



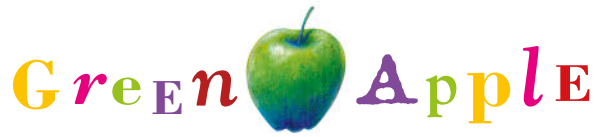
The Bottle Imp

Robert Louis **Stevenson**

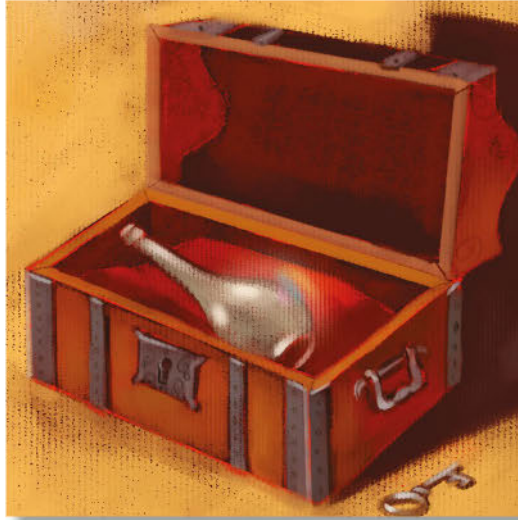


free Audiobook





Robert Louis Stevenson



THE BOTTLE IMP

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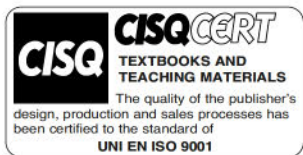
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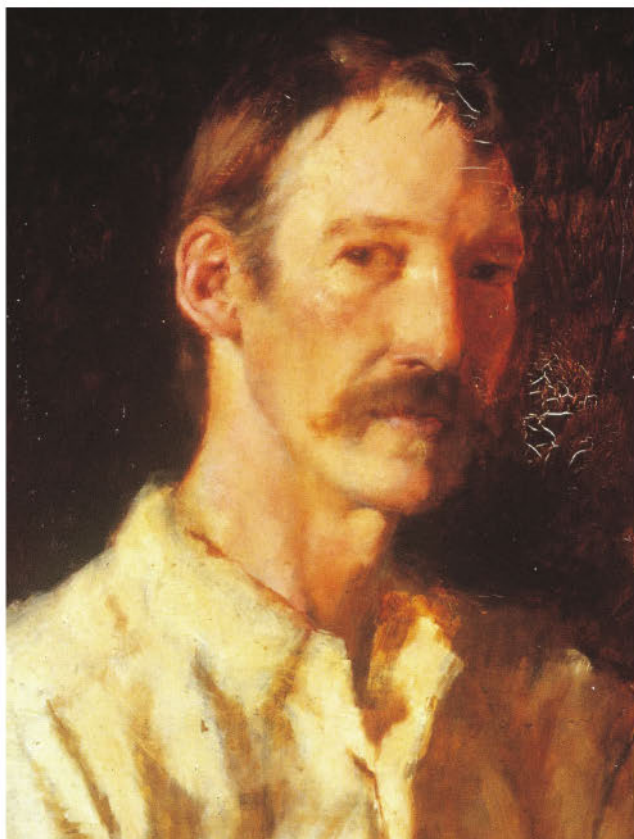
SPECIAL FEATURES:

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This text is recorded in full.



These symbols indicate the beginning and end of the passages linked to the listening activities.



Robert Louis Stevenson (1892)
by Girolamo Pieri Nerli.

Robert Louis Stevenson



track 02

Robert Louis Stevenson was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, in November, 1850. When he was a child his father told him stories of pirates and adventures. Robert liked these stories very much. When he went to university he first studied engineering, but he did not like it, so he decided to study law. But he never worked as a lawyer ¹ because his dream was to become a writer. And his dream came true: he became a popular writer and wrote novels, short stories and poems.

He wrote a lot of stories. Many of them are adventures and fantasy stories. He is very popular as a writer of children's stories because he

1. **lawyer** : a person who defends or accuses people of a crime.



Robert Louis Stevenson sitting with friends, Samoa, 1891.

wrote famous stories such as *Treasure Island* (1883) and *Kidnapped* (1886). Another very famous children's classic is *The Black Arrow* (1888).

His great success was *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* (1886). It is the story of a doctor and a drug he discovers. This changes him from a good person into a monster.

Stevenson suffered from ¹ tuberculosis and was often ill. Scotland is a cold and wet country and this did not help him. So he decided to leave

1. **suffered from** : had problems with.

