates

When you have completed your research, share your findings with the class.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter I

Writing a Journal Entry

Objectives: Imitating a style of writing
Writing a creative and descriptive journal entry

Activity

Jim Hawkins, the narrator, has been asked by Squire Trelawney, Doctor Livesey, and others to record the details of their adventure. Since it has been requested that he write “the whole particulars about Treasure Island, from the beginning to the end, keeping nothing back but the bearings of the island,” he begins the story where the action initiates: at the Admiral Benbow inn.

He recalls and writes about an old sea captain who came to stay at his father’s inn. Jim was immediately intrigued by the stranger’s peculiar dress and behavior, and even though a year or more has passed since his encounter with the captain, he is still able to describe the man in great detail.

Recall a memorable stranger you have encountered in your life. The person could be a cashier at the supermarket, someone you met at a friend’s birthday party, a ride operator at an amusement park, or any stranger you can vividly remember. Write a journal entry about your encounter with that person using as much imagery and detail as possible. Describe the setting where the encounter took place, what the person was wearing, unique mannerisms the individual had, what the stranger said, and, if applicable, the dialect the person spoke in. If you cannot remember a particular stranger you have met, invent a fictional person, and write about him or her.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter V

Point of View

Objective: Writing the chapter from another character's point of view

Activity

This story is told through a first-person narrator, Jim Hawkins, and even though his account of the events at the Admiral Benbow inn on the night of the captain's death appears factual, Jim's narrative is not reliable. When Jim hides on the bank, he hears some of the conversation between the pirates and the sounds emerging from the inn; however, he cannot see what is happening inside the building and can only conjecture what the pirates are doing.

Write this scene from the perspective of another character. Choose from one of the following:

- Pew
- Dirk
- Mr. Dance
- one of the pirates searching the house

When writing from the point of view of your character, keep in mind where he was in relation to the action. What does he know? What information is he ignorant of? What does the character have at stake, if anything, and what does he hope to gain?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter XII**Advice Column**

Objectives: Analyzing the conflict
Predicting the resolution to the conflict

Activity

Jim, Dr. Livesey, Mr. Trelawney, and Captain Smollett are in a dangerous situation. Miles from home and human civilization, they realize that the crew is plotting a mutiny and, outnumbered by sixteen men, they have little hope of using force to fight back. It will require cunning and strategic planning to defeat Long John Silver and his men.

As Jim, write a letter to an advice columnist, describing the situation in detail and asking for his or her opinion on what to do. When you have finished the letter, write the columnist's response. Make the resolution to the conflict realistic and probable, exploring faults in Silver's plot and taking advantage of them. Letter writing activity is on the next page.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter XV**Found Poem****Objective:** Creating a found poem**Activity**

A “found” poem is a poem made up entirely of phrases or quotations found in the text. Go back through Chapter XV, and make up a found poem of your own. The poem could tell the reader something about Jim or Ben Gunn’s emotional state, but this is not necessary; it may be totally unrelated to the action of the story, which is one of the best parts of writing a found poem.

Your poem should be at least 10 lines long. The lines do not need to rhyme, but they certainly may. You can arrange the phrases in any way you like and change the punctuation, but do not deviate from the actual words of the text. Give the poem a title, which may or may not come from the book.

The following is an example taken entirely from Chapter XIV:

Inevitable Doom

If I die like a dog, I'll die in my duty.
Distant voices shouting in my ear,
The Spyglass hilltop going round and round,
I crawled under the cover of the nearest live-oak,
Long after that death-yell was still ringing in my ears.

A thumping heart,
A kind of frenzy,
It instantly awoke my fears.
More men would be coming.

There was nothing left for me.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter XX

Dialect Translation

Objective: Using the context of words and phrase to interpret meaning

Activity

While authors use dialect to help characterize individuals in a novel or to transport the reader to a different time and place, clichés become outdated, word usages change, and readers often have difficulty determining the intended meaning of some passages.

One way to decipher dialect in narration and dialogue is to search for the definitions of unfamiliar phrases in a glossary or dictionary; another way is look at the dialogue's context for clues about the word or phrase's meaning.

Using context and a dictionary or glossary, translate the following two passages into modern English:

Passage One:

“Dooty is dooty, to be sure. Well, now, you look here, that was a good lay of yours last night. I don't deny it was a good lay. Some of you are pretty handy with a hand-spike-end. And I'll not deny neither but what some of my people was shook; may be all was shook; may be I was shook myself; may be that's why I'm here for terms. But you mark me, cap'n, it won't do twice, by thunder! We'll have to do sentry go and ease off a point or so on the rum. May be you think we were all a sheet in the wind's eye. But I'll tell you I was sober; I was on'y dog tired; and if I'd awoke a second sooner, I'd a caught you at the act, I would. He wasn't dead when I got round to him, not he.”

Passage Two:

“You give us the chart to get the treasure by, and drop shooting poor seamen, and stoving of their heads in while asleep. You do that and we'll offer you a choice. Either you come aboard along of us, once the treasure shipped, and then I'll give you my affy-davy, upon my word of honor, to clap you somewhere safe ashore. Or, if that ain't to your fancy, some of my hands, being rough; and having old scores, on account of hazing, then you can stay here, you can. We'll divide stores with you, man for man; and I'll give my affy-davy, as before, to speak the first ship I sight, and send'em here to pick you up. Now, you'll own that's talking. Handsomer you couldn't look to get, not you. And I hope... that all hands in this here block-house will overhaul my words, for what is spoke to one is spoke to all.”

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter XXVIII**Letter Writing**

Objectives: Writing through the voice of a character
Explaining a character's actions

Activity

In Chapter XXVIII, Long John Silver tells Jim that Captain Smollett, Dr. Livesey, and the rest of Jim's friends no longer want him in their faction. According to Silver, Dr. Livesey is now "dead agin [Jim]" and called him an "ungrateful scamp." Furthermore, Silver says that the doctor said, "... I don't know where [Jim] is, confound him, nor I don't much care. We're about sick of him."

While it seems that Jim suspects Silver isn't telling the entire truth, he is concerned that his friends were hurt by his desertion.

As Jim, write a letter of apology to Dr. Livesey. Explain your reasons for leaving the blockhouse, and inform him of what you have done since your departure that may redeem you. Letter of apology activity is on the next page.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Wrap-Up**Prime-Time Special****Objective:** Interviewing a main character**Activity**

You are the host of a Prime-Time News show for a major television network, and, next week, you're hosting a special: A Pirate's Life for Me—The Real Treasure Island. Your producers have asked you to interview the following people:

- Jim Hawkins
- Dr. Livesey
- Long John Silver
- Ben Gunn
- Captain Smollett

In preparation for the interview, write five questions that you would ask each person. No two questions can be the same. Also, choose questions that will yield answers revealing what the adventure on Treasure Island was really like.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Wrap-Up**Game Show**

Objective: Recalling information from the novel and testing comprehension

Activity

Create a game show and questions to test your knowledge of Treasure Island. As a class, pick a gameshow format that you like to watch (Jeopardy, Who Wants to Be a Millionaire, or another classic game show with trivia questions), and in small groups, create a list of questions from the novel to test other teams.

Be prepared to come up with challenging, but fair questions to ask your contestants. You may make your questions multiple choice, short answer, fill-in-the-blank, or true/false (and, if false, you should require the contestant to provide a corrected answer). You could also write bonus questions to earn contestants extra points.

We have included some sample questions on the next page to get you started.