

Individual Learning Packet

**Teaching Unit**

**Treasure Island**

by Robert Louis Stevenson

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## Objectives

By the end of this Unit, the student will be able to:

1. infer information about characters and events when the meanings are not explicitly stated.
2. identify examples of foreshadowing and recognize how this literary device adds suspense and interest to the story.
3. define the following vocabulary from the story:
  - nautical terms
  - pirate jargon (lubber, skulk, gentlemen of fortune, etc.)
  - general vocabulary using context clues to help determine the correct meaning.
4. cite examples of action in the story, and comment on how the author's concise style of writing contributes to the reader's enjoyment of these adventures.
5. locate examples of idiomatic expressions in the story.
6. discuss the idea of fate or luck as a driving force in the protagonist's survival, and comment on how this luck affects the success of the voyage.
7. define "first-person narration," and discuss its advantages and disadvantages for this story.
8. comment on the presence of both good and evil in the actions of the pirates, specifically Long John Silver, Bill, and Black Dog.
9. define a legend and comment on whether the infamous Captain Flint, in the context of the story, meets this definition.
10. write a description of a stereotypical pirate based on the characters described in this story.
11. point out how characters with a flawed sense of morality are also described as being physically flawed.
12. discuss the pirates' code of behavior, including the meaning of the black spot, and a pirate's fear of spirits.
13. identify examples of simile and metaphor in the text and understand how they enhance the story.

### Questions for Discussion and Essay

1. Define the following nautical terms: ebb tide, yaw, berth, billows, sea gully, long nine, jib, schooner, and coracle.
2. Define the meaning of the following pirate terms or phrases: black spot, dead-lights, lubber, shiver me timbers, gentlemen of fortune, Jolly Roger, pieces of eight.
3. Define an idiom. What is the meaning of the idiom “*Care killed the cat*”? What other idioms can you recognize in the story?
4. What are the advantages and disadvantages of a story written in first-person narration? Does this type of narration help or hinder the reader’s understanding of Long John Silver’s motivations?
5. Write a brief character sketch of a typical pirate as described in the story. How well does the character of Long John Silver conform to your definition?
6. Briefly describe the following characters, and explain why you think Stevenson gives each of them a physical flaw: Black Dog, Captain Bill, Long John Silver, and Pew.
7. Identify an example of foreshadowing in each of the first four chapters of the novel. Where is the most probable location of the foreshadowing: at the beginning, middle, or end of the chapter?
8. Analyze *Chapter XXVI - Israel Hands*. List the many adventures Jim experiences in this short chapter. How does the author’s style of writing contribute to the reader’s enjoyment of this chapter?
9. Cite incidents from the story in which Jim, through luck or fate, is key to the success of the treasure hunt.
10. Trace Jim’s changing opinion of Long John Silver throughout the story. Why do you think his attitude toward Silver is so mercurial?
11. In what ways can the pirate Captain Flint be called a legend?
12. Speculate on the outcome of the story if Jim (while hiding in the apple barrel) had not overheard Silver’s plans.

# Treasure Island

## Part I - The Old Buccaneer

### Chapter I - The Old Sea Dog at the "Admiral Benbow"

#### VOCABULARY

**abominable** – horrible, cursed  
**assizes** – civil or criminal court cases  
**barrow** – wheelbarrow  
**bearings** – locations  
**berth** – a bed on a ship  
**clasp-knife** – a pocketknife  
**coltish** – lively, frisky  
**connoisseur** – an expert, usually with regard to food or drink  
**dear** – costly  
**diabolical** – devilish, wicked, evil  
**hamlet** – a village, town  
**handspike** – a stick or bar used as a lever  
**incivility** – rudeness, disrespect  
**livid** – pale, ashen  
**magistrate** – a judge  
**mought** – [dialect] might  
**rheumatics** – discomfort felt in the muscles or joints; rheumatism  
**ruffian** – a thug, hoodlum  
**sabre** – a heavy sword  
**sittyated** – [dialect] situated  
**tarry** – black; the color of tar  
**trundled** – moved, transported  
**tyrannized** – dictated, bullied  
**weather eye** – the ability to know what the weather will be

1. Why does Jim Hawkins decide to keep the location of Treasure Island a secret from the reader? What does this decision tell the reader about the outcome of the story?

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## Chapter V - The Last of the Blind Man

### VOCABULARY

**aloft** – to go upward, or to climb up the mast of a ship; the word is usually used as an adjective, but here it is a verb.  
**broom** – a plant with yellow flowers  
**deplore** – to worry, complain about  
**dingle** – a valley  
**ere** – before  
**formidable** – threatening  
**irresolute** – doubtful, uncertain  
**lugger** – a small sailing vessel  
**malingering** – faking a sickness to avoid working; wasting time  
**miscreant** – a criminal, villain  
**pluck** – the nerve  
**report** – a gunshot noise  
**shirking** – slacking  
**skulk** – a coward  
**spurned** – rejected strongly  
**squalling** – whining, yelling  
**weevil** – an insect that is notorious for infesting grain and flour  
**wrest** – to take

1. Define “lubber” and “glim” in the context in which they appear in this chapter. What is the meaning of the whistling Jim hears from the hillside?

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3. Give reasons why Long John Silver and his men do not take over the ship right away.

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4. What does Silver plan to do with the squire, the doctor, and their men after he takes over the ship?

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5. What does Jim surmise about Mr. Arrow's death, and how does he figure it out?

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6. What is significant about the following line from the story? "Not another man of them'll jine."

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### Chapter XX - Silver's Embassy

#### VOCABULARY

**bundle** – hustle  
**cavalier** – casual, careless  
**imprecations** – curses  
**inkling** – vague idea  
**marrow** – the center of a bone  
**morass** – a swamp, marsh  
**nettled** – irritated, annoyed  
**placidly** – calmly, peacefully  
**surmounting** – climbing over  
**tramp** – march

1. What deal does Silver offer Dr. Livesey and the others?

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2. What is the captain's counter offer?

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## Chapter XXIX - The Black Spot Again

### VOCABULARY

**ague** – a fever, flu-like  
**contemptuously** – arrogantly  
**deposed** – dethroned, removed from power  
**emissary** – a messenger  
**enow** – [dialect] enough  
**enviored** – surrounded  
**incongruous** – out-of-place, not fitting in  
**inexplicable** – unexplainable  
**insolence** – rudeness  
**vehemence** – passion, enthusiasm, force  
**vengeance** – revenge

1. What horrible offense does Dick commit that leads Silver to tell him to pray?

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2. List the four reasons Silver's men want him deposed as their captain.

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3. How does Silver answer each of these charges?

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4. Cite incidents from the story to support or refute the following statement: Jim knows Silver is wicked, but he does not want to see anything bad happen to him.

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