Scotland and travel to Spain and France because there was warm weather. His first books describe his time there. During a trip in California in 1876 he met an American woman, Fanny Osborne. He fell in love with her, but she was already married. In 1879 Fanny Osborne divorced her husband and, in 1880, she married Stevenson.

In 1888, they decided to go to the South Seas. They visited many islands in the Pacific, including Tahiti, Samoa and Hawaii. They enjoyed this trip very much and decided to move to the island of Samoa. Stevenson continued to write many stories. In 1891, inspired by his visit to Hawaii, he wrote 'The Bottle Imp'. In 1893, he published this story in a collection of eight stories called *Island Nights' Entertainments*. All of these stories were about the islands in the Pacific.

Robert Louis Stevenson died in Samoa on 3 December 1894. He was 44 years old. The islanders decided to bury¹ him on Mount Vaea.



Complete this identity card.

Name	0 Robert Louis Stevenson.....
Date and place of birth	1
Date and place of death	2
University studies	3
Job	4
Wife's name and nationality	5
Famous stories	6

1. **bury** : place his body in the ground.

BEFORE YOU READ

1

Do you know these words? Match the words to the pictures. Write the words in the spaces under each picture.

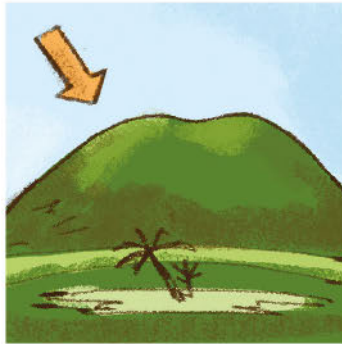
imp sailor ship chest pocket
bottle hill harbour coin



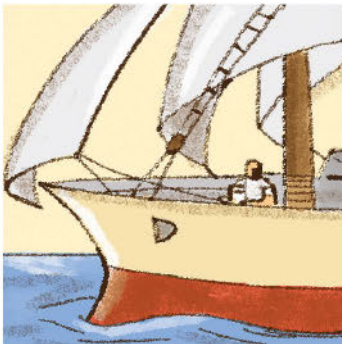
1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



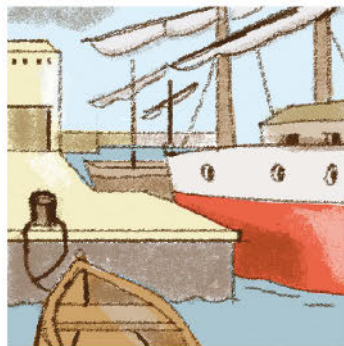
6.



7.



8.



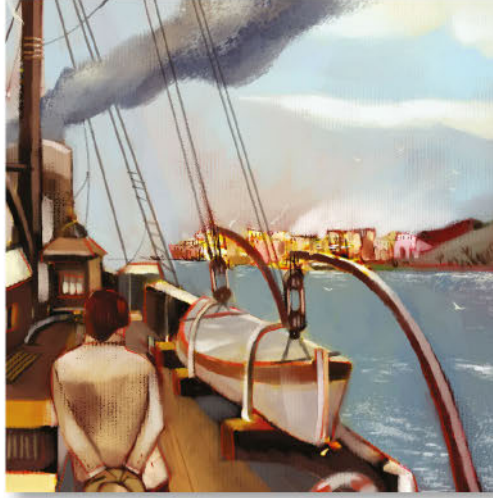
9.

Now match the words to their definitions. Write the number of the picture next to the correct definition.

- a. ☐ This person works on a boat.
- b. ☐ Passengers and objects can travel on this large boat.
- c. ☐ You can keep clothes and other objects in this large box.
- d. ☐ This is sometimes part of your clothing. You can carry things here.
- e. ☐ A small round piece of metal used as money.
- f. ☐ This is a glass or plastic container.
- g. ☐ This isn't a mountain but it is very high.
- h. ☐ This area is near the coast and you can leave your boat there.
- i. ☐ This is a small creature with magical powers.



Now listen and check your answers.



A STRANGE MEETING

K

Keawe was a courageous but poor man from Hawaii. His real name is secret because he is still alive.¹ He could read and write and he was an excellent sailor.



track 04

One day, he decided to go and see the world, so he went on a ship to San Francisco. The city was beautiful, with a lovely harbour, and there were many rich people.

One day Keawe went for a walk on a hill. There were some beautiful houses. He looked at them and thought, 'These houses are nice. The people must be very happy. They are rich, so they don't worry about the future.'

He arrived at a small but lovely house. A man looked out of a

1. alive : still living.

