

Reflections:

A Student Response Journal for...

Treasure Island

by Robert Louis Stevenson

Copyright © 2002 by Prestwick House, Inc., P.O. Box 658, Clayton, DE 19938.
1-800-932-4593. www.prestwickhouse.com Permission to copy 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: 978-1-60389-665-8

Item No. 201477

PART I - THE OLD BUCCANEER

Chapter 1 - The Old Sea Dog at the “Admiral Benbow”

1. The dirty, scarred, rough man who comes to Jim Hawkins’ father’s inn, the “Admiral Benbow,” is scary looking, indeed. Jim had seen him around the cove singing the sea-song about fifteen men, a dead man’s chest, and a bottle of rum. The man took a room at the inn and he haunted Jim’s dreams. From this chapter, copy in a list of ten different things the author wrote to describe the “Old Sea Dog” of this chapter’s title and the page on which the descriptive phrase is found. Be sure to copy the phrase exactly and use quotation marks at the beginning and the end. The first one is given as an example:

“a tall, strong, heavy, nut-brown man”

2. The one-legged captain is certainly a frightening character. In the scene where he threatens Dr. Livesey with a knife, we see how brave a person can be in a confrontation with a bully. Suppose you were telling a friend about this scene. Complete the following dialogue about what you think you would have done if the fearsome captain had threatened you with a knife.

Friend: I’d have challenged him when he wouldn’t let me leave.

You: This old sea-dog would have scared me right out of the room. But then again, you may be right that he wouldn’t have *let* me out of the room. What I guess I would have done is...

Response Journal

Chapter II - Black Dog Appears and Disappears

3. While Jim's parents are still upstairs and he is setting up for the captain's breakfast, a new, scruffy-looking character appears at the inn looking for a man named Bill, saying he is an old shipmate. Jim is a little afraid of him; but like the rum-drinking pirate captain who is living at the inn, Jim is fascinated by this new sailor. Suppose you were asked if you would like to work on a sailing ship as a young boy in the 1700's. What arguments would you give to your parents to allow you to go on voyage of many months, if not years? Begin your appeal as follows:

But Father, I would be really okay. The captain ...

4. Robert Louis Stevenson, the author, uses many colorful phrases in these first two chapters. Good examples of this are: "blow through his nose like a fog-horn" and "when the wind shook the four corners of the house." Find and write down six more uniquely colorful phrases, being careful to put them in quotation marks and list the page numbers where you found them.

Chapter III - The Black Spot

5. This book you are reading falls into the genre of a sea novel. There are many words in these chapters which relate to things of the sea, some of which are below. Write the meaning beside each word.

- | | | | |
|---------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------|
| 1. sea dog | 4. cove | 7. capstan | 10. cutlass |
| 2. spy-glass | 5. lee | 8. lubbers | |
| 3. first mate | 6. buccaneer | 9. pipe all hands | |

6. Young Jim is sad because of the death of his father. Then, the day after his father's funeral, the captain drops dead of a heart attack right in front of Jim. All of us have had the experience of the sadness of sudden loss. Relate an experience you or someone close to you has had concerning the shock of a sudden loss. You could begin your writing with:

I still remember the day it happened. I was...

Treasure Island

Chapter IV - The Sea Chest

7. After the sea captain's sudden death, Jim and his mother are terrified that the blind beggar or Black Dog will come to the inn to take the dead man's money and belongings and perhaps do them harm. They run to the next town to get someone to help them but everyone refuses. Jim's mother scolds them with an angry speech. Answer the following in complete sentences:
 - 1) Write your opinion of what you think of her speech.
 - 2) Do you think she is right to make the request she did?
 - 3) Why do you think the townspeople do not help?

8. Jim and his mother seem incredibly brave in going back to their inn where the dead body of the captain still lay on the floor. Braver still, they search his body and room trying to find money to pay what is due in the way of rent. Not only that, but they are also in fear of the blind beggar who had issued the "Black Spot" (summons). And indeed, as they are searching, they hear the tapping of his stick outside. Write a brief paragraph about what you think would happen if the blind beggar comes into the inn and finds Jim and his mother searching for the sea captain's money.

Chapter V - The Last of the Blind Man

9. As the blind beggar, Pew, is cursing his gang because they will not search for Jim and his mother, the gang leaves him where he fell on the ground. There is an old expression that talks about "a falling out among thieves." From what you've read about Pew and his men, explain to a friend who does not understand why you think that expression is a true one in this case, and what the expression means.

Response Journal

Chapter VI - The Captain's Papers

10. Squire Trelawney and Dr. Livesey certainly treat Jim very well when he comes to them with the oilskin packet he salvaged from the dead sea captain's possessions. They think that they might now have a map telling where the notorious, but now dead, Captain Flint has buried a rumored treasure. After Jim has had pigeon pie and Mr. Dance has gone, the packet is opened and the men think they now have Flint's treasure map. Imagine that you are Jim Hawkins, and when you get back to the inn, you tell your mother all about your evening at Squire Trelawney's home. Begin your conversation with:

Dr. Livesey was careful. He didn't open the packet while Mr. Dance was there. I think he and the squire were disappointed at first with what they found, but then...

11. Dr. Livesey said he was afraid of only one man where the search for the treasure was concerned, and that was the squire himself. The doctor was afraid that the squire would not be able to keep their secret. We all know someone who has a problem with gossiping and who cannot be trusted to keep a secret. From your own experience, relate a time that you know of when a trust of confidence was broken. Real names should not be used. Be sure to tell what the final outcome was after the person told something that he or she should not have.

Part II - THE SEA COOK

Chapter VII - I Go to Bristol

12. Jim has been promised by Dr. Livesey to be taken on board the ship that will be hunting the treasure. He will be the cabin boy. From the earliest days of sailing ships, young boys worked on those ships. Research what a cabin boy would do on a ship. Suppose you receive the same offer as Jim. Write a paragraph about your thoughts of whether or not you would like to be a cabin boy aboard a ship which is going to search for hidden treasure.

13. The letter from Squire Trelawney in Bristol telling of the circumstances of the purchase of the ship *Hispaniola* seems to bear out Dr. Livesey's fear that the squire is not be able to keep their plan a secret. Write the letter that you think Dr. Livesey might write in answer to the squire's letter if he, the doctor, had been at the Hall to read it. Begin your letter as follows:

Dr. Squire,

My worst fears are realized! You...

Chapter VIII - At the Sign of the "Spy-glass"

14. Jim is very excited to learn that Dr. Livesey has arrived in Bristol and that they will be sailing the following day. Carrying a letter from the squire to the "Spy Glass" tavern, he meets Long John Silver, who seems trustworthy and pleasant and will be the cook on their ship. Many of the seamen we've met so far in the novel, including Long John Silver, have a physical disability. Make a list of these men and describe the disability each has. Explain whether or not their disability has affected their ability as seamen.