A STRANGE MEETING



window. Keawe looked at him and the man looked at Keawe too. The man was old. He was bald ¹ and had a long black beard. ² He seemed to be very unhappy. Keawe was envious ³ of the man because he had a beautiful house. But the old man was also envious of Keawe.

Suddenly the old man said, 'Come and see my house.'

He showed Keawe every room and Keawe was very surprised. The house was perfect.

'You live in a beautiful house! Why are you so sad?' asked Keawe.

'You can have a house like ⁴ this. Do you have any money?' asked the old man.

Keawe shook his head ⁵ sadly, and said, 'I only have fifty dollars, so I can't buy a beautiful house like this.'

'I am sorry you do not have much money, so take this. It is yours for fifty dollars.'⁶

'The house?' asked Keawe, surprised.

'No, the bottle. Because all I have comes from this small bottle.'

1. **bald** :



2. **beard** :



3. **envious** : jealous.

4. **like** : (here) similar to.

5. **shook his head** : moved his head from left to right to indicate no. (Verb: shake, shook, shaken.)

6. **fifty dollars** : this is equivalent to about \$1,000 today.





UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT



1

Are these sentences 'Right' (A) or 'Wrong' (B)? If there is not enough information to answer 'Right' (A) or 'Wrong' (B), choose 'Doesn't say' (C). There is an example at the beginning (0).

- | | | | | |
|---|---|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 0 | Keawe was a sailor from Hawaii. | ☒ A Right | ☐ B Wrong | ☐ C Doesn't say |
| 1 | One day he decided to travel. | ☐ A Right | ☐ B Wrong | ☐ C Doesn't say |
| 2 | He went to San Francisco by train. | ☐ A Right | ☐ B Wrong | ☐ C Doesn't say |
| 3 | The houses on the hill were big. | ☐ A Right | ☐ B Wrong | ☐ C Doesn't say |
| 4 | Keawe liked walking. | ☐ A Right | ☐ B Wrong | ☐ C Doesn't say |
| 5 | He met a young man on the hill. | ☐ A Right | ☐ B Wrong | ☐ C Doesn't say |
| 6 | The man was very unfriendly. | ☐ A Right | ☐ B Wrong | ☐ C Doesn't say |
| 7 | The man invited him into his beautiful house. | ☐ A Right | ☐ B Wrong | ☐ C Doesn't say |
| 8 | The man sold Keawe his house. | ☐ A Right | ☐ B Wrong | ☐ C Doesn't say |

2

Choose the correct preposition to complete these sentences.

from – in – for (x 2) – at – with

- a. Keawe was a young man Hawaii.
- b. In San Francisco there was a hill some lovely houses.
- c. Rich people lived these houses.
- d. One day Keawe went a walk on the hill.
- e. Keawe looked the old man.
- f. The man said to Keawe, 'It is yours \$50.'

3

a. Match an adjective in column A to its opposite in column B.

A

poor
sad
good
lovely
small
long
old

B

happy
horrible
rich
short
young
big
bad

b. Now use some of the adjectives to describe these people, places and objects.

- Keawe
- the old man
- the harbour
- the houses on the hill
- the old man's house

4

What is an imp?



track 05

Listen to this description of imps and complete the spaces with the words you hear.

An imp is a 1..... of genie. It is usually asleep and prisoner 2..... a bottle or a 3..... . When somebody wakes it 4....., the imp must serve 5..... person with its magical 6..... and sometimes make 7..... wishes come 8..... .

An imp can be 9..... or evil. Usually 10..... imps play horrible jokes 11..... people.

You can read about a famous 12..... in A Thousand and One Nights. A boy, Aladdin, finds a 13..... oil lamp but he does not 14..... there is a genie inside. Suddenly it comes 15..... of the lamp and gives him three wishes.

BEFORE YOU READ

1

What is the bottle imp?



track 06

- a. Listen to the first part of Chapter Two and use words from the box to complete the spaces. You do not need to use all the words. Look at the words before you listen and use your dictionary to check any words you don't understand.

colours disappear rainbow patterns round
long move square short sky

The old man showed Keawe a 1..... bottle with a 2..... neck. It was white but there were also many different 3.....: the colours of the 4..... . Keawe looked at it closely. He saw the colours change and he saw something inside 5..... .

- b. Which of these is the bottle imp?



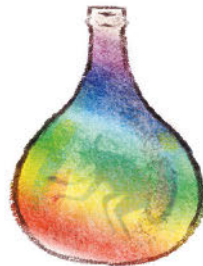
A



B



C



D